TCMP Resource Library

Nine Entry Review Collection

TCMP — Texas Catholic Marriage Project

STATUS: Confidential Review Draft

CLASSIFICATION: Educational Resource Collection

DATE AND TIME: Monday, October 12, 2026, 10:20 p.m. Central Daylight Time

REGISTER: Formal public educational and institutional prose, with neutral source summaries and explicitly labeled TCMP commentary

This collection presents nine proposed resources for the TCMP website. It introduces Texas marriage law, constitutional parental rights, Catholic teaching, and canon law. Each entry distinguishes the source summary from TCMP interpretation. This review copy remains confidential pending authorization for public release.

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1. Start Here — Marriage, Parental Responsibility, and Children's Security

Author or issuing authority: TCMP — Texas Catholic Marriage Project.

Date: October 12, 2026.

Material type: Educational reading guide.

Subject: Texas marriage law; parental rights; Catholic marriage; children's security.

Brief summary: This introductory collection brings together three Texas statutes, one constitutional decision, and four Catholic resources. Readers can begin with the Texas statutory framework, examine constitutional parental-rights principles, and then explore Catholic teaching and canon law.

Suggested reading order:

1. Texas Family Code § 1.101 — marriage validity and stated public policy.
2. Texas Family Code § 6.001 — the insupportability ground for divorce.
3. Texas Family Code § 6.406 — joined parent–child proceedings.
4. Troxel v. Granville — constitutional protection in third-party visitation.
5. Catechism §§ 2382–2386 — marriage, divorce, and moral responsibility.
6. Selected canon-law reading guide — marriage and continuing responsibilities.
7. Familiaris Consortio — family life and parental education.
8. Arcanum Divinae — historical companion on Christian marriage.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: TCMP asks readers to consider how marriage law, parental responsibility, religious commitments, and children's security interact. Each resource has its own authority and scope. Source summaries describe the materials; sections marked TCMP Commentary identify the Project's interpretation or proposed application.

Source link: Original TCMP guide. The eight companion entries and their official source links appear below; a public guide URL can be assigned on publication.

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2. Texas Family Code § 1.101 — Every Marriage Presumed Valid

Author or issuing authority: Texas Legislature.

Date: Current official text accessed October 12, 2026. Added in its present codified section by Acts 1997, 75th Legislature, chapter 7, § 1, effective April 17, 1997.

Material type: Statute.

Subject: Marriage validity; public policy; family stability; children's security.

Brief summary: This provision establishes a presumption that marriages entered into in Texas are valid, subject to the statutory exceptions for void and voidable marriages. It identifies stability for spouses entering marriage in good faith, orderly determination of parentage, and children's security as reasons for preserving marriages against claims of invalidity.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: TCMP considers this provision an important statement of the Legislature's concern for family stability and children's security. The Project advocates considering those purposes when examining Texas marriage law. The section addresses marriage validity; it does not itself prohibit divorce or establish an additional requirement for divorce under § 6.001. TCMP's proposed broader interpretive use is the Project's position.

Source link: Official Texas Family Code, Chapter 1 — see § 1.101.

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3. Texas Family Code § 6.001 — Insupportability

Author or issuing authority: Texas Legislature.

Date: Current official text accessed October 12, 2026. Added in its present codified section by Acts 1997, 75th Legislature, chapter 7, § 1, effective April 17, 1997.

Material type: Statute.

Subject: Divorce grounds; insupportability; marital purposes; reconciliation.

Brief summary: Either spouse may petition for divorce without a finding of fault under this section. The statutory ground concerns a marriage that has become insupportable through spousal discord or personality conflict, resulting in destruction of the marital relationship's legitimate purposes and preventing a reasonable prospect of reconciliation.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: This is central to TCMP's research and proposed reform. The Project advocates a purpose-centered interpretation that examines the spouses' established lawful marital purposes, including children's security and parental responsibilities. That proposed interpretation is TCMP's position; it is not a definition expressly supplied by this section or a judicial holding. The entry introduces the statute; analysis of evidentiary requirements belongs in separately annotated cases and commentary.

Source link: Official Texas Family Code, Chapter 6 — see § 6.001.

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4. Texas Family Code § 6.406 — Mandatory Joinder of Suit Affecting Parent-Child Relationship

Author or issuing authority: Texas Legislature.

Date: Current official text accessed October 12, 2026. Added April 17, 1997; amendment effective September 1, 2019, by Acts 2019, 86th Legislature, chapter 130, § 1.

Material type: Statute.

Subject: Marriage dissolution; children; mandatory joinder; parent–child proceedings.

Brief summary: Dissolution petitions must disclose specified information about children and certain gestational agreements. When the parties are parents of a child within the statutory definition, and another court does not have continuing jurisdiction over that child, the dissolution suit must include a suit affecting the parent–child relationship (SAPCR) under Title 5.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: TCMP uses this provision to explain how dissolution and parent–child proceedings become joined. The Project emphasizes that a request to dissolve a marriage should not, by itself, justify displacing parental authority. This section supplies a joinder requirement rather than a custody outcome; child-related decisions require examination of applicable Title 5 provisions and constitutional principles. TCMP's broader argument about parental displacement is the Project's position.

Source link: Official Texas Family Code, Chapter 6 — see § 6.406.

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5. Troxel v. Granville, 530 U.S. 57 (2000)

Author or issuing authority: Supreme Court of the United States. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote the plurality opinion; Justices Souter and Thomas separately concurred in the judgment.

Date: June 5, 2000.

Material type: Judicial decision.

Subject: Parental rights; due process; third-party visitation; judicial deference to fit parents.

Brief summary: The Court affirmed a judgment invalidating application of Washington's third-party visitation law. The plurality emphasized parental liberty in directing children's upbringing, the presumption that fit parents act in their children's interests, and the failure to give the mother's visitation decision special weight. The Court did not establish a universal harm requirement for all nonparent visitation statutes.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: TCMP treats the decision as foundational to studying state interference with parental authority. Its dispute involved a parent and grandparents, rather than competing custody claims between two fit parents. TCMP's proposed application of its principles to disputes between parents requires additional legal analysis. The plurality did not mandate strict scrutiny for every family-law proceeding; Justice Thomas advocated that standard in his separate concurrence.

Source link: Official U.S. Reports opinion through GovInfo. Begin with the plurality at pages 65–73; compare the concurrences at pages 75–80.

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6. Catechism of the Catholic Church — Paragraphs 2382–2386: Divorce

Author or issuing authority: Catholic Church; promulgated under Pope John Paul II.

Date: First publication accompanied by Fidei Depositum, October 11, 1992; definitive Latin edition promulgated August 15, 1997. Vatican English text accessed October 12, 2026.

Material type: Church document; doctrinal and moral teaching.

Subject: Indissolubility; divorce; legitimate separation; children; innocent spouses.

Brief summary: These paragraphs affirm marriage's indissolubility and explain the moral injury of divorce. They also recognize legitimate separation with the bond remaining and circumstances in which civil divorce may be tolerated to protect legal rights, children's care, or inheritance. Paragraph 2386 distinguishes an innocent spouse from one responsible for destroying a canonically valid marriage.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: These distinctions help TCMP explain Catholic spouses' religious commitments without assigning identical moral responsibility to every divorced person. Paragraph 2383 should accompany discussion of divorce's moral gravity, and paragraph 2386 should accompany discussion of innocent spouses. This is Catholic teaching; civil constitutional and statutory arguments need their own legal authorities.

Source link: Vatican Catechism — see paragraphs 2382–2386.

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7. Selected Canon-Law Reading Guide — Marriage and Parental Responsibilities

Author or issuing authority: Code of Canon Law, issued by Pope John Paul II for the Latin Church; reading selection and guide prepared by TCMP.

Date: 1983 Code; Vatican text accessed October 12, 2026. TCMP guide prepared October 12, 2026.

Material type: Canon-law materials with an educational reading guide.

Subject: Marriage; consent; validity; spousal equality; parental education; separation.

Brief summary: Read these provisions in three groups:

- Canons 1055–1060: marriage's purposes and essential properties, consent, legal governance, and presumption of validity.
- Canons 1134–1136: the marital bond, equal conjugal rights and duties, and parents' educational responsibilities.
- Canons 1151–1155: conjugal living, legitimate separation, and children's support and education after separation.

Canon 1153 recognizes grounds for leaving where grave danger or other qualifying difficulty exists. Canon 1154 preserves responsibilities toward children after separation.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: TCMP uses these materials to explain religious marital purposes and continuing duties toward children. The selected canons concern the Latin Church. They do not replace Texas law as the governing rules in a civil proceeding. Recognition of religious commitments as relevant facts must be distinguished from asking a civil court to resolve ecclesiastical questions.

Source link: Vatican Code of Canon Law — marriage provisions.

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8. Familiaris Consortio — On the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World

Author or issuing authority: Pope John Paul II.

Date: November 22, 1981.

Material type: Church document; apostolic exhortation.

Subject: Christian family life; marital fidelity; parental education; pastoral care.

Brief summary: The exhortation examines the Christian family's vocation and responsibilities. Paragraph 36 discusses parents' primary educational role. Paragraph 83 addresses support for separated spouses and divorced persons who have not remarried. Paragraph 84 calls for discernment among different circumstances of marital breakdown.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: TCMP recommends starting with paragraph 36, then paragraph 83. These selections connect parental responsibility with practical care for spouses experiencing separation. The document informs the Project's Catholic understanding of family life; it supplies neither a civil custody rule nor an empirical psychological finding. The proposed reading sequence is TCMP's editorial selection.

Source link: Vatican — Familiaris Consortio.

Related reading

Arcanum Divinae — Pope Leo XIII, February 10, 1880. Historical companion to Familiaris Consortio.

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9. Arcanum Divinae — On Christian Marriage

Author or issuing authority: Pope Leo XIII.

Date: February 10, 1880. Official Vatican English text accessed October 12, 2026.

Material type: Church document; papal encyclical.

Subject: Christian marriage; sacramental character; indissolubility; marital purposes; parental responsibilities; ecclesiastical and civil authority.

Brief summary: Leo XIII examines marriage's divine origin, unity, permanence, and sacramental character. The encyclical discusses mutual marital duties, children's education, and the effects of divorce on family and society. It rejects separating the sacrament from the marriage contract among Christians, recognizes civil authority over marriage-related civil matters, and permits separation with the bond remaining when spouses cannot continue living together.

Relevance to TCMP — TCMP Commentary: TCMP includes this document as a historical doctrinal foundation for studying Catholic marital commitments and children's security. It helps explain the religious purposes relevant to the Project's research. It does not supply a binding definition of Texas statutory terms or establish a civil court's lack of jurisdiction. Its moral assessments should be distinguished from empirical findings and civil legal holdings. Read it alongside Familiaris Consortio and current canon law.

Source link: Official Vatican English text — Arcanum Divinae.

Suggested reading — TCMP Editorial Guide

Begin with §§ 10–12 and 26 on marital and family responsibilities; §§ 23–24 on contract and sacrament; and §§ 35, 40–41 on civil matters and separation. Read § 11's hierarchical language with § 14, Familiaris Consortio § 22, and canon 1135 on equal conjugal rights and duties. This selection is TCMP's reading recommendation.

Related reading

- Familiaris Consortio — Pope John Paul II, November 22, 1981. Suggested companion passages: §§ 20–22, 36, and 83.
- Code of Canon Law — marriage provisions. See canons 1055, 1059, 1135–1136, and 1151–1155.

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