

CHAPTER 2025-80

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 901

An act relating to court-appointed psychologists; amending s. 61.122, F.S.; requiring a party to seek disqualification of a court-appointed psychologist before filing an administrative complaint against the psychologist; providing for disqualification motions; revising provisions for award of costs and attorney fees in supplemental actions against court-appointed psychologists; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 61.122, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

61.122 Parenting plan recommendation; presumption of psychologist's good faith; prerequisite to parent's filing suit; award of fees, costs, reimbursement.—

(2) An administrative complaint against a court-appointed psychologist which relates to a parenting plan recommendation conducted by the psychologist may not be filed anonymously. The individual who files an administrative complaint must include in the complaint his or her name, address, and telephone number. Such an administrative complaint may not be filed until the complainant has moved to disqualify the selection of the psychologist pursuant to subsection (3).

(3) A parent who desires to disqualify the selection of the file a legal action against a court-appointed psychologist or file an administrative complaint against the court-appointed psychologist who has acted in good faith in developing a parenting plan recommendation must petition the judge who is presiding presided over the dissolution of marriage, case of domestic violence, or paternity matter involving the relationship of a child and a parent, including time-sharing of children, to appoint an alternative another psychologist. Upon the parent's showing of good cause, the court shall appoint another psychologist. The court shall determine who is responsible for all court costs and attorney attorney's fees associated with making such an appointment.

(4) In any supplemental legal action filed against ~~If a legal action, whether it be a civil action, a criminal action, or an administrative proceeding, is filed against~~ a court-appointed psychologist based upon his or her participation in a dissolution of marriage, case of domestic violence, or paternity matter involving the relationship of a child and a parent, including time-sharing of children, the claimant is responsible for all reasonable costs and reasonable attorney attorney's fees associated with the supplemental action for both parties if the psychologist is held not liable. If the psychologist

is held liable in civil court, the psychologist must pay all reasonable costs and reasonable attorney's fees for the claimant.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 22, 2025.