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STATE OF TENNESSEE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 14

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING FAMILY POLICYMAKING FOR EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is committed to protecting the well-being of the institutions of marriage and family; and

WHEREAS, the Executive departments of the State formulate and implement policies and regulations that may have significant impact on family formation, maintenance and general well-being; and

WHEREAS, the autonomy and rights of the family should be considered in the formulation and implementation of policies and rules of the Executive departments; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a coordination of efforts in order to achieve the objective's of this Order;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Tennessee, do hereby order as follows:

1. Family Policymaking Criteria. In formulating and implementing policies and regulations that may have significant impact on family formation, maintenance, and general well-being, Executive departments shall, to the extent permitted by law, assess such measures in light of the following questions:

- (a) Does this action by government strengthen or erode the stability of the family and, particularly, the marital commitment?
- (b) Does this action strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurture, and supervision of their children?
- (c) Does this action help the family perform its functions, or does it substitute governmental activity for the function?
- (d) Does this action by government increase or decrease family earnings? Do the proposed benefits of this action justify the impact on the family budget?
- (e) Can this activity be carried out by a lower level of government or by the family itself?
- (f) What message, intended or otherwise, does this program send to the public concerning the status of the family?
- (g) What message does it send to young people concerning the relationship between their behavior, their personal responsibility, and the norms of our society?

2. Statewide Government Family Policy Coordination and Review.

(a) Executive departments shall identify proposed regulatory and statutory provisions that may have significant potential negative impact on the family well-being and provide adequate rationale on why such proposal should be submitted. Executive departments shall give careful consideration to family-related concerns and their impact in notices of proposed rulemaking and messages transmitting proposals to the General Assembly.

(b) The Office of Policy for the Governor shall, to the extent permitted by law, take action to ensure that the policies of the Executive departments are applied in light of the criteria set forth in Section 1 of this Order.

(c) The Governor or any Commissioner may request that the Office of Policy for the Governor assess any existing and proposed policy or regulation to advise as to whether such policy or regulation adversely impact family well-being in light of the criteria established by Section 1 of this Order.

(d) The Office of Policy for the Governor shall advise the Governor on policy and regulatory actions that may be taken to strengthen the institutions of marriage and family in Tennessee.

3. Judicial Review. This Order is intended to improve the internal management of the Executive branch and is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the State of Tennessee, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

4. This Order supersedes all previous Orders to the extent that those Orders are inconsistent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this the 16th day of December, 1997.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



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