PETITION

August 2007

We respectfully add our signatures to the following petition, in good faith that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints wishes to promote love and happiness within the family.

The following is the reason and the petition.

We are saddened that parents, grandparents and other loved ones and friends may be excluded from LDS marriage ceremonies by Church policy.

We understand that it is not a doctrinal issue that has couples being married inside the LDS temple, where non-Church members are prevented from attending.

The fact that in many other countries couples are required by the law to be married civilly first and then have their union sealed in the temple, indicates that doctrinally it can be practiced this way.

We understand that currently, couples who choose to have a civil ceremony in order to have their loved ones present are penalized by the church by having to wait a full year to be able to have their marriage union sealed in the temple. If this is not a doctrinal issue, the one year wait appears to be a punishment for exercising their agency to choose to keep peace within their family.

Our petition is this: that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints make changes to that policy, making it right and proper to have a civil marriage ceremony first, if desired, and then giving the couple the necessary time to attend the temple for the sealing ordinance as they do in those countries whose laws require it.

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