
By: **Delegates Gilleland and Boschert**
 Rules suspended
 Introduced and read first time: March 8, 2005
 Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Disclosure of Divorce Case Information - Temporary**
 3 **Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that the court may not allow the inspection of a divorce
 5 case file or disclosure of any information relating to a divorce case for a certain
 6 time period after the filing of a complaint for limited or absolute divorce;
 7 providing certain exceptions; and generally relating to a temporary prohibition
 8 on the disclosure of divorce case information.

9 BY adding to
 10 Article - Family Law
 11 Section 7-108
 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
 13 (2004 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - Family Law**

17 7-108.

18 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, FOR A PERIOD
 19 OF 7 DAYS AFTER A COMPLAINT FOR LIMITED OR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE IS FILED, THE
 20 COURT MAY NOT ALLOW THE INSPECTION OF THE DIVORCE CASE FILE OR THE
 21 DISCLOSURE OF ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE DIVORCE CASE, INCLUDING
 22 THE FACT THAT A DIVORCE COMPLAINT WAS FILED AND ANY IDENTIFYING
 23 INFORMATION ABOUT THE INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN THE COMPLAINT.

24 (B) THE COURT SHALL ALLOW THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO INSPECT
 25 THE DIVORCE CASE FILE AND TO OBTAIN INFORMATION RELATING TO THE DIVORCE
 26 CASE AT ANY TIME DURING THE REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS OF THE COURT:

27 (1) THE INDIVIDUAL WHO FILED THE COMPLAINT;

1 (2) THE ATTORNEY OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHO FILED THE COMPLAINT;

2 (3) A JUDGE OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COURT WHO REQUIRES ACCESS
3 TO THE DIVORCE CASE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PERFORM JOB DUTIES; AND

4 (4) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUIRES ACCESS TO THE DIVORCE CASE
5 INFORMATION IN ORDER TO SERVE THE DIVORCE COMPLAINT ON THE OPPOSING
6 PARTY.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2005.