

By the Committees on Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care;
Judiciary; and Senator Aronberg

317-2389-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to child custody evaluations;
3 providing a presumption of good faith for the
4 actions of a court-appointed psychologist who
5 conducts a child custody evaluation;
6 prohibiting anonymous complaints; providing
7 prerequisites to a parent's bringing a legal
8 action against the psychologist; providing for
9 the award of reasonable attorney's fees and
10 reasonable court costs; providing an effective
11 date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Child custody evaluations; presumption of
16 psychologist's good faith; prerequisite to parent's filing
17 suit; award of fees, costs, reimbursement.--

18 (1) A psychologist who has been appointed by the court
19 to conduct a child custody evaluation in a judicial proceeding
20 is presumed to be acting in good faith if the evaluation has
21 been conducted pursuant to standards that a reasonable
22 psychologist would have used as recommended by the American
23 Psychological Association's guidelines for child custody
24 evaluation in divorce proceedings.

25 (2) An administrative complaint against a
26 court-appointed psychologist which relates to a child custody
27 evaluation conducted by the psychologist may not be filed
28 anonymously. The individual who files such an administrative
29 complaint must include in the complaint his or her name,
30 address, and telephone number.

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