

NORTH CAROLINA PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT

This Premarital Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into on [Date], by and between:

Party A [woman], residing at [Address], and

Party B [man], residing at [Address],

collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Parties contemplate marriage and desire to define their respective rights and obligations regarding property, income, debts, and other financial matters arising during marriage or upon its dissolution;

WHEREAS, Party A is employed by [Employer] as [Title] and Party B is employed by [Employer] as [Title], and each Party has made full, fair, and complete disclosure of their assets, liabilities, income, and financial circumstances – including compensation, equity, and ownership interests – as set forth in Exhibits A and B;

WHEREAS, each Party acknowledges the other's present earning capacity and agrees that future changes in employment, income, or earning capacity – including those resulting from caregiving or career sacrifice – are contemplated at execution and shall not constitute grounds to modify or invalidate this Agreement;

WHEREAS, each Party has been advised of their right to retain independent legal counsel in connection with this Agreement and has had adequate opportunity to consult with counsel of their choosing;

WHEREAS, each Party has carefully read and reviewed this Agreement, understands its terms and legal effect, and enters into this Agreement voluntarily and without coercion, duress, or undue influence;

WHEREAS, each Party believes this Agreement is fair and reasonable under the circumstances existing at the time of execution;

WHEREAS, the Parties desire that this Agreement be governed by the laws of North Carolina and intend for it to be legally binding and enforceable;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 Separate Property: All property, income, and assets acquired by either Party in their individual name before or during marriage, including without limitation: real estate, personal property, business interests, financial and securities accounts (checking, savings, brokerage, retirement, money market, investment accounts), employment income, gifts, inheritances, digital assets (cryptocurrency, NFTs, digital wallets, online accounts), intellectual property (patents, copyrights, source code, websites whether active or dormant), and all appreciation, growth, income, returns, and future development or commercialization thereof.

1.2 Joint Property: Property, assets, and debts titled in both Parties' names jointly and acquired during marriage with joint funds.

1.3 Separate Debts: Debts incurred by either Party in their individual name.

1.4 Joint Debts: Debts incurred jointly by both Parties in both their names during marriage.

1.5 Alimony/Spousal Support: Financial support paid by one Party to the other after separation, divorce, or dissolution, as specified in this Agreement.

2. SEPARATE PROPERTY

2.1 Ownership and Control: Each Party retains sole and exclusive ownership, control, and management of their separate property as defined in Section 1.1.

2.2 No Marital Claims: Neither Party shall acquire any right, title, interest, or claim in the separate property of the other Party by reason of the marriage, regardless of the duration of marriage or any contributions made by the non-owning Party.

2.3 Right of Disposition: Each Party may dispose of their separate property by sale, gift, will, trust, or otherwise, without the consent or approval of the other Party.

2.4 Separate Debt Responsibility: Each Party is solely responsible for their separate debts and shall indemnify and hold harmless the other Party from any liability arising from such separate debts.

2.5 Commingling Protection: If separate property becomes commingled with joint property, the contributing Party retains their ownership interest, provided adequate records exist to trace the separate contribution.

2.6 No Transmutation: Separate property shall not become joint property unless both Parties execute a written agreement specifically identifying the property and their intent to convert it to joint ownership. A deed, account registration, or beneficiary designation

alone – without such written transmutation agreement – does not effect a transmutation.

2.7 Business Interests During Marriage: Separate business interests remain entirely separate property regardless of spousal involvement, consultation, assistance, or contribution during marriage, provided the non-owner spouse did not make direct documented capital contributions or become a legal co-owner of the business entity. Each spouse's success benefits both parties during marriage, promoting mutual interest in maintaining the marital relationship rather than dissolving it for financial gain. No marital claim arises from business operations, growth, or increased value during marriage.

2.8 Trust Asset Protection: The non-settlor spouse waives all rights to distributions, principal, remainder interests, beneficiary designations, and any claim that trust assets constitute marital or community property – including assets held in discretionary, generation-skipping, and offshore asset protection trusts, whether domestic or foreign. Each Party's irrevocable trusts are not subject to division under this Agreement.

2.9 Equitable Distribution Waiver: Each Party expressly and irrevocably waives all rights to equitable distribution of the other Party's separate property under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 50-20 and 50-21. This waiver applies to all property acquired before or during marriage in either Party's individual name, including all appreciation, income, and returns thereon, and specifically includes property acquired during marriage with the acquiring Party's separate funds or income. The Parties intend that only property meeting the strict definition of Joint Property in Section 3.1 shall be subject to division upon separation or divorce.

3. JOINT PROPERTY

3.1 Joint Property Assets: Joint property consists only of assets titled in both Parties' names jointly and acquired during marriage with joint funds, as defined in Section 1.2.

3.2 Joint Property Division: Upon separation, divorce, or dissolution, joint property shall be divided equally (50/50) between the Parties.

3.3 Joint Debts: Joint debts consist only of debts incurred jointly by both Parties in both their names during marriage, as defined in Section 1.4. Upon separation, divorce, or dissolution, joint debts shall be divided equally (50/50) between the Parties.

3.4 Joint Residence - Proportional Interest: If the Parties jointly purchase a residence during marriage:

(a) Each Party's ownership percentage equals: $(\text{Their total contributions} \div \text{Combined contributions of both Parties}) \times 100$;

- (b) Records shall be maintained to document each Party's contributions;
- (c) This proportional interest supersedes any presumption of equal ownership for jointly-titled property.

3.5 Joint Residence - Dissolution Rights: Upon separation, divorce, or dissolution:

- (a) Either Party may elect to purchase the other's proportional share at fair market value determined by: (i) mutual agreement; (ii) if no agreement within 30 days, the median of three valuations from the largest online real estate platforms by market share (currently Zillow, Redfin, and Realtor.com) on the same date; or (iii) if online values vary by >20% or are unavailable, the average of two certified appraisals (one per Party);
- (b) The purchasing Party must obtain financing in their sole name and complete the buyout within 120 days of election;
- (c) If no buyout election is made or completed within 120 days, the residence shall be sold with net proceeds distributed according to each Party's proportional share.

3.6 Separate Property Exclusion: All property not meeting the definition of joint property in Section 1.2 remains separate property of the owning Party, regardless of any contributions, improvements, or efforts by the non-owning Party during marriage.

4. ALIMONY/SPOUSAL SUPPORT

4.1 General Waiver: Both Parties waive all rights to alimony, spousal support, or maintenance under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 50-16.1A through 50-16.9, whether temporary (pendente lite), rehabilitative, or permanent, except as provided herein.

4.2 Temporary Support: Nothing herein limits statutory temporary support rights under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 50-16.2A, but temporary support credits against the Section 4.12 lifetime cap. If this Agreement is upheld and temporary support exceeds Section 4 amounts, excess shall be reimbursed within 90 days or offset against future payments.

4.3 Children of the Marriage: "Children of the Marriage" means biological (including IVF) or legally adopted children of both Parties. Either Party may require genetic testing at any time at the requesting Party's expense; if any child is not a Child of the Marriage, the Section 4.6 child count reduces accordingly and overpayments are refunded or credited against future support.

4.4 Employment Requirement: "Employment" means earning at least \$30,000 annually in gross income, verified by tax returns, W-2s, or equivalent documentation. Support reduces by 50% if recipient has not obtained Employment within 24 months of divorce filing, unless recipient has primary custody of a Child of the Marriage under age four.

Payor may request annual verification; failure to respond within 30 days is a rebuttable presumption of non-Employment and the reduction applies until verified.

4.5 Net Income Definition: "Net income" means gross income minus federal income tax, state income tax, Social Security, and Medicare withholdings, excluding voluntary deductions. Net income is the three-year average of payor's annual income preceding divorce filing, but if the most recent year's income is lower due to involuntary job loss, disability, or business closure beyond payor's control, then it is the most recent year's net income, not the three-year average.

4.6 Support Calculation: Monthly support equals the applicable percentage of payor's net income below, minus 25% of recipient's monthly net income (as defined in Section 4.5):

- 0 Children: 2% of payor's net income
- 1 Child: 4% of payor's net income
- 2 Children: 6% of payor's net income
- 3 Children: 8% of payor's net income
- 4 Children: 10% of payor's net income
- 5 Children: 12% of payor's net income
- 6+ Children: 14% of payor's net income

Minimum: No support payable if calculated amount is below \$500/month.

Absolute Cap: Monthly support shall not exceed 200% of FPL for a household size equal to recipient plus all Children of the Marriage, regardless of age.

Child Support Separate: Child support determined under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 50-13.4 and 110-129 per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-4(b).

4.7 Duration Limits: The support duration shall be calculated as a percentage of marriage length, as defined below:

- Less than 5 years: 5% of marriage length
- 5 to <10 years: 10% of marriage length
- 10 to <15 years: 15% of marriage length
- 15 to <20 years: 20% of marriage length
- 20 to <25 years: 25% of marriage length
- 25+ years: 30% of marriage length, capped at 8 years total

4.8 Statutory Override: Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7(b), if waiving support would make recipient eligible for public assistance, court may order minimum necessary to avoid eligibility, not exceeding caps above, upon finding recipient is dependent spouse under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 50-16.1A, 50-16.2A, or 50-16.3A.

4.9 Income Floor: No support payable if payor's gross annual income falls below the greater of: (a) 75% of gross income in year before executing this Agreement; or (b) \$35,000.

4.10 Automatic Termination: Support immediately ceases upon the earliest of: (a) Recipient's remarriage; (b) Recipient's cohabitation with another person for 90+ consecutive days in a relationship akin to marriage per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 50-16.9(b), including holding out as a couple, whether or not financial or domestic responsibilities overlap; (c) Recipient's death; (d) Payor's death; or (e) Duration limit expiration under Section 4.7.

4.11 No Modification: This Agreement may be set aside only by proving: (1) execution was involuntary; OR (2) unconscionable at execution because party (a) was not provided fair and reasonable disclosure, (b) did not waive disclosure in writing, AND (c) did not have adequate knowledge of other's finances, under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7. Unconscionability determined only at execution, not enforcement. Both parties acknowledge as foreseeable: dissolution, workforce departures, income/employment changes, illness, disability, health issues, economic conditions, business outcomes, and childcare decisions.

4.12 Lifetime Support Cap: Total lifetime support shall not exceed payor's average annual net income (as defined in Section 4.5) during the three years preceding divorce filing, multiplied by: 60% (marriages <10 years), 80% (10–20 years), or 100% (>20 years).

4.13 Acknowledgment: Parties acknowledge these provisions, combined with recipient's separate property, employment capacity, and share of joint property, provide reasonable support that will not leave recipient destitute or eligible for public assistance. Both Parties have considered recipient's post-divorce financial position and agree these provisions are fair at execution.

4.14 Post-Divorce Income: Support shall not be modified based on payor's income increases occurring after divorce filing, including promotions, bonuses, raises, business growth, investment returns, inheritances, gifts, or new employment at higher compensation.

4.15 Reformed Formula Fallback: If any court deems the Section 4.6 formula or Section 4.7 duration unconscionable under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7, support shall be reformed – not voided – to: 8% of payor's net income (0–1 children), 12% (2–3 children), or 16% (4+ children), minus 25% of recipient's net income, for a duration of 40% of marriage length, capped at \$8,000/month adjusted annually by CPI-U (base: date of marriage). This fallback does not constitute an admission of unconscionability and applies only upon a court finding under G.S. 52B-7(a)(2).

5. LIFESTYLE CLAUSES

This Section is precatory and aspirational only – it expresses the Parties' shared hopes and values, is not legally binding or enforceable, and carries no remedy. Its validity or invalidity has no bearing on any other provision, all of which remain fully effective and severable per Section 18.

5.1 Shared Responsibilities: The Parties commit to building a successful family through equal overall contributions. Family responsibilities typically divide into financial and domestic domains. Each Party leads in one domain (60-70%) while supporting in the other (30-40%), creating reciprocal balance where both contribute approximately 50% overall.

5.2 Workforce Commitment: Both Parties value financial independence and shared economic contribution. Both Parties intend to maintain workforce participation throughout the marriage to preserve career skills and ensure long-term financial security for themselves and their family. Any departure from workforce participation is a personal choice made by the departing Party and does not create additional support obligations beyond those specified in Section 4.

5.3 Aging Gracefully: Both Parties commit to aging gracefully, for the benefit of themselves and their partner.

5.4 Conflict Resolution and Family Preservation: In case of marital difficulties, both Parties commit to preserving family unity through creative living arrangements if necessary (separate bedrooms, nearby homes, etc.), speaking respectfully about each other publicly and privately, and prioritizing their children's relationships with both parents regardless of marital status.

5.5 Fidelity: Each Party values the mutual expectation of fidelity and ongoing intimacy as foundational to a happy and long-lived marriage.

6. FINANCIAL CHANGES DURING MARRIAGE

6.1 Binding Regardless of Changes: The Parties acknowledge that their financial circumstances may change significantly during marriage, including substantial increases or decreases in income, assets, or liabilities. This Agreement remains binding regardless of such changes.

6.2 No Implied Modifications: Changes in financial circumstances, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable, shall not modify, invalidate, or excuse performance under this Agreement unless modified in compliance with all requirements of Section 17 (Modification and Finality).

6.3 Commitment to Terms: Each Party affirms this Agreement reflects their current intentions and commits to honoring its terms regardless of future financial success, failure, or changed circumstances.

6.4 ERISA Retirement Rights: ERISA spousal rights cannot be waived before marriage. Each Party shall execute any required spousal consent or beneficiary waiver within 30 days of written request after marriage, and agrees not to seek a Qualified Domestic Relations Order or similar order against the other Party's retirement or deferred compensation plans, which remain separate property under Section 1.1. Failure to execute is a material breach entitling the requesting Party to specific performance, \$25,000 liquidated damages, and reasonable attorney fees.

7. INHERITANCE AND ESTATE RIGHTS WAIVER

7.1 Complete Inheritance Waiver: Each Party irrevocably waives all rights to inherit from the other's estate, including: (a) elective share (N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 30-3.1 through 30-3.6); (b) intestate succession (N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 29-14 and 29-15); (c) year's allowance (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 30-15); and (d) all other statutory inheritance rights under North Carolina or any other jurisdiction's law.

7.2 Estate Planning Consistency: If either Party executes a will or estate planning documents, such documents shall be consistent with this Agreement's inheritance waivers.

7.3 Binding Waiver: These inheritance waivers remain in effect regardless of changes in circumstances, domicile, or law.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ATTORNEY FEES

8.1 Mandatory Mediation: Any dispute arising under this Agreement must first be submitted to mediation with a qualified family law mediator. Both Parties must participate in good faith for at least three (3) full sessions over a minimum of 60 days. Mediation costs shall be allocated as follows: (a) Successful Mediation: If a written settlement agreement signed by both Parties resolves all disputed issues, the higher-earning Party at time of mediation shall pay all mediation costs up to the lesser of (i) 2% of that Party's gross annual income, or (ii) \$10,000; (b) Unsuccessful Mediation: If no complete resolution is reached, both Parties shall share all mediation costs equally.

8.2 Extended Mediation Cost-Sharing: For mediation continuing beyond 60 days, costs shall be shared equally regardless of outcome.

8.3 Optional Arbitration: Either Party may terminate mediation and elect binding arbitration with 30 days' written notice after the initial 60-day period. Arbitration shall be conducted by a single arbitrator selected from AAA's family law panel, in the city where marital residence was established. The arbitrator shall strictly apply this Agreement's terms without equitable modification. Judicial review shall be limited to the grounds provided under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-569.23.

8.4 Arbitration Costs: The Parties shall initially share arbitration costs equally. The arbitrator may reallocate costs based on the reasonableness of each Party's position and conduct during the proceedings.

8.5 Legal Representation Fund: If either Party lacks sufficient resources to retain competent counsel for any proceedings related to this Agreement, including mediation, arbitration, or court litigation, the higher-earning Party at time of request shall advance reasonable attorney fees up to the lesser of (i) 4% of that Party's gross annual income, or (ii) \$50,000, total across all proceedings to ensure adequate representation. Advanced fees shall be: (a) Reimbursed from any award or settlement received by the represented Party, or in full if the represented Party loses on all material issues per Section 8.7; or (b) Forgiven if no recovery occurs or if reimbursement would cause financial hardship. This cap represents the maximum obligation for legal representation assistance regardless of the number or type of proceedings.

8.6 Court Litigation - Limited Circumstances: Court proceedings are permitted only to: (a) Compel participation in mediation or arbitration; (b) Enforce an arbitration award; (c) Seek emergency relief where irreparable harm would occur.

8.7 Frivolous Challenge Penalty: A Party who challenges this Agreement's validity in court and loses on all material issues shall reimburse the other Party's reasonable attorney fees and costs, provided such reimbursement would not render this Agreement unconscionable.

8.8 Prevailing Party Attorney Fees: In mediation, arbitration, or permitted court proceedings, the prevailing Party may recover reasonable attorney fees and costs, subject to the arbitrator's or court's discretion based on the relative merits of each Party's position and financial circumstances.

8.9 Waiver of Jury Trial: Both Parties waive their right to a jury trial for any dispute relating to this Agreement, except that either Party retains the right to a jury trial on the issue of marital misconduct under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 50-16.3A(d) if alimony proceedings are initiated under Sections 4.8 or 4.15.

8.10 Settlement Incentives: Any dispute resolved within 30 days of initial filing pays no attorney fees to either party. Either party may request one 30-day suspension of proceedings for reflection and consultation.

8.11 Confidentiality of Proceedings: All mediation, arbitration, and court proceedings under this Agreement shall be confidential. Neither Party may disclose pleadings, testimony, exhibits, or settlement positions to third parties except counsel, financial advisors, or as required by law. Violations trigger the penalties in Section 10.4.

9. LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION

9.1 English Language Agreement: This Agreement is written in English. Each Party acknowledges they have read, understood, and voluntarily agreed to all terms herein.

9.2 Non-Native Speaker Protections: Any Party whose native language is not English represents that they have: (a) Sufficient English proficiency to understand this Agreement's terms and legal consequences; or (b) Consulted with a qualified attorney or certified translator fluent in their native language who explained this Agreement's terms and implications.

9.3 Waiver of Language Claims: Each Party irrevocably waives any future claim that they: (a) Did not understand this Agreement due to language barriers; (b) Were denied adequate opportunity to obtain translation or native-language legal counsel; (c) Signed this Agreement without full comprehension of its terms or consequences.

9.4 Translation Available: Each Party acknowledges they had the right to request a written translation of this Agreement in their native language prior to execution, and either obtained such translation, declined it, or confirmed sufficient English proficiency to proceed without one.

10. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

10.1 Confidentiality Obligations: The Parties agree to maintain strict confidentiality regarding: (a) the existence, terms, and contents of this Agreement; (b) private communications, conversations, and personal matters; (c) financial information; (d) personal photographs, videos, or recordings; (e) medical, mental health, or counseling information; (f) family relationships, personal struggles, or embarrassing incidents; and (g) children's private matters by: limiting online sharing to private family/friend settings not publicly searchable; avoiding embarrassing or exploitative content; prohibiting use of children's images or information for personal gain, business promotion, or social media influence; and prioritizing children's long-term dignity and privacy interests over parental sharing preferences.

10.2 Respectful Communication: During and after marriage, both Parties shall speak respectfully about each other, refrain from disparaging statements, avoid sharing private marital details publicly or on social media, and maintain dignified communication.

10.3 Commercial Exploitation Prohibition: Neither Party may commercially exploit the other's name, image, likeness, or reputation through: (a) selling or licensing photographs, videos, or recordings; (b) publishing books, articles, or monetizing interviews about the marriage; (c) participating in tell-all media; or (d) interfering with professional relationships.

10.4 Enforcement and Remedies: A violation entitles the non-breaching Party to injunctive relief and to actual damages. Where actual damages are impractical to determine, the Parties agree liquidated damages of \$4,000 per violation (general or children-related) are a reasonable estimate, not a penalty; for commercial exploitation or willful breach, the greater of actual damages, disgorgement of profits, or \$20,000. The arbitrator or court may adjust any amount it finds punitive, and shall award the prevailing Party reasonable attorney fees.

10.5 Binding Nature: All obligations survive marriage termination permanently.

10.6 Exceptions: Disclosure permitted when required by law, court order, necessary to protect children from harm, or required for legitimate legal proceedings.

11. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AND DISCOVERY WAIVER

11.1 Complete Disclosure: Each Party has provided complete and accurate financial disclosure through Asset and Liability Disclosure Schedules attached as Exhibits A and B, constituting "fair and reasonable disclosure of the property or financial obligations" under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7(a)(2)(a).

11.2 Reliance: Each Party acknowledges receiving, reviewing, and understanding the other's disclosures and relies on their completeness and accuracy.

11.3 Discovery Waiver: Parties waive all discovery rights except that constitutionally required for due process upon specific judicial finding of necessity to avoid denial of fair hearing on claims of fraud, duress, or incapacity.

12. DISCLOSURE WAIVER

12.1 Voluntary Waiver: Each Party expressly, knowingly, and voluntarily waives all disclosure rights under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7.

12.2 Independent Basis: This waiver ensures enforceability even if Section 11 disclosures are deemed inadequate.

12.3 Statutory Waiver: Each Party voluntarily and expressly waives, in writing, any right to disclosure beyond Exhibits A and B, as permitted under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7(a)(2)(b).

12.4 Adequate Knowledge: Each Party had, or reasonably could have had, adequate knowledge of the other's property and financial obligations under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7(a)(2)(c).

12.5 Future Claims Waiver: Both Parties irrevocably waive claims of: (a) inadequate disclosure; (b) unconscionability based on financial surprise; (c) lack of investigation opportunity; (d) insufficient review time.

13. OPTIONAL PRE-MARRIAGE ASSET UPDATE

13.1 Recommended Update: The Parties are encouraged, but not required, to exchange updated asset and liability schedules between thirty (30) and ninety (90) days before the marriage date. Any such updated schedules shall be attached as supplements to Exhibits A and B and identified as such.

13.2 Reaffirmation: If updated schedules are exchanged, the Parties may execute a written acknowledgment confirming this Agreement remains fully effective as modified only by the updated schedules. Such acknowledgment does not modify any substantive term of this Agreement.

13.3 No Effect on Enforceability: The exchange of updated schedules is recommended practice only. Failure to exchange updated schedules, or to execute any reaffirmation, shall not invalidate, modify, or affect the enforceability of this Agreement in any respect. The disclosures in Exhibits A and B as of the execution date of this Agreement remain the operative disclosures for all purposes.

14. ASSET CHANGES AND CONTINUED VALIDITY

14.1 Primary Enforceability: This Agreement remains valid regardless of post-execution changes in assets, income, or net worth, whether disclosed or undisclosed.

14.2 Challenge Waiver: Each party waives challenges based on post-execution asset changes, market fluctuations, or failure to disclose changes.

14.3 Time-Independent Validity: Enforceability does not depend on timing between execution and marriage or compliance with update requirements.

15. INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL

15.1 **Opportunity for Counsel:** Each Party acknowledges they have had full opportunity to consult with independent legal counsel of their choice regarding this Agreement's terms and effects.

15.2 **Counsel Not Required:** North Carolina law does not require independent counsel for valid prenuptial agreements. North Carolina courts have upheld prenuptial agreements even when one party had no attorney, did not read the agreement, and received it on the wedding day. See *Kornegay v. Robinson*, 360 N.C. 640 (2006).

15.3 **Voluntary Execution:** Each Party enters this Agreement voluntarily, without coercion, duress, or undue influence, after adequate time for review and consultation.

15.4 **Waiver of Counsel:** If either Party chose not to retain counsel, such waiver was made voluntarily with full understanding of the rights being relinquished. Lack of counsel does not invalidate this Agreement under North Carolina law.

16. GOVERNING LAW AND ENFORCEABILITY

16.1 **North Carolina Law:** This Agreement is governed by North Carolina law, including N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 52B-1 through 52B-11 (Uniform Premarital Agreement Act, enacted 1987), regardless of domicile or asset location at enforcement.

16.2 **Jurisdiction:** Each Party submits to North Carolina jurisdiction for disputes arising under this Agreement. Either Party may alternatively enforce this Agreement in any jurisdiction providing equal or stronger prenuptial protections. Each Party agrees to seek enforcement of this Agreement's terms in any proceedings and to oppose entry of orders inconsistent with this Agreement. Neither Party shall forum shop to jurisdictions with weaker protections.

16.3 **Law Selection:** The Parties chose North Carolina law for its strong prenuptial enforcement under the UPAA. If another jurisdiction's law applies, it shall be applied consistently with North Carolina's enforcement standards.

16.4 **Validity Standard:** Under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7, this Agreement is unenforceable only if the challenging party proves: (1) execution was involuntary; OR (2) the agreement was unconscionable when executed AND before execution that party: (a) was not provided fair and reasonable disclosure of property or financial obligations; (b) did not voluntarily and expressly waive disclosure in writing; AND (c) did not have, or reasonably could not have had, adequate knowledge of the other party's property or financial

obligations. Unconscionability is evaluated only at execution, not enforcement. Changed circumstances during marriage do not invalidate this Agreement.

17. MODIFICATION AND FINALITY

17.1 Entire Agreement: This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties regarding the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, or representations, whether written or oral.

17.2 Modification Requirements: This Agreement may only be amended or modified by a written instrument that: (a) is presented to the other party at least thirty (30) days prior to execution; (b) is signed by both Parties before a notary; and (c) includes confirmation that each party has either obtained independent legal counsel or has expressly waived such representation.

17.3 No Oral Modifications: No oral agreements, representations, or modifications shall be binding.

18. SEVERABILITY

18.1 Severance of Invalid Provisions: If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, that provision shall be automatically severed, and the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

18.2 Replacement Provision: Any severed provision shall be reformed to nearest valid equivalent reflecting the original intent of the Parties.

18.3 Intent: The Parties expressly intend that invalid provisions be severed rather than invalidating the entire Agreement, even if the invalid provision goes to the essence of this Agreement.

19. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIMING

19.1 Effective Date: This Agreement shall become effective immediately upon the marriage of the Parties.

19.2 Ideal Timeline: Sign the premarital agreement before proposing, and optionally update disclosures 30-90 days before the wedding. This ensures informed engagement decisions and keeps legal matters separate from wedding planning.

19.3 Alternative Timeline: Execute this Agreement at least 60 days before the wedding date, allowing 2-3 weeks for both parties to review the final version before signing. Reach out to an attorney at least 4-6 months before the wedding to begin the process.

19.4 Advisory Nature: These recommendations enhance enforceability but are not validity requirements.

20. COMPREHENSIVE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

20.1 Informed Voluntary Agreement: Each Party enters this Agreement freely and voluntarily, with complete understanding of its terms, legal effects, and binding nature.

20.2 Financial Disclosure Confirmation: Each Party confirms they either: (a) received full financial disclosure with reasonable opportunity for verification; OR (b) knowingly and voluntarily waived disclosure rights as detailed in Section 12.

20.3 Legal Counsel Confirmation: Each Party confirms they were advised to obtain independent legal counsel and provided sufficient time for consultation.

20.4 Maximum Statutory Waiver: Each Party waives all statutory rights to property division, spousal support, inheritance, and other marital rights under North Carolina law, including N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 52B-1 through 52B-11 (premarital agreements), §§ 50-16.1A through 50-16.9 (alimony), §§ 50-20 and 50-21 (equitable distribution), §§ 30-3.1 through 30-3.6 (elective share), §§ 29-14 and 29-15 (intestate succession), and § 30-15 (year's allowance).

20.5 Comprehensive Acknowledgments: Each Party acknowledges full opportunity to understand this Agreement, review financial disclosures, obtain counsel, and execute voluntarily. Each Party confirms no duress, coercion, undue influence, fraud, or overreaching exists and affirms this Agreement is not unconscionable and is fair and reasonable under current circumstances as of execution. Under North Carolina law (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 52B-7), unconscionability is determined at execution only, and courts may not consider changed circumstances during marriage. Both Parties have carefully considered their respective post-divorce financial positions and agree this Agreement makes reasonable provision given their circumstances, assets, earning capacity, and contemplated marital relationship.

21. EXECUTION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

