

Resolution #3

Robin's Law – The Texas Family Integrity and Probate Fairness Act

Background

This proposal is inspired by the Allison family probate dispute. Robin Allison, the surviving stepmother in the Allison estate, endured years of intense probate litigation involving aggressive tactics, overwhelming discovery, and prolonged legal conflict that placed extraordinary emotional and financial pressure on her. The Allison family's experience was highlighted in the investigative Wayne Dolcefino video "Damn Lawyers." Advocates cite the case as an example of how contingency fee incentives in probate litigation can encourage prolonged disputes focused on maximizing legal fees rather than resolving family matters. According to those close to the case, the stress and legal pressure placed on Robin Allison during this process severely impacted her health and nearly cost her life.

Problem

Texas law already prohibits contingency fee arrangements in core family matters such as divorce and child custody because financial incentives tied to litigation outcomes can distort legal advice and harm families. However, probate disputes - which are also fundamentally family conflicts involving spouses, step-parents, children, and inheritance rights - still allow contingency fee arrangements. These fee structures can incentivize lawyers to recommend litigation strategies based on how they are paid rather than what best protects the family. In inheritance disputes, contingency fee lawyers may encourage families to pursue high-stakes litigation that risks the loss of their inheritance rights. Clients often do not fully understand the legal rights they are gambling away, including the potential impact of no-contest clauses and other estate provisions. These disputes frequently target surviving spouses or step-parents who may be innocent participants in the conflict, and the resulting litigation can permanently damage family relationships.

Solution

Extend the existing prohibition on contingency fees used in divorce and child custody matters to the broader family category, including probate, inheritance, and estate disputes. Attorneys would instead be compensated through hourly, flat-fee, statutory, or court-approved fee arrangements that better align legal advice with responsible dispute resolution and family protection.

Formal Resolution

WHEREAS, Texas law already prohibits contingency fees in divorce and child custody matters to prevent financial incentives from distorting legal advice;

WHEREAS, probate disputes similarly involve sensitive family relationships among surviving spouses, step-parents, and children;

WHEREAS, contingency fee incentives may encourage unnecessary litigation rather than mediation or reconciliation;

WHEREAS, prolonged probate litigation can severely damage families and significantly reduce estate resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Republican Party of Texas urges the Texas Legislature to enact Robin's Law - The Texas Family Integrity and Probate Fairness Act, extending the existing prohibition on contingency fee arrangements in divorce and child custody matters to include probate, inheritance, and family estate litigation.

Adopted this 7th day of March, 2026, at the Precinct Convention of Precinct # 133 of the Republican Party of Texas.

Submitted by:

Signature:

Date:

Caroline Allison

Caroline Allison

dotloop verified
03/13/26 11:14 AM CDT
SNHX-ZWW0-XQSW-04U0

03/07/2026