



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Clay Yarborough

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HEALTHY MARRIAGE INFORMATION TO BE ADDED TO FAMILY LAW HANDBOOK

Tallahassee, FL – On February 19th, 2020, Representative Clay Yarborough received a hand-delivered letter from Amy Hamlin, Chair of the Family Law Section of the Florida Bar (“Section”), stating their intention to add the language outlined in House Bill 319, sponsored by Representative Yarborough, and Senate Bill 682, sponsored by Senator Dennis Baxley, to the Family Law Handbook. The inclusion of this language will allow persons seeking a marriage license to access all of the information in one source from their local Clerk of Court. The updated Handbook should be finalized by June 2020. Please see attached letter and information.

“This is a great victory for soon-to-be-married couples in Florida and we believe it can help reduce the very high percentage of divorce in our State, which is at 49%. Family fragmentation burdens Florida’s budget by billions of dollars annually,” said Representative Yarborough. “Promoting healthy marriages and families is in the State’s best interest and will significantly reduce the economic impact to taxpayers. Our sincere thanks to the Family Law Section of the Florida Bar for working with us in this very important endeavor.”

“We are grateful to work with the Family Law Section to place our successful family guidance issues in this single handbook for newlyweds. We need them to have the discussion tools to prevent family fragmentation,” said Senator Baxley. “Hopefully we can help avoid divorce and lower the divorce rate as we have seen success in other states. Stronger families help build a stronger Florida.”

Representative Yarborough and Senator Baxley are champions of the family and believe that strengthening marriages leads to less broken relationships and family fragmentation. The healthy marriage information that the Section plans to use in the updated Handbook contains useful materials such as learning effective communication skills, how to balance finances, and conflict resolution.

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Committees and Subcommittees

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, Chair; Oversight, Transparency, and Public Management Subcommittee, Vice Chair; Appropriations Committee; Health and Human Services Committee; Health Quality Subcommittee; Joint Legislative Budget Commission