

# Citizen Resolution 1: Restoring Parental Rights

Whereas, the State of Utah and Utah Department of Child and Family Services have dangerously overstepped their bounds and threaten the rights of parents and families; and

Whereas, we, the citizens of Utah, find these incursions to be immoral, perverse, and nothing short of an attack on all Utah families; therefore be it

Resolved, that all elected officials take immediate and substantive action to restore parental rights and safeguards, including:

- Restoring the right to a trial by a jury of their peers for parents who are threatened with permanent separation from their children (otherwise known as termination of parental rights or “permanency”);
- Requiring that parents be proven guilty of actual, serious, and purposeful criminal behavior or unfitness that renders them permanently unable to serve as parents, before their children are permanently removed;
- Requiring that the burden of proof be raised to the highest standard of “beyond a reasonable doubt” in permanent termination cases, as is the case with Native American families living on Indian nation reservations (Federal Indian Child Welfare Act).
- Amending statutory definitions of abuse, neglect, and unfitness—currently vague and subject to broad abuses—to protect innocent parents from overzealous DCFS agents and to include the freedom to follow one's own dictates with regard to medical treatment;
- No longer accepting perverse federal incentives that are based upon the number of children DCFS removes from their families;
- Eliminating immunity to government agencies and agents who, through omission or commission, abuse innocent families, so that these families can receive justice in the form of financial and other recompense; and
- Eliminating secret courts that restrict a family’s ability to expose errant judges; and therefore be it

Resolved, that any and all elected officials who do not take action to restore our rights as parents and family members, will be replaced with citizens who will.

