

Utah Marriage Commission

Quick Facts:

- Divorce & unmarried childbearing costs Utah taxpayers at least \$276 million a year in public services
- Utah averages 23,000 marriages/year & 10,000 dissolutions with over 50% involving children
- Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol & substance abuse for both adults & teens
- Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of psychological distress & mental illness
- A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is at greater risk of child abuse

Sources:
Benjamin Scafidi, Principal Investigator, *The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce & Unwed Childbearing*, 2008, pg 38

UDOH, *Utah's Vital Statistics, Marriages and Divorces 2009 and 2010, Technical Report No. 275*, March 2012

W. Bradford Wilcox, et al., *Why Marriage Matters, Third Edition*, 2011

The Utah Marriage Commission is an advisory board of 17 appointed members. Our mission is to provide educational services to help all individuals and couples form and sustain healthy relationships and enduring marriages.

The Marriage Commission is Not about:

- Defining Marriage
- Coercing anyone to marry or remain in unhealthy relationships
- Withdrawing supports from single parents or diminishing the important work of single parents
- Stigmatizing those who choose divorce
- Limiting access to divorce

SOME OF OUR SERVICES

- Consulting with Department of Human Services programs for integration of relationship skills education
- Partnering with agencies to provide relationship skills education in local Utah communities
- Maintaining a website (StrongerMarriage.org) to provide research-based information and online educational resources statewide
- Promoting the *Adult Roles & Financial Literacy* high school course
- Distributing the *Utah Marriage Handbook*
- Providing curriculum training to family life educators

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We occasionally seek volunteers to help with conferences and events.

Volunteer opportunities in other state offices can be found by contacting:

Utah Commission on Volunteers, 1-888-755-UTAH (8824),
www.volunteers.utah.gov

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION

Utah Marriage Commission • 801-538-3909

