

The Real Dadvocate



Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody, Incorporated

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Senator Ready

Maryland State Senators & Delegates

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: FAVOURABLE VOTE – SENATE BILL 0660 Family Law - Child Support Guidelines - Agreement Between Parents

Senate Bill 0660 takes the bias out of the Family Court!

SB 0660 allow parents to be parents in deciding how to rear their child(ren). In a recent case in the Baltimore City Family Court Parker v. Macer case number 24-D-23-002856. The Parker v. Macer case, number 24-D-23-002856, illustrates a scenario where the court's involvement appeared unnecessary and even counterproductive, as the mother did not seek child support, yet the court imposed it on the father when he sought access to his child. This raises questions about whether the court's actions truly aligned with the "best interest of the child" standard, which is supposed to guide family court decisions in Maryland.

That actual court case is a reason The Real Dadvocate nonprofit organization supports Maryland Senate Bill 0660. Senate Bill 0660 seems to stem from a broader concern that family courts may overstep their authority by intervening in cases where parents are capable of reaching agreements on their own. This intervention can lead to unnecessary legal battles, financial burdens, and strained relationships between parents, which may ultimately harm the child's well-being.

In Parker v. Macer, the court refunded the child support payments from Mr. Parker, but that case underscores

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the potential for courts to act in ways that contradict the parents' intentions and the child's best interests. It also highlights the need for reforms to ensure that family courts respect the autonomy of parents who are able to cooperate and make decisions in their children's best interests.

If Senate Bill 0660 aims to address these issues by limiting unnecessary court intervention and promoting parental cooperation, it could be a step toward ensuring that family courts in Maryland operate more effectively and in alignment with the best interests of children.

Sincerely,
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Cc: File