

**Board of Psychology**

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June 18, 2014

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2187  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1843 – **Support**

Dear Senator Jackson:

At its June 17, 2014 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) took a **support** position on AB 1843 (Jones/ Gordon).

The Board's mission is to advance quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the profession.

The Board is mandated by law (Family Code Section 3110.5(e)), to investigate complaints against its licensees for unprofessional conduct occurring while that licensee served as a child custody evaluator. AB 1843 will allow the Board to investigate these complaints in a more timely and cost effective manner.

Specifically the Board supports the bill for the following reasons;

- The bill grants statutory authority to the Board to access a child custody evaluation report for the purpose of investigating allegations that one of its licensees, while serving as a child custody evaluator, engaged in unprofessional conduct in the creation of the report. Currently the Board does not have access to the report.
- The bill contains detailed confidentiality provisions concerning the parties mentioned in the report. Information in reports that do not result to civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings will be sealed.
- The bill protects complaining parties and adds specific language that the release of a child custody evaluation to a licensing board will not be considered an unwarranted disclosure.
- Upon an investigation being launched, the Board shall notify the non-complaining party in the underlying custody dispute of the investigation.

The Board respectfully requests your support for this important legislation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Board's Administrative Services Coordinator, Jonathan Burke, at (916) 574-7137. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Erickson".

MICHAEL ERICKSON, PH.D.  
President, Board of Psychology

cc: Senator Joel Anderson (Vice Chair)  
Senator Ellen M. Corbett  
Senator Ricardo Lara  
Senator Mark Leno  
Senator Bill Monning  
Senator Andy Vidak  
Assembly Member Brian W. Jones  
Assembly Member Richard S. Gordon  
Board Members  
Tracy Rhine, Deputy Director, Legislative and Policy Review, Department of Consumer Affairs