
By: Delegate Montague

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Custody - Needs Assessment and Preliminary Parenting Plans**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that, in a child custody proceeding, each parent petitioning
4 for child custody submit to the court certain needs assessment and preliminary
5 parenting plans; specifying certain items that must be included in the plans; and
6 generally relating to certain requirements for certain parents in a child custody
7 proceeding.

8 BY adding to

9 Article - Family Law

10 Section 9-102.1

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Family Law**

16 9-102.1.

17 (A) IN A CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING, EACH PARENT PETITIONING FOR
18 CUSTODY OF THE CHILD SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COURT:

19 (1) A NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLAN DESCRIBING THE PRESENT AND
20 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE CHILD; AND

21 (2) A PRELIMINARY PARENTING PLAN SPECIFYING THE PARENT'S
22 PROPOSED PLAN TO RESPOND TO THE CHILD'S NEEDS.

23 (B) THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLAN SHALL INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF:

24 (1) THE CHILD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH PARENT;

25 (2) EACH PARENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES OF
26 THE CHILD'S LIFE;

27 (3) THE CHILD'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS;

28 AND

2

1 (4) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER OF THE CHILD'S
2 PHYSICIAN, THERAPIST, DENTIST, OR OTHER HELPING PROFESSIONAL.

3 (C) THE PRELIMINARY PARENTING PLAN SHALL INCLUDE AN EXPLANATION
4 OF HOW:

5 (1) THE PARENTS WILL EXPLAIN SEPARATION AND DIVORCE TO THE
6 CHILD;

7 (2) THE PARENTS WILL COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER TO AVOID
8 CONFLICT CONCERNING THE CHILD;

9 (3) THE CHILD'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS
10 WILL BE HANDLED;

11 (4) THE CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHILD WILL BE MADE;
12 AND

13 (5) THE CHILD'S HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WILL BE
14 MAINTAINED.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 1997.