

| Committee: | Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee |
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| Bill: | SB 25 - Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications |
| Hearing Date: | January 28, 2025 |
| Position: | Support |

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports Senate Bill 25 -Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications. This bill establishes parameters for who is qualified to evaluate children to advise the court in custody determinations. The bill stems from the recommendations of the Workgroup to Study Child Custody Court Proceedings Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations, which was established by SB 567 in the 2019 session.

We strongly support this bill because custody evaluators need to be qualified and have specific training in the subject matter. Maryland's children deserve and need competent professionals to help guide the courts.

LCPCM urges the Committee to give SB 25 a FAVORABLE Report.

Please contact Andrea Mansfield at <u>amansfield@maniscanning.com</u> or (410) 562-1617 if we can provide additional information.