



# EVERY MARRIAGE MATTERS

## Clackamas County Marriage Policy

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# CLACKAMAS COUNTY MARRIAGE POLICY

## BUSINESS COMMUNITY

I, the undersigned business owner or manager in Clackamas County, have a unique opportunity and obligation to help strengthen marriages in my community. With this policy we seek to establish minimum standards for the nurture and encouragement of marriages within each of our spheres of influence.

Our common mission is to positively impact marriage and decrease divorce.

### WE AFFIRM:

1. That God has established in Scripture the sanctity and companionship of marriage;
2. That marriage is a lifelong and unique covenant between one man and one woman;
3. That healthy marriages are good for spouses, children, and the community in general\*;
4. That it is important to proactively promote and encourage a healthy image of marriage;
5. That we have a responsibility to provide ongoing support to strengthen and nourish existing marriages;
6. That we can accomplish these goals together in community better than working separately.

### THEREFORE WE WILL WORK TO:

- Model healthy marriage to employees; Seek help for areas in need of improvement.
- Offer flexible hours and work schedules that are family-friendly to allow time on evenings and weekends for family/spouse time. Limit compulsory overtime for exempt and hourly employees, keeping employees' long term relational wellness in mind.
- Promote and underwrite, if possible, the attendance of personnel at marriage-building conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Work with Human Resources to keep an up to date list of local, regional and national marriage and relational wellness resources, including publications, web sites, books, conferences and relationship assessments.
- Establish a Travel Policy that protects employees from the possibility of having opportunity to undermine their marriage while on the road. Provide written rules for traveling with a person of the opposite sex.
- Provide creative ways for employees to work on their relationship (i.e. longer lunch hours for dating their spouse, underwriting applicable resources)
- Enlist the help of an Employee Assistance Program and other organizations to provide vital mental health support as part of a wellness program.

### COVENANT

I commit to these standards and to encourage others to do so, for the glory of God and the good of our whole community.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Name (Please Print) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business City

\* See Appendix: Why Marriage Matters

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY MARRIAGE POLICY

## COMMUNITY OF EDUCATORS

I, the undersigned educational professional in Clackamas County, have unique opportunities and obligations to help strengthen marriages in my community. With this policy we establish communitywide standards for individual teacher and administrator conduct, which will benefit all marriages and families.

Children from two-parent homes do better scholastically, they are healthier physically and mentally, they have lower crime rates, they are wealthier, and they do better when they eventually marry. For the sake of children, our common mission is to positively impact marriage and decrease divorce.

### WE AFFIRM:

1. That God has established in Scripture the sanctity and companionship of marriage;
2. That marriage is a lifelong and unique covenant between one man and one woman;
3. That healthy marriages are good for spouses, children, and the community in general\*;
4. That it is important to proactively promote and encourage a healthy image of marriage;
5. That we have a responsibility to provide ongoing support to strengthen and nourish existing marriages;
6. That we can accomplish these goals together in community better than working separately.

### THEREFORE WE WILL WORK TO:

- Model healthy marriages by wearing our wedding rings and speaking positively about marriage.
- Use the language of marriage in our classrooms (i.e. wife, husband, spouse, anniversary, dating our spouse).
- Refer marriages in conflict to resources through school counselors.
- Encourage administrators and school counselors to provide classes on parenting and conflict resolution.
- Share truth-based marriage information with our co-workers and/or display information in our classrooms.
- Model healthy relationships by encouraging our students to treat each other with respect, especially respect towards the opposite sex.
- Promote commitment and loyalty as lifelong character traits.

### COVENANT

I commit to these standards and to encourage others to do so, for the glory of God and the good of our whole community.

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Name

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Name (Please Print)

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Date

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School

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City

\* See Appendix: Why Marriage Matters



# CLACKAMAS COUNTY MARRIAGE POLICY

## MEDICAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

I, the undersigned medical professional in Clackamas County, have a unique opportunity and obligation to help strengthen marriages in my community. With this policy the Medical Health Community establishes minimum standards for the nurture and encouragement of marriages within each of our spheres of influence.

Our common mission is to positively impact marriage and decrease divorce.

### WE AFFIRM:

1. That God has established in Scripture the sanctity and companionship of marriage;
2. That marriage is a lifelong and unique covenant between one man and one woman;
3. That healthy marriages are good for spouses, children, and the community in general\*;
4. That it is important to proactively promote and encourage a healthy image of marriage;
5. That we have a responsibility to provide ongoing support to strengthen and nourish existing marriages;
6. That we can accomplish these goals together in community better than working separately.

### THEREFORE WE WILL WORK TO:

- Promote sexual purity and abstinence outside of marriage.
- Affirm faithfulness within marriage.
- Encourage a courtship of at least one year which includes at least four months marriage preparation.
- Support marriage and families in prayer;
- Pursue health and growth in our own marital and family life.

### COVENANT

I commit to these standards and to encourage others to do so, for the glory of God and the good of our whole community.

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Name

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Name (Please Print)

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Date

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Organization

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City

\* See Appendix: Why Marriage Matters

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY MARRIAGE POLICY

## MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

I, the undersigned mental health professional in Clackamas County, have the unique opportunity and obligation to help strengthen marriages in my community. With this policy we seek to establish community-wide standards for counseling and marriage enrichment resources, which will benefit all marriages and families.

Our common mission is to positively impact marriage and decrease divorce.

### WE AFFIRM:

1. That God has established in Scripture the sanctity and companionship of marriage;
2. That marriage is a lifelong and unique covenant between one man and one woman;
3. That healthy marriages are good for spouses, children, and the community in general\*;
4. That it is important to proactively promote and encourage a healthy image of marriage;
5. That we have a responsibility to provide ongoing support to strengthen and nourish existing marriages;
6. That we can accomplish these goals together in community better than working separately.

### THEREFORE WE WILL WORK TO:

- Affirm the sanctity and importance of marriage;
- Advocate for healthy marriage whenever possible;
- Teach faithfulness within marriage;
- Educate about the impact divorce has on individuals, children and family;
- Communicate that the safety of individuals is a primary consideration;
- Pursue health and growth in our own marital and family life;
- Direct couples toward community resources, such as:
  - Premarital preparation programs;
  - Marriage seminars and workshops;
  - Mentoring couple relationships;
  - Biblical conciliation resources;
  - Celebrate Recovery Programs;
  - Pastors, mental health professionals and lay counselors who are supporters of marriage.

### COVENANT

I commit to these standards and to encourage others to do so, for the glory of God and the good of our whole community.

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Name

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Name (Please Print)

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Date

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Organization

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City

\* See Appendix: Why Marriage Matters

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY MARRIAGE POLICY

## EVERY MARRIAGE MATTERS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

We, the undersigned Officers and Directors of Every Marriage Matters, have unique opportunities and obligations to help strengthen marriages in our community. With this policy we establish the objectives of our marriage strengthening efforts, for the benefit of the marriages of Clackamas County.

Our common mission is to positively impact marriage and decrease divorce.

### WE AFFIRM:

1. That God has established in Scripture the sanctity and companionship of marriage;
2. That a marriage is a lifelong and unique covenant between one man and one woman;
3. That healthy marriages are good for children, individuals and the community in general\*;
4. That it is important to proactively promote and encourage a healthy image of marriage;
5. That we have a responsibility to provide ongoing support to strengthen and nourish existing marriages;
6. That we can accomplish these goals together in community better than working separately.

### THEREFORE EVERY MARRIAGE MATTERS WILL WORK TO:

- Be an advocate for healthy marriages and families in our community;
- Encourage church and community leaders to adopt the Clackamas County Marriage Policy and participate in annual Healthy Marriage Campaigns;
- Collaborate with our allies to develop a Healthy Marriage Campaign each year to achieve the goals of the Clackamas County Marriage Policy. The campaign will integrate feedback from sector communities;
- Mobilize, collaborate, and unite with marriage champions from area churches and continuously refine the development plan and delivery system;
- Provide ongoing marriage education training opportunities;
- Seek to profile “best practices” for successful marriage education programs;
- Work with sector communities to help them fulfill their mission in growing healthy marriages.

### COVENANT

We endorse and commit to these standards and encourage others to do so, for the glory of God and the good of our whole community.

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Alyson Salz, President

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Rick Salz, Director

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Erroll (Steve) Stephens, Vice President

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Thomas Dressel, Executive Director

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Elizabeth Dressel, Director

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Patricia Chambers, Secretary-Treasurer

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Frank Boatwright, Director

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Libby Boatwright, Director

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Ken Drake, Director

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Marvin Chapman, Director

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Marilyn Chapman, Director

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Dated

\* See appendix: Why Marriage Matters

# Why Marriage Matters

MARITAL SUCCESS	SOCIAL HEALTH	CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENT	OVERALL SOCIAL IMPACT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better health – Physical &amp; Mental</li> <li>Less Injury, Illness, Disability</li> <li>Longer Life</li> <li>Children Physically Healthier</li> <li>Children Emotionally Healthier</li> <li>Lower Infant Mortality</li> <li>Lower Child Abuse</li> <li>Lower STD Rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater Overall Success in School</li> <li>Better Reading Abilities</li> <li>More Likely to Attend College</li> <li>More Likely to Get High Status Job</li> <li>Less Likely to Divorce When Married</li> <li>More Likely to Marry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better Parent/Child Relationship</li> <li>Lower Crime Rates</li> <li>Lower Domestic Violence</li> <li>Lower Teen Pregnancy</li> <li>Lower Juvenile Delinquency</li> <li>More Educated Citizens</li> <li>Higher Home Ownership</li> <li>Higher Property Values</li> </ul>
vs			
MARITAL FAILURE	SOCIAL HEALTH	CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENT	OVERALL SOCIAL IMPACT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher Teen Alcohol/Drug Rates</li> <li>More Domestic Violence</li> <li>More Sexual Assault</li> <li>Teens More Sexually Active</li> <li>Teens More Likely to Smoke</li> <li>Teens More Likely to Use Drugs</li> <li>Greater Overall Violence</li> <li>High Stepparent/Other Sexual Abuse</li> <li>Greater Depression</li> <li>Higher Rates of Suicide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More Likely to Repeat a Grade</li> <li>More Likely to Be Expelled</li> <li>More Likely Developmental Problems</li> <li>More and Worse Social Problems</li> <li>Lower Reading, Spelling &amp; Math Scores</li> <li>Low Self-Confidence &amp; Self-Esteem</li> <li>Difficulty with Peer Relationships</li> <li>More Likely to Drop Out of School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased Out of Wedlock Births</li> <li>Higher Delinquency &amp; Crimes</li> <li>Higher Risk of Being Crime Victim</li> <li>More Violent Crimes</li> <li>More Teens Carrying Weapons</li> <li>More Crimes Leading to Jail</li> <li>Increased Need for Social Services</li> </ul>

The Clackamas County Divorce Rate is down **21%** since 2001!

But still, during 2007, there were:  
**1,334 Divorces** and over  
**1,000 Children affected**



[www.EveryMarriageMatters.org](http://www.EveryMarriageMatters.org)

**Every Marriage Matters, it really does!**

Sources: Administration for Children and Families, Health and Human Services, [www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/benefits/index.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/benefits/index.html); Oregon Dept. of Human Services, [www.dhs.state.or.us/dhs/ph/chs/data/divorce/divmon07.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/dhs/ph/chs/data/divorce/divmon07.pdf); and United States Census, [www.qualityinfo.org/olmsj/ArticleReader?itemid=00005764](http://www.qualityinfo.org/olmsj/ArticleReader?itemid=00005764)