



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 William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza

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

DATE: January 31, 2023

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 13 – *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 Senate Bill 13.

Senate Bill 13 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.

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 PA, 20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

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