

CHAPTER 531

(Senate Bill 420)

AN ACT concerning

Privileged Communications - Social Worker's Clients

FOR the purpose of providing that a client of a licensed certified social worker has a privilege in certain proceedings to refuse to disclose and prevent disclosure of certain communications made to the licensed social worker under certain circumstances; specifying certain proceedings when there is no privilege; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the licensed certified social worker-client privilege.

BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 9-121
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1980 Replacement Volume and 1982 Supplement)

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

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

9-121.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "CLIENT" MEANS A PERSON WHO COMMUNICATES TO OR RECEIVES SERVICES FROM A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER REGARDING HIS MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL CONDITION, OR FROM ANY OTHER PERSON PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY OR VITALLY WITH A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER IN RENDERING THOSE SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH OR UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER.

(3) "LICENSED, CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER" MEANS ANY PERSON LICENSED AS A CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER UNDER TITLE 18 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(4) "WITNESS" MEANS A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER OR ANY OTHER PERSON PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY OR VITALLY WITH A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER IN RENDERING SERVICES TO A CLIENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH OR UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER.