

Strive 2 Succeed in Marriage Mission Statement

According to Steven R. Covey, author of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families the importance of applying vision to the family unit is to begin with the end in mind. He defines a **family mission statement** as a combined unified expression from all family members of what your family is all about---what it is you really want to do and be---and the principles you choose to govern your family life. It's based on the idea that all things are created twice. First comes the idea, or the mental creation; then comes the reality, or the physical creation. It's drafting the blueprint before constructing the house.

I utilize the Mission Statement for my couples in order for husband and wife to create a family road map for you to follow and for others to possibly admire and emulate. So in order to create and live out your Family Mission Statement requires 3 steps.

Step 1. Explore what your family is about, or what you want it to be?

Step 2. Draft your Mission Statement.

Step 3. Use it to Stay on Track.

Requirements for Step 1. In order to explore what your family is about, or what you want it to be, answer these series of questions.

1. If you had to create by-laws for your marriage partnership, what would they be?
2. If you had to create a support group for people outside your family what would it be and why?
3. How do you want to resolve your differences?
4. If you had to display 3 emotions on your wall that signify your family what would they be?
5. When ***you start a family or have your children*** comes, what kind of parents do you want to be?
6. What principles do you want to teach *your children* to help them prepare for adulthood and to lead responsible lives?
7. You see that one of your child(ren) has the potential to be excellent in X, how will you promote it?
8. What sort of discipline do you want to use on *your child(ren)* throughout development?

9. You have been given the opportunity to create a Reality show on Married Life. What roles will each of you play in the show? (i.e. earning, financial mgmt., housekeeping etc.)
10. What traditions from which the families you were raised do you bring within your family? Which new ones do you create?
11. What principles do you want your family to operate by?
12. Look at these 4 elements. (Physical, Spiritual, Mental, Social/ Emotional) How will you individually and collectively take steps in order to maintain balance in these four areas? What steps will you take if you see your spouse is out of balance in any of the four areas.
13. Imagine it's your 20th anniversary and you were receiving an award for family of the year..What would you want MC say about your family before you receive your award?

Requirements for Step 2. Now that you have fleshed out your ideas, it's now time to refine and pull them all together into some kind of expression that will reflect the collective feeling of the hearts and minds of both of you.

By writing it down, it will help cement in the two of you the type of family that you want to create and shape for years to come. Your initial writing will be more of a working document until you can mutually agree on the statement. The end goal is to believe it, buy into it and be ready and committed to live it.

Requirements for Step 3. Once you have finally mutually agreed upon your statement, decide how you will need to display new family mission statement. You might want to each keep a copy, or read your statement before you leave for work in the morning. However you do it, you want to utilize it as foundation that will keep your family together.