

Petition
To Support Marriage and Family and
End No Fault Divorce

**STOP - THE MORAL DECAY IN OUR
FAMILIES!**



**STOP - THE LIES, DECEIT, LUST, GREED,
SELFISHNESS!**

STOP - THE HEARTACHE FOR OUR CHILDREN!



UNITE - Together we will make the change!

VOTE - TO END NO- FAULT DIVORCE!



VOTE - TO PROTECT FAMILY VALUES!

VOTE - TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!



Under the umbrella of this petition to end No-Fault Divorce, it is our aim to unite organizations, political parties, religious organizations, families, friends, and individuals to come together and show are solidarity to defend the sacred and most fundamental institution - marriage and family. This is a very important cause because it affects not only spouses but their children, their extended families and friends. Collectively, no-fault divorce affects all of us by the stresses and strains it puts on the individuals involved, our school system, our health care system and our work place...ultimately, it affects our future and possibly our national security. As you continue reading, you will see it affects each and every one of us.



“The divorce epidemic has proceeded directly from a legal system which permits promiscuity in modern marriages and even encourages it. In all other areas of contract law those who break a contract are expected to compensate their partner but under a system of ‘no fault’ divorce, this essential element of contract law is abrogated.”

[http://www.stephenbaskerville.net/no blame game.htm](http://www.stephenbaskerville.net/no_blame_game.htm)

Commitment, honesty, respect, caring, sharing, starts at home between two people...husband and wife. They model and pass on those values to their children who eventually make up our work force and our nation. Weaken the basic institution - the nuclear family - and all other institutions are weakened also. It all starts at home!

Selfishness, deception, lies, greed, irresponsibility, and a vagrant disregard for the common good has been uncovered and exposed in our businesses and economy. These same characteristics or behaviours are also present in far too many families. It has resulted in tremendous heartache and strife for many people - husbands, wives, and their children, extended family, friends, and ultimately all of us - our society, our nation! Why would people engage in such acts? Because they can! There are no consequences for a cheating spouse or for the third party who, like a parasite, shamelessly interferes in a marital relationship. The betrayed spouse is left to pick up the pieces, despite the confusion and soul penetrating hurt,

grief and heartache.

No-fault divorce is a euphemism for Forced Divorce!

Children, too, pay a price. Research clearly shows the damaging effects of separation and divorce on children. Some join gangs to replace their sense of family and sense of belonging, some abuse alcohol and drugs, academic success becomes a challenge, and their trust of adults is diminished. Often, they too repeat the cycle of broken marriages, broken dreams.

“Interviews with children around the time of separation show that most wish their parents had stayed together and hope they will get back together. They are likely, in the short term, to experience unhappiness, low self-esteem, problems with behaviour and friendships, and loss of contact with a significant part of their extended family.

Children of separated families:

- tend to grow up in households with lower incomes, poorer housing and greater financial hardship than intact families (especially those headed by lone mothers);
- tend to achieve less in socio-economic terms when they become adults than children from intact families;
- are at increased risk of behavioural problems, including bed wetting, withdrawn behaviour, aggression, delinquency, and other antisocial behaviour;
- tend to perform less well in school and to gain fewer educational qualifications;
- are more likely to be admitted to hospital following accidents, to have more reported health problems and to visit their family doctor;
- are more likely to leave school and home when young and more likely at an early age to: become sexually active; form a cohabiting partnership; become pregnant; become a parent; and give birth outside of marriage;
- tend to report more depressive symptoms and higher levels of smoking, drinking and other drug use during adolescence and adulthood.
- if their parents subsequently form new partnerships, they may experience a further transition. Research findings for children from step-families suggest a number of ways they do not fare as well as those from intact families - and, in some instances, not as well as those from lone-parent families. The risk of adverse outcomes for young people in step-families compared with those in lone-parent families appears higher for older children, especially in areas of educational achievement, family relationships and sexual activity, partnership formation and parenthood at a relatively young age.”

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/node/855>

"Marriage requires honesty, loyalty, trust, self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, respect, and commitment. Marriage is a vocation that benefits all of society by building and strengthening human relationships within the family home and beyond with relatives, neighbours and one's community. Marriage is the basis for the family, the fundamental human society. A healthy committed marriage helps to insure the well-being of children, create social stability and improve the quality of life for all citizens." <http://masscatholicmarriage.org/>

Whether you are married or single, divorced or separated, please take a few moments to read this very important message. It is hoped that you will support this petition to bring back common sense into our personal relationships, our marriages, our families, and most importantly in our legal system.

"While cultural forces certainly contribute, the divorce epidemic has proceeded directly from a legal system which permits and even encourages it."

http://www.stephenbaskerville.net/no_blame_game.htm

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

Aim of this Petition:

- 1) End no-fault divorce and make divorce more difficult to obtain by re-establishing the concept of "fault" in divorce actions.
- 2) Allow the victim of adultery to **seek legal compensation from the adulterous spouse.**
- 3) Allow the victim of adultery to pursue legal compensation from the third party for alienation of affection from his/her spouse.
- 4) Under Family Law, Separation Agreements must recognize adultery as a fault, a breaking of a marital contract. Therefore, compensation must be more than a simple 50% - 50% split of net family assets.
- 5) Unite people and organizations to **support this petition and create the political will to amend our laws to reflect our family values.** Please share this information with family, friends, your congregation, and your government representatives.



TOP TEN Reasons to end No-Fault Divorce:

1. No-Fault Divorce effectively abolished marriage as a legal contract. There are no consequences for breaking the marriage contract. In all other areas of law, contract breaking is not without a consequence. End no-fault divorce and make divorce more difficult to obtain by re-establishing the concept of "fault" in divorce actions.
2. Lifelong commitment and sexual exclusivity between husband and wife are ignored, devalued and disrespected by our current laws. The health of the unsuspecting spouse is put at risk.
3. No-Fault Divorce allows one spouse to terminate a marriage for any reason and at any time. End No-Fault Divorce and allow the victim of adultery to seek legal compensation from the adulterous spouse for contract breaking and for personal injury such as emotional/physical stress, financial hardship.
4. No-Fault Divorce allows adultery - both cheating spouse and third party are not held legally accountable. It is like a "hostile take over" in business. End No-Fault Divorce and allow the victim of adultery to pursue legal compensation from the third party for "alienation of affection" or "crime against marriage." A consequence must be in place for those who directly interfere with another couple's marital relationship.
5. No-Fault Divorce takes away the individual right to defend against a divorce action by alleging fault.
6. Family Funds are used to support affairs (gifts, vacations, etc.), often creating a financial burden on the family, eroding depleting family funds.
7. Research shows that children are the ultimate casualties of divorce. Society is paying the tremendous costs for the consequences of divorce (welfare dependency, foster care, juvenile crime, gang violence, depression, poor academic standing, drug and alcohol abuse, etc.)
8. End No-Fault Divorce and give couples time out. Research shows that a minimum of a 90 day waiting period after the filing of the divorce action gives the couple time to reflect. More often than not, couples attempt a reconciliation. As the couple begin to rebuild and reconstruct their marriage, often they reach a deeper level of intimacy and the marriage bond is stronger than before. During this time, the couple must be free of third party interference.
9. It violates the 7th Commandment of God!

10. End No-Fault Divorce and unite people and organizations to support this petition and create the political will to amend our laws to reflect our family values. A strong definition of marriage, the meaning and importance of a marriage contract, and firm and fair boundaries must be set, acknowledged and respected. Please share this information with family, friends, your congregation, and your government representatives.

Recommendations:

- 1) Reflect family values through our laws and legal system.
- 2) Establish a national goal of reducing divorce by focusing on prevention and embarking on a public campaign, informing the public of the risks of divorce and demonstrating the long-term benefits of marriage on children and the married couple . In accordance with civil and tort laws, contract breaking must be deemed as fault and must have a legal consequence.
- 3) Establish community-based marriage counseling courses with low-cost **fees**.
- 4) Make marriage counseling a tax deductible item, thereby making it more "respectable" and affordable.
- 5) To obtain a marriage license/contract, couples must be required to complete a pre-marriage course, approved by the government, which focuses on important issues such as: communication, relationship building, parenting, financial planning, support services available to them, and the importance of commitment to each other.
- 6) Require a mandatory wait period and counseling for couples before a divorce is granted.



*"Bring the dispute before your congregation (Matt 18:17a)
and
Seek resolution through the judicial system. (Matt 18:17b)."*

A culture of peace and character development starts at home - husbands & wives, parents, children! If dishonesty, deception, and greed is allowed and accepted in our homes, it will exist outside of our homes. How are we responsible for all this?

“A person of character values honesty and integrity and pays whatever price is needed to be worthy of trust.”
Michael Josephson

Adultery is an act that even caught God’s attention! It is very important that adultery stay out of marriage because of its’ negative long term effects on all family members, especially the children. Adultery made God’s Top 10 List! It is the 7th Commandment. Adultery - cheating - has no legal consequence at all. Does this make any logical sense? Dr. Phil has wisely commented on more than one occasion - *“hopefully, common sense will make a come back in America.”*

Marriage is a sacred contract, a promise, a covenant! It is a legal contract!. A healthy, vibrant marriage cannot exist without commitment. Some marriages break down due to such things as drug and/or alcohol addiction, mental illness, physical and/or mental abuse. However, adultery is an intentional, planned, and calculated act that is rooted in lies, deception and manipulation. It is a violation of a person’s sense of security, a breach of trust, a health risk, and, in particular, it is a direct violation against the marriage partnership, as well as a violation toward the children, the extended family, and friends.

“Where marriage is weakened the social cost is enormous.”
Bishops Speak Out Against Adultery Ads
<http://www.zenit.org/rssenglish-24261>

This statement was published and signed by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston, Bishop Timothy McDonnell of Springfield, Bishop George Coleman of Fall River and Bishop Robert McManus of Worcester: -

"This wrongful enterprise threatens not only the oldest and most foundational of human institutions but also the common good of all," the Bishops said. "Marriage requires honesty, loyalty, trust, self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, respect, and commitment. Marriage is a vocation that benefits all of society by building and strengthening human relationships within the family home and beyond with relatives, neighbors and one’s community. Marriage is the basis for the family, the

fundamental human society. A healthy committed marriage helps to insure the well-being of children, create social stability and improve the quality of life for all citizens." <http://www.zenit.org/rssenglish-24261>

And how about the third party in the adulterous affair? "Before no-fault divorce, sexual exclusivity within marriage was protected by criminal adultery laws and private actions under alienation of affection laws. Alienation of affection represented a legal right afforded to an individual whose marriage was threatened by a third person involved in an affair with the other spouse. The injured spouse could sue the interloper for damages resulting from harm to the marriage. But the courts decided it best to keep out of domestic disputes. But nothing could be further from the truth! Without a doubt, there are very real damages resulting from marital affairs - damage to spouses and children which ultimately means social costs to society in the form of more programs to address family breakup." <http://www.mfc.org/contents/article.cfm?id=1437>

*"Religions are many and diverse, but reason and goodness are one."
By Elbert Hubbard*

Polls clearly show adultery is not accepted by the vast majority of people. Yet, our legal system allows it by turning a blind eye to it and its devastating effects. To not acknowledge adultery is morally and ethically unacceptable. Victims are told to simply "move on." AND the slighted spouse must give up 50% of their assets. This is like saying if two people go into a convenience store and one person robs the till while the second person was unaware the first person had planned on robbing the store, the second person gets the same legal consequence as the one who planned and executed the robbery. Does this make sense?

To ensure a peaceful, harmonious society and reduce the chaos already present in many marriages, we must be *"focused on the construction and preservation of intact families, rather than on the division of spoils after a divorce, and ending no-fault divorce laws will help."* <http://www.marriageproject.org/fs0024.html> The sacred institution of marriage must be reflected in our laws that must be rooted in a moral and an ethical foundation.

"Reforming the family judiciary will therefore create an immediate demand for the services of morally vigorous pastoral communities, even among those who previously viewed the church's role in their marriages as largely ceremonial. No greater challenge confronts the churches today - nor any greater opportunity to stem the exodus from them, than to reinvigorate and defend their own sacrament and the families created by it."

www.stephenbaskerville.net/no_blame_game.htm

"How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in terms of St. Thomas Aquinas: An unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law. Any law that uplifts the human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust."

http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.

No Fault Divorce must be revisited and must be ended. It is a moral imperative! We must all unite to become a political force and demonstrate our political will to strongly encourage our government leaders and our legal system to re-introduce *"fault for violating the marital contract. It will in effect, restore justice to the legal proceedings.*

The alternative to liberal or no-fault divorce is no divorce, but divorce which is granted only after due legal process to establish fault. Failed marriages entail imperfections on both sides, but it does not justify abandoning all standards of justice. In retrospect, no-fault divorce effectively abolished marriage as a legal contract. As a result, it's no longer possible to form a binding agreement to create a family. [Http://www.stephenbaskerville.net/no_blame_game.htm](http://www.stephenbaskerville.net/no_blame_game.htm)

"If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values - that all reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control." - Martin Luther King

The following is an excerpt from the a newsletter published by Real Women of Canada (Nov./Dec. 2006), entitled: "Canada's No-Fault Divorce: Creating Heartache and Hardship."

"Society's Responsibilities" "It is the business of society to protect vulnerable children and their families from harm. Divorce, when readily available, permits marriage partners to step away during the rough patches, which are inevitable in all marriages. Society must stress not so much Perfect Love, but Perfect Determination to stick the marriage out and make it work. In this regard, the state cannot persuade husbands and wives to accept the high obligation of marital chastity and commitment. But, it can exact a price from those who break the marriage contract by failing to meet lawful marital obligations. The state can, not from malice, but rather to protect children, enforce restraint on partners by making the marriage contract more difficult to break, by adopting stricter divorce laws.

Further, under the present Divorce Act, the Court cannot look to "fault" when determining the division of property and the setting of spousal support. This leaves the aggrieved, innocent party without a sense of closure or recognition of their commitment to the marriage, which was lacking in the other partner. Thus, it is

perhaps time to consider the reinstatement of fault in divorce."
<http://www.realwomenca.com/page/newsInd0606.html>



This great quote from Focus on the Family web site sums up the purpose and hope of this petition:

"The Permanence of Marriage" - We believe that the institution of marriage is a sacred covenant designed by God to model the love of Christ for His people and to serve both the public and private good as the basic building block of human civilization. Marriage is intended by God to be a thriving, lifelong relationship between a man and a woman enduring through trials, sickness, financial crises and emotional stresses. Therefore, Christians are called to defend and protect God's marriage design and to minister in Christ's name to those who suffer the consequences of its brokenness.

"Haven't you read,' He replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." Matthew 19:4-6 http://www.focusonthefamily.com/about_us.aspx

No more writing of articles, academic papers, or newspaper articles on this subject! We need ACTION NOW! We must stop being the silent bystanders, join together, create a strong, united voice of reason and demand our laws reflect our family values. It is a moral imperative to do so!

Please pass this information along to friends, family, co-workers and ask them to consider and support this petition.

Our aim is to have two thousand people sign this petition by February 1, 2010.

Lobby your government to AMEND!!!

Deadline to join the Class Action Law Suit is February 15, 2010

Amend Marriages and End No-fault Divorce!
www.AmendToDefend.com

We cannot simply
Believe in our values,
We must live our values!
Our laws must reflect our values!

"The tragedy is not so much that marriages fail, but rather, that so little is done to help make marriages work in Canada. ? "

<http://www.realwomenca.com/page/newsInd0606.html>