

Covenant Marriage

(S.B. 172)



A fresh marriage option to protect children and families from the effects of divorce

What is Covenant Marriage?

- It would be strictly optional. It would not replace current marriage law.
- It would require pre-marital counseling before a couple could file for a Covenant Marriage.
- It would require couples to go through additional counseling if marital difficulties arise during the course of the marriage.
- It would give the court the option of requiring parties to a divorce to complete counseling.

Why does Indiana need Covenant Marriage?

- Though Indiana does not report annual divorce numbers, if we are near the national average, approximately 25,000 divorces will occur within Indiana in 2008.
- Research has consistently shown that divorce increases the economic vulnerability of both children and mothers. (Please contact us for more effects of divorce on families)
- In addition to the physical, emotional, psychological, and financial toll of divorce on families, it also costs the taxpayers dearly through the increased need for government programs such as: child support enforcement, Medicaid, food stamps, foster care, criminal justice programs, drug abuse, drop-out prevention, etc.
- Research has shown that marriage counseling increases the chances that couples will create and maintain lasting marriages.