

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to court-appointed psychologists;
 3 amending s. 61.122, F.S.; requiring a party to seek
 4 disqualification of a court-appointed psychologist
 5 before filing an administrative complaint against the
 6 psychologist; providing for disqualification motions;
 7 revising provisions for award of costs and attorney
 8 fees in supplemental actions against court-appointed
 9 psychologists; providing an effective date.

10
 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12
 13 **Section 1. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section**
 14 **61.122, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

15 61.122 Parenting plan recommendation; presumption of
 16 psychologist's good faith; prerequisite to parent's filing suit;
 17 award of fees, costs, reimbursement.—

18 (2) An administrative complaint against a court-appointed
 19 psychologist which relates to a parenting plan recommendation
 20 conducted by the psychologist may not be filed anonymously. The
 21 individual who files an administrative complaint must include in
 22 the complaint his or her name, address, and telephone number.
 23 Such an administrative complaint may not be filed until the
 24 complainant has moved to disqualify the selection of the
 25 psychologist pursuant to subsection (3).

26 (3) A parent who desires to disqualify the selection of
27 the file a legal action against a court-appointed psychologist
28 or file an administrative complaint against the court-appointed
29 psychologist who has acted in good faith in developing a
30 parenting plan recommendation must petition the judge who is
31 presiding ~~presided~~ over the dissolution of marriage, case of
32 domestic violence, or paternity matter involving the
33 relationship of a child and a parent, including time-sharing of
34 children, to appoint an alternative ~~another~~ psychologist. Upon
35 the parent's showing of good cause, the court shall appoint
36 another psychologist. The court shall determine who is
37 responsible for all court costs and attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees
38 associated with making such an appointment.

39 (4) In any supplemental legal action filed against ~~If a~~
40 ~~legal action, whether it be a civil action, a criminal action,~~
41 ~~or an administrative proceeding, is filed against~~ a court-
42 appointed psychologist based upon his or her participation in a
43 dissolution of marriage, case of domestic violence, or paternity
44 matter involving the relationship of a child and a parent,
45 including time-sharing of children, the claimant is responsible
46 for all reasonable costs and reasonable attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees
47 associated with the action for both parties if the psychologist
48 is held not liable. If the psychologist is held liable in civil
49 court, the psychologist must pay all reasonable costs and
50 reasonable attorney's fees for the claimant.

HB 901

2025

51

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.