

Resolution – Divorce

WHEREAS, “Divorce” is another term for the death of a family. Divorce introduces instability, confusion, and questions of parental loyalty into the already complex nature of childhood. With it often comes the death of a child's feelings of safety and security; it's the end of one home, of love shared by the two people the child loves most, and of time spent with both parents daily.

WHEREAS, Divorce impacts children for life. Children of failed marriages become adults who are *“less well educated, have lower family incomes, marry earlier but separate more often, and have higher odds of adult suicide.”* - Jonathan Gruber, Professor of Economics MIT.

WHEREAS, There are reasons for divorce. Before the advent of no-fault divorce, the at-fault divorce laws correctly penalized the at-fault spouse for marital breakdown for reasons of abuse, addiction, or abandonment. At fault divorce incentivized marriage-sustaining behavior and penalized the vow-breaking spouse socially and financially. No-fault divorce has led to skyrocketing rates of marital breakups largely unrelated to abuse, addiction or abandonment.

WHEREAS, Divorce transfers the hard work from parent to child. It's the act of adults trading their own relationship troubles for their child's long-term physical and emotional health. Divorce is categorized as an adverse childhood experience (ACE). ACE's *“are potentially traumatic events that can have negative lasting effects on health and well-being.”* No-fault divorce says, *“This cross is too heavy for us. Here kids, you take it instead.”*

WHEREAS, Instability is a feature of a child's life post-divorce. Divorce is often the beginning of the end of a child's relationship with their father, followed up with cohabiting partners, remarriage, more divorce, residential change, stepfamily, new baby half-siblings, or a preassembled set of new children.

WHEREAS, Often times living in two homes means developing two different personalities. *“Close to half of children said that after the divorce they felt like a different person with each of their parents... their divorced parents version of the truth were different... they were asked to keep important secrets— and many more felt the need to do so, even when their parents did not ask them to.”*

WHEREAS, One long-term study of adults with a divorce in their background showed they suffered diminished outcomes in all aspects of their personal and professional lives. For kids struggling with baseline mental health issues, divorce poses an increased risk of recurrent adult depression and a higher likelihood of developing bipolar disorder.

WHEREAS, Children whose parents divorced but never remarried are 45% more likely to end their own marriages. That percentage explodes to 91% more likely to divorce when their parents remarried. Millennials born in the wake of the divorce epidemic are wary of marriage and often opt to cohabit. Many avoid relationships altogether.

WHEREAS, Parental divorce has been linked to heart disease, diabetes, and asthma. It's also been shown to double the likelihood kids will have trouble with their gut, skin, nervous system, genitals, and urinary organs. The correlation between divorced parents and their children's compromised health are so direct, any serious plan to reduce the cost of healthcare should begin with reducing the divorce rate.

WHEREAS, Mother's love, father's love, and stability are the three staples of a child's social/emotional diet. In the best case scenario, divorce halves the first two, and obliterates the third. Negative outcomes for children of divorce are pervasive because these kids are relationally malnourished.

WHEREAS, A 2002 report from the Institute for American Values found:

- Two-thirds of unhappily married adults who choose to stick it out reported happier marriages five years later.
- Unhappy couples who divorced were no happier, on average, than those who stayed together.

WHEREAS, When it comes to a struggling marriage- someone will have to do the hard thing. It will either be the adults who must work to improve their relationship, or the kids who will be saddled with split lives and life-long risk. We believe that it should be the adults.

THEREFORE, The _____ Party of Texas should affirm Plank #214 on Divorce:

Plank #214. Divorce: We urge the Legislature to rescind unilateral no-fault divorce laws, to support covenant marriage, and to pass legislation extending the period of time in which a divorce may occur to six months after the date of filing for divorce.

A copy of this resolution should be sent to the _____ County/Senate District # _____ Convention Resolutions Committee from Precinct # _____ with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention Platform Committee of the _____ Party of Texas.

Source: Them Before Us <https://thembeforeus.com/fast-facts/>