

FAMILY REUNION INSTITUTE'S

STICKY REUNION SITUATION

PLANNING TEAM KEY ROLES...*BLOOD ONLY?*

April 2022

The Situation:

Our cousin's second wife wants to be our next treasurer, but knowing his track record, they probably won't be together long. I think that only blood family members should hold key roles on the planning team and would like us to make that an official amendment. Our planning team is split on whether to make this an official rule or not. What do you think?

The Fix:



Doug Harris

- 1) Your cousin's wife should not be used as a precedent in this situation. If people who marry into a family are not accepted as full-fledged family members then it changes the definition of family. I don't know the race or ethnicity of the writer, but for centuries in Black families, the definition of family bonds has been love, not blood. Uncle Joe is Uncle Joe whether he's your mother's brother or brother-in law. Making distinctions about "blood" weakens families in my opinion. The major question should be whether she has experience with finances and has a record for being trustworthy.
 - 2) Being divorced once and remarried is not a "track record." It's typical. More than 50% of American marriages end in divorce, and the majority of second marriages are successful. Give the couple a chance, rather than anticipating the worst.
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