

Submitter: Anonymous Parent  
On Behalf Of: Anonymous Parent  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3095

I am posting anonymously out of fear of retribution from Oregon courts, and out a respect for the privacy that I owe to my child even as I bring their story forward.

During my divorce, the judge outsourced their decisions to a “custody evaluator” comparable to Mr. Webb and Ms. Bonnevier, both of whom testified in opposition to House Bill 3095. Despite my concerns and objections about the assessment, a course of action was imposed by the custody-evaluator that was, in their personal opinion, to be “in the best interests of the child.”

Over the subsequent months and years with asymmetric parenting, one of my children fell into a deep and dangerous level of clinical depression. They began socially withdrawing, refusing to participate in normal activities, demonstrating academic decline, school absences, and eventual self-harm. There were statements and gestures of suicide. I raised multiple concerns to my child’s counselor, to the court, and to the custody-evaluator. No one took action. I was repeatedly told that I was the source of the problem, and therefore could not have meaningful input in the solution. After three years, a forensic psychologist was eventually assigned to our case. Immediately all of my fears were validated. A diagnoses was made, corresponding treatment was outlined, and parental interventions were recommended - all of which mirrored the requests I had been making over the prior two years. It also came to light that my child had been instructed to make unconditional derogatory statements against me, to report whenever discipline was applied in my household (even though discipline was always non-violent), and to request to the custody evaluator that their time and their siblings’ time with me be reduced - all at the prompting of my coparent. While my child should have been living their best life as an adolescent, they were instructed to be an informant and a participant in the court process. The resultant level of anxiety resulted in dangerous self-harm that left permanent emotional damage. It left scars on their body and blood stains on the floor of their room.

To me the words “best interest of the child” will forever ring hollow: A promise not kept by the State of Oregon. A well-intentioned mistake never acknowledged or apologized for by the Court. Malpractice by an unlicensed charlatan who will never have consequences. Emotional and physical scars on my child. Bloodstains on their floor.

I am writing this entire letter through tears of parental anguish and of righteous indignation. The judge has immunity. The custody-evaluator has no license, no

certification, no state regulatory oversight - and therefore no risk of malpractice. There will never be any accountability for the preventable harm that was caused to my child at the haphazard direction of Oregon courts and "custody evaluators" such as Mr. Webb and Ms. Bonnevier. This fight never had to happen. The depression could have been treated. Those scars never had to happen. I like to think that my case would never have come to this, if equality had been a baseline assumption. This bill can bring justice to what has happened in my case, and in so many like mine. Please hold Oregon courts accountable. Please force courts to start with an assumption of equality.

Please pass House Bill 3095.

- Anonymous Parent