

# HOUSE BILL 1342

D4

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By: **Delegates Arikan, Bartlett, Cox, D.M. Davis, Griffith, Hornberger, Krimm, Lopez, Mangione, McKay, Moon, and Shetty**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Removal of Child From Home – Meetings**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that, at any meeting of a local department of social services  
4 during which the removal of a child from the child's home is discussed, certain  
5 information is required to be redacted and is prohibited from being referenced;  
6 requiring the local department to keep minutes of certain meetings; providing for the  
7 application of this Act; and generally relating to local departments of social services.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Family Law

10 Section 5–525.3

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article – Family Law**

16 **5–525.3.**

17 **(A) AT ANY MEETING OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT DURING WHICH THE**  
18 **REMOVAL OF A CHILD FROM THE CHILD'S HOME IS DISCUSSED, THE FOLLOWING**  
19 **INFORMATION SHALL BE REDACTED FROM THE CASE FILE AND MAY NOT BE**  
20 **REFERENCED:**

21 **(1) THE NAME OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PARENTS;**

22 **(2) THE GENDER OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PARENTS;**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) THE RACE OR ETHNICITY OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(4) THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(5) THE ADDRESS OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(6) THE BIRTH ORDER OF THE CHILD AND THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE PARENTS;

(7) THE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OR BELIEFS OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(8) THE POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEFS OF THE CHILD AND THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(9) THE MARITAL STATUS OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(10) THE INCOME OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(11) THE EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS;

(12) IF THE CHILD IS RECEIVING INSTRUCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-301 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE, THE TYPE OF EDUCATION CHOSEN BY THE PARENTS FOR THE CHILD; AND

(13) ANY PRIOR INVESTIGATION OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT THAT RESULTED IN AN UNSUBSTANTIATED OR RULED OUT FINDING.

(B) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL KEEP MINUTES OF ANY MEETING DURING WHICH THE REMOVAL OF A CHILD FROM THE CHILD'S HOME IS DISCUSSED.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.