

HON. STACY A. MAYER  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
FREDERICK COUNTY  
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR  
ASSISTANT STATE COURT  
ADMINISTRATOR  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.  
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND  
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## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 833  
Children in Need of Assistance – Parents in Substance Use  
Disorder Treatment  
**DATE:** March 20, 2024  
(3/26)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 833.

The Judiciary opposes the creation of the presumptions for several reasons. The Judiciary notes the difficulty of presuming (at such an early stage of the case, when the court may have little information) that there is no emergency situation. The court also only has limited information about a treatment program's child-specific programming. It is difficult to presume that the child is getting proper care and attention, and that child welfare cases are extremely fact-specific.

cc. Hon. Nicole Williams  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor