

## **FAMILY FIRST ORDINANCE**

*Model Legislation Prepared by The Pro-Family Law Center of  
Abiding Truth Ministries as a Service to the Pro-Family Movement.*

An Amendment to the City Charter by Citizen Initiative:

The citizens of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby ordain the creation of a new section to the municipal code that shall be titled the Family First Ordinance and shall contain the following language:

### **Section A: Family First Ordinance Purpose and Function**

It shall be a priority of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ to preserve and promote family values by upholding the natural family as a necessary, desirable and valued institution and an indispensable component of a healthy society, and by upholding the virtues of abstinence until marriage, faithfulness within marriage and devotion to children .

To achieve this priority, the city shall:

1. Establish a "Family First Citizens Commission" as outlined in Section B.
2. Develop and maintain a permanent public awareness campaign which promotes family life and which contrasts the benefits of abstinence, marriage, and devotion to children with the harmful consequences of promiscuity, adultery, and neglect of children. This campaign shall be calculated to assure that the residents of the community are continually reminded of the city's pro-family values, especially through billboards or other high visibility advertising.
3. Require a Family Impact Statement, prepared by the Family First Commission, to be filed for all laws and resolutions adopted by the city. Said statement shall determine whether a proposed law or resolution will significantly impact families and if it does so, shall analyze the likely impact and recommend a yes or no vote to the City Council.

### **Section B: The Family First Commission**

1. The purpose of the Family First Commission is to promote a climate in which marriages, families and children can thrive, by developing and facilitating educational and cultural programs and activities which advance family values.
2. The Commission shall consist of seven members, appointed to a four-year term by majority vote of the city council.
3. Members shall be residents of the city whose lifestyles reflect a commitment to the values of abstinence before marriage, faithfulness in marriage and devotion to children.

4. The Commission shall have, in addition to such other powers and duties as the council may from time to time decide, the responsibility to

- a) assist the City Council in designing and implementing a public awareness campaign as described in Section A(2),
- b) prepare Family Impact Statements as described in Section A(3),
- c) initiate and encourage educational and other appropriate activities which advance family values in the community, and
- d) provide information and technical assistance to and cooperate with other public agencies and organizations and community groups to further the objectives of this ordinance.

4. Officers of the Commission shall be elected annually at the first meeting of the year. For this and all other business, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the board.

#### Section C: Definitions

As used in this ordinance:

- 1) Abstinence is defined as voluntary self-restraint regarding sexual conduct outside of marriage.
- 2) Devotion to Children is defined as an adult's willingness to sacrifice personal lifestyle preferences, or to reasonably endure discomfort in his or her personal circumstances, in order to preserve a child's security in his or her natural family, as well as to preserve, to an age-appropriate standard, that child's innocence regarding sexuality.
- 3) Family Values is defined as those values which promote abstinence, marriage, fidelity in marriage and devotion to children.
- 4) Marriage is defined according to California state law.
- 5) A Natural Family is defined as a man and a woman and their children by birth or adoption, or the surviving remnant thereof.
- 6) Promiscuity is defined as sexual conduct outside of marriage.

#### Section D. Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The people hereby declare that it would have adopted the ordinance irrespective of the fact that any one or more portions be declared invalid.

#### Section E. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect thirty days after passage.