



The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MDCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 9, 2023

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – House Bill 285 – *Family Law – Custody Evaluators – Qualifications and Training*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MDCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,300 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MDCSWC, we are submitting a **letter of information** for House Bill 285.

House Bill 285 establishes requirements regarding the licensure, experience, and training of custody evaluators. The bill would also move the educational and training requirements for court custody evaluators from the Maryland Rules of Court to statute. MDCSWC understands there is a valid discussion regarding whether the provisions should be in the Maryland Rules of Court or in statute. MDCSWC is not weighing in on that issue. Regardless of where the requirements are located, we support the expanded list of professionals the court may appoint or approve as a custody evaluator, which includes Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work: www.gwscsw.org

Contacts: Coalition Chair: Judy Gallant, LCSW-C; email: jg708@columbia.edu; mobile (301) 717-1004
Legislative Consultants: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer and Christine Krone, Schwartz, Metz, Wise & Kauffman, PA, 20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Email: pmetz@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 746-9003 ; ckrone@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 940-9165