

**THE
SEATTLE JUVENILE COURT
REPORT FOR THE YEAR
1918**

**TOGETHER WITH THE
WASHINGTON JUVENILE COURT LAW**

**THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IS
A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY
AND THE JUVENILE COURT EXISTS
ONLY TO SAFEGUARD ITS RESIDUE
OF FAILURES**

**January 1, 1919
Seattle, Washington
200 Broadway**



JUDGE KING DYKEMAN

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PERSONNEL OF STAFF

The Court

HONORABLE KING DYKEMAN, *Judge*
KATE NYE, *Clerk*

Investigation and Probation Department

DR. LILBURN MERRILL, *Diagnostician*
HERMAN KALVOG, *Probation Officer*
ESTELLA M. ANDERSON, *Probation Officer*
MARY KANE, *Probation Officer*
BETTY BRAINERD, *Investigator*
ESTHER BUNNELL, *Stenographer*
DR. LILIAN C. IRWIN, *Medical Examiner for Girls*
DR. STEVENSON SMITH, *Consulting Psychologist*

Mothers' Pension Department

JOSEPHINE E. STUFF, *Commissioner*
BESSIE MAYNARD, *Assistant*

Detention Home

FRANCETTE P. MARING, *Superintendent*
ANNA NEARENTS, *Boys' Attendant*
MINNIE G. MCOMBER, *Girls' Attendant*
LUCILE ARNE, *School Teacher*
DR. D. M. STONE, *House Physician*
ALICE HARRISON, *Kitchen Attendant*
C. S. WOOD, *Building Attendant*

THE facts regarding dependency and delinquency among children in Seattle and in the King County area over which this court has jurisdiction are revealed by the statistics, but their significance may not be fully apparent to all who look over the tables of this report.

During the year 1918, six hundred and forty-three children were brought before the court. This number is one hundred and seventy-seven less than the total for the year 1917 and is similar to the numerical decrease each year since 1914, when the year's court hearings involved twelve hundred and forty-seven children. These figures manifestly are favorable, but their statistical significance is shown only when they are compared with the county population which during recent years has steadily increased.

For example: During 1914, one in every fifty children in the county of school census age, which practically parallels the juvenile court's jurisdiction, was cared for by the court, and during the year 1918 only one in every one hundred and twenty-one was brought to the court. These figures represent official hearings and do not include any children who were assisted informally by probation officers. Some children who were brought in by the police for running away from home, or involvement in comparatively unimportant misconduct, were restored to their parents without court hearings, but such cases were few in number so far as the activity of the court officers was concerned and are not recorded.

Notwithstanding the reduction in the number of court cases, the administrative work of the Department and the number of court hearings have been appreciably greater during 1918 than in any annual period since the court was established. This fact is not revealed by the statistics and is to be accounted for by the fact that formerly the court received a larger number of children who were

victims of parental neglect. They appeared in family groups and received administrative attention and had their hearings collectively. Lately the petitions filed usually have related to individual children. This difference in the volume of court business is shown, for example, by the fact that during the month of December, 1917, there were forty separate hearings and during December, 1918, there were sixty-two.

Dependency Cases Decreasing

The decreasing number of children who require protection because of parental neglect has been a gratifying observation throughout the year as it has been since the year 1915 when we recorded four hundred and seventy-five, the highest number in this group since the court was established. A year later the group was only five fewer, but the improving condition was perceptible in the administrative department and during the last two years the drop has been almost abrupt. During 1918, there were only two hundred and seven in the neglected group, which is the smallest annual number we have recorded. This improvement is due, as stated in last year's report, to temperance legislation and the favorable industrial condition.

Precocious Social Interests

Misbehavior on the part of children likewise has decreased in volume during recent years and the four hundred and thirty-six so involved during 1918 constitute the smallest delinquency group cared for in any annual period during the last eight years. There was an unfavorable fluctuation, however, last year in the nature of the offenses recorded. Truancy cases increased 6 per cent and there was a perceptible increase in the number who were involved in sexual misconduct, though the fact is not fully indicated in the statistics because other forms of delinquency usually caused the arrests. Moreover, thefts of automobiles by boys of fifteen to seven-

teen years for joy-riding were more numerous than during former years and coincident with these adventures there doubtless was considerable illicit conduct with girls which was not officially noted. These delinquencies involved adolescents and were encouraged by the unstabilizing effect of high wages paid to boys who formerly had very little earning capacity.

Child Care a Community Responsibility

After reviewing the efforts of the court during the last year to substitute guardianship for parents who have wilfully, or by force of circumstances, failed to accomplish desirable ends in the social development of their children, we wish to reaffirm our conviction that the juvenile court cannot, and should not, be expected to accomplish remedial results by direct contact with children in advance of what may be secured by the home, school and church. So much of praise has been accorded the juvenile court as an institution that its merit is apt to be overstated. So far as the presiding magistrate is concerned, his relation to the individual child is obviously limited to a brief contact. If he be ever so fortunately aided by information regarding the nature and needs of the child before him, he cannot hope to do more than put the child in line for assistance through the agencies provided by the community. To be sure, he may admonish; but the most trenchant moralizing of the court is apt to be received by children as a delivery of platitudes. Precepts are seldom potent when spoken to a refractory youngster.

Limitation of Probationary Supervision

The system of probationary care provided by the juvenile court law is the court's mainstay. But here again the court is confronted by the fact that the probation officer only may act formally and execute specific directions of the judge, or obscure his official authority and assume the role of intimate friend. It is the later relationship which usually is thought to be the ideal of the juvenile

court probationary system. Intimate personal relationships of this kind, however, require such an expenditure of time and heart that even a big-souled adult cannot maintain a really close friendship with more than a few children, without becoming perfunctory, and the moment the official relationship becomes dominate the sentimental response of the ward ceases. Much as the officers of the court should like to devote themselves to such service, the demands made upon their time by administrative duties, such as special investigations, official interviews and conducting children to and from institutions, prevent them. In the final analysis the probation officer, as well as the judge, is compelled to turn to citizens, the school, home and church for relief.

Thus, after all, the welfare of children is a community responsibility and the juvenile court exists only to safeguard its residue of failures. And the court will be efficient in the degree that the community offers a sympathetic, wholesome and well-equipped environment for the protection and training of its young.

We have endeavored consistently, so far as was possible, to keep children in a normal relation to their home, church, school, public library, boys' scout patrol and all other social agencies which have the natural means for looking after their development. These are the forces that must carry the responsibility for the rearing of the rank and file of our children. Therefore the court believes heartily in any amount of investment of both money and personal service in community enterprises which shall make it easier for every child to grow vigorous in morals, mind and body. Frankly, the court can provide no benefit to normal children equal to what these community agencies should supply.

Where the Court Operates Effectively

But the court does have a unique responsibility for the care of those who are in need of a change of environment in order that they may be given the benefit of special care, training or protection. In a

general sense these children are the abnormal ones who usually have to go to institutions. It will be noted that a larger per cent of children were committed to institutions last year than during former years. This is accounted for by the fact that the court has more interest in such abnormal children than in those whose welfare can be looked after without court aid, and an increasing number of the children who come to the court are those who require institutional treatment.

Appreciation

Credit is due to Mr. Herman Kalvog for his painstaking care in compiling the statistics, and to each member of the Court and Detention Home staff for faithful and efficient service throughout the year.

The court has been generously assisted by all of the community agencies for children, but special acknowledgment is due to the Juvenile and Women's Protective Division of the Police Department, the Medical Inspector of Schools, his staff, the School Attendance Department and the several institutions that have received children by commitment.

JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING EIGHT YEARS AND COUNTY SCHOOL POPULATION RATIO

YEAR	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Delinquent boys	611	641	684	639	576	536	443	335
Delinquent girls	160	198	190	158	133	81	108	105
Dependent boys	211	152	185	230	252	241	149	90
Dependent girls	125	158	127	220	223	229	122	113
Totals	1,107	1,149	1,186	1,247	1,184	1,087	822	643
County School Census*	54,560	57,786	53,398	61,755	64,063	63,936	67,051	77,660
Ratio.....	1:49	1:50	1:49	1:50	1:54	1:58	1:81	1:121

*The school census which includes all children between the ages of 4 and 21 years, nearly parallels the juvenile court jurisdiction which includes all children under 18 years. The numerical variation of these groups is so slight that the census provides a satisfactory basis for a ratio.

NUMBER OF REAPPEARANCES DURING CURRENT AND PRECEDING YEARS OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING 1918

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals	Per Cent	Percent for 1917	Percent for 1916
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls				
First time	229	77	72	84	462	71.9	71.3	69.7
Second time.....	68	15	10	17	110	17.1	14.6	18.2
Third time.....	22	8	6	4	40	6.2	7.7	5.6
Fourth time.....	7	4	2	7	20	3.1	3.52	3.3
Fifth time.....	7	---	---	---	7	1.09	1.43	2.47
Sixth time.....	1	---	---	---	1	0.15	0.61	0.46
Seventh time..	1	---	1	---	2	0.31	0.36	0.09
Tenth time.....	---	1	---	---	1	0.15	0.48	0.09
Totals.....	335	105	90	113	643	100.	100.	100.

OFFENSES AND CONDITIONS WHICH BROUGHT CHILDREN TO COURT DURING 1918

	Boys	Girls	Totals	Per Cent	Percent for 1917	Percent for 1916
CONDUCT						
Assault	1	---	1	0.15	1.43	0.64
Stealing	157	4	161	25.8	23.93	24.43
Burglary	5	1	6	0.91	0.85	0.83
Forgery	3	2	5	0.75	0.36	0.09
Vagrancy and runaways.....	23	3	26	3.80	8.72	5.8
Sex delinquency	18	57	75	11.57	8.72	7.7
Incorrigibility	16	20	36	5.40	3.9	2.5
Truancy	75	18	93	14.43	8.9	3.03
Intoxication	1	---	1	0.15	1.58	0.46
Disorderliness	11	---	11	1.65	6.2	11.23
Violation of ordinances.....	25	---	25	3.79	2.41	0.09
Total conduct cases.....	335	105	440	68.4	67.0	56.8
NEGLECT						
Inadequate moral guardianship	64	91	155	24.4	22.3	28.5
Abandonment	17	14	31	4.65	4.9	6.9
Poverty	9	8	17	2.55	5.8	7.8
Total neglect cases.....	90	113	203	31.6	33.0	43.2
Grand totals	425	218	643	100.0	100.0	100.0

PARENTAL RELATION TABLE FOR YEAR 1918

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Total	Per Cent	Percent for 1917
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Parents living together	225	54	29	43	351	54.6	62.8
Parents not living together, due to death, divorce, separation or desertion	110	51	61	70	292	45.4	37.2
(Divorced or separated).....	(42)	(31)	(37)	(47)	(157)	(24.4)	(15.3)
Totals.....	335	105	90	113	643	100.0	100.0

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING 1918

	Boys	Girls	Totals	Per Cent	Percent for 1917
Parents and children advised.....	103	33	136	21.1	45.2
Probationary supervision	115	73	188	29.5	17.7
Committed to individuals	11	7	18	2.70	2.8
Boys' Parental School	122	---	122	19.5	12.5
Girls' Parental School	---	32	32	4.83	3.4
State Training School	15	---	15	2.38	1.1
State School for Girls	---	10	10	1.50	2.2
State Custodial School	3	3	6	0.90	1.6
House of Good Shepherd	---	27	27	4.05	2.1
Washington Children's Home Society	12	10	22	3.30	3.3
Seattle Children's Home	---	5	5	0.75	.86
Ackerson Home	---	1	1	0.15	.23
Edward Briscoe Memorial School.....	2	---	2	0.31	---
Referred for criminal prosecution.....	2	---	2	0.31	1.15
Sent to other jurisdictions	2	---	2	0.31	.86
Dismissed	11	6	17	2.55	1.8
Absconded	3	1	4	0.62	.73
Cause continued indefinitely	4	4	8	1.20	1.3
Machine confiscated	15	---	15	2.33	---
County Hospital	1	6	7	1.09	---
Parkland Children's Home	2	---	2	0.31	---
Children's Orthopedic Hospital.....	2	---	2	0.31	---
Totals.....	425	218	643	100.0	---

COMPARATIVE POPULATION OF DETENTION HOME DURING EIGHT YEARS

YEAR	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Boys	295	497	638	575	610	724	694	935
Girls	234	341	435	455	426	423	311	440
Totals.....	529	838	1,073	1,030	1,036	1,147	1,005	1,375
Average period of detention (days)	5	5	7	7	6	7	6	6.5

Note: The City of Seattle has no privately maintained shelter for the emergency care of children, hence the County Detention Home is extensively used as an emergency shelter.

TABLE OF AGES OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING 1918

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals	Per Cent
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
Age 1 year and under.....	---	---	17	4	21	3.27
Age 2 years	---	---	4	4	8	1.24
Age 3 years	---	---	4	4	8	1.24
Age 4 years	---	---	5	3	8	1.24
Age 5 years	---	---	5	9	14	2.18
Age 6 years	---	---	2	13	15	2.33
Age 7 years	1	---	3	9	13	2.02
Age 8 years	5	2	7	11	25	3.89
Age 9 years	2	---	4	8	14	2.18
Age 10 years	19	2	12	4	37	5.7
Age 11 years	23	5	3	11	42	6.54
Age 12 years	25	4	11	6	46	7.15
Age 13 years	33	12	8	5	58	9.02
Age 14 years	40	11	3	5	59	9.3
Age 15 years	75	25	1	4	105	16.3
Age 16 years	42	20	---	7	69	10.7
Age 17 years	70	24	1	6	101	15.7
Totals	335	105	90	113	643	100.

SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS LEADING TO COURT HEARINGS DURING 1918

		Percent
Police officers	317	49.3
Citizens	129	20.0
Parents	99	15.4
School attendance officers	98	15.3
Totals	643	100.0

WASHINGTON JUVENILE COURT LAW

SECTION 1. Definition of dependent child. This act shall be known as the "Juvenile Court Law" and shall apply to all minor children under the age of eighteen years who are delinquent or dependent; and to any person or persons who are responsible for or contribute to the delinquency or dependency of such children.

For the purpose of this act the words "dependent child" shall mean any child under the age of eighteen years:

- (1) Who is found begging, receiving or gathering alms, whether actually begging or under the pretext of selling or offering anything for sale; or
- (2) Who is found in any street, road or public place for the purpose of so begging, gathering or receiving alms; or
- (3) Who is a vagrant; or
- (4) Who is found wandering and not having any home or any settled place of abode, or any proper guardianship, or any visible means of subsistence; or
- (5) Who has no parent or guardian; or who has no parent or guardian willing to exercise, or capable of exercising, proper parental control; or
- (6) Who is destitute; or
- (7) Whose home, by reason of neglect, cruelty or depravity of its parents or either of them, or on the part of its guardian, or on the part of the person in whose custody or care it may be, or for any other reason, is an unfit place for such child; or
- (8) Who frequents the company of reputed criminals, vagrants or prostitutes; or
- (9) Who is found living or being in any house of prostitution or assignation; or
- (10) Who habitually visits any billiard room or pool room, or any saloon, or place where spirituous, vinous or malt liquors are sold, bartered or given away; or
- (11) Who persistently refuses to obey the reasonable and proper orders or directions of its parents or guardian; or
- (12) Who is incorrigible; that is, who is beyond the control and power of its parents, guardian or custodian by reason of the vicious conduct or nature of said child; or

(13) Whose father, mother, guardian or custodian is an habitual drunkard, or do not properly provide for such child, and it appears that such child is destitute of a suitable home or of adequate means of obtaining an honest living, or who is in danger of being brought up to lead an idle, dissolute or immoral life; or where such child is without proper means of support; or

(14) Who is an habitual truant, as defined in the School Laws of the State of Washington; or

(15) Who uses intoxicating liquor as a beverage, or who uses tobacco in any form, or who uses opium, cocaine, morphine or other similar drug, without the direction of a competent physician; or

(16) Who from any cause is in danger of growing up to lead an idle, dissolute or immoral life; or

(17) Who wanders about in the night time without being on any lawful business or occupation; or

(18) Any child under the age of twelve years found peddling or selling any article, or singing or playing on any musical instrument for gain upon the public street, or giving any public entertainment, or who accompanies, or is used in aid of, any person so doing: Provided, That this act shall not prohibit the giving of entertainments by regularly organized schools or societies where twelve or more musical instruments are used.

Definition of delinquent child. The words "delinquent child" shall include any child under the age of eighteen years who violates any law of this state, or any ordinance of any town, city, county, or city and county of this state defining crime; or who habitually uses vile, obscene, vulgar, profane or indecent language, or is guilty of immoral conduct; or who is found in or about railroad yards or tracks; or who jumps on or off trains or cars; or who enters a car or engine without lawful authority.

For the purpose of this act only, all delinquent and dependent children within the state shall be considered wards of this state, and their persons shall be subject to the custody, care, guardianship and control of the court as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. Juvenile department of superior court. The superior courts in the several counties of this state shall have original jurisdiction in all cases coming within the terms of this act. In all trials under this act, any person interested therein may demand a jury trial, or the judge of his own motion may order a jury to try the case. In counties containing thirty thousand or more inhabitants, the judges of the superior court shall, at such times as they may determine, designate one or more of their number whose duty it shall be to hear all cases arising under this act. A special session to be designated as the "Juvenile Court Session" shall be provided for the hearing of such cases and the findings of the court shall be entered in a book or books kept for the purpose and known as the "Juvenile Record," and the court may, for convenience, be called the "Juvenile Court."

SEC. 3. Appointment and duties of probation officers. The court or judge designated as provided in section two of this act, shall appoint or designate one or more discreet persons of good character to serve as probation officers during the pleasure of the court, said probation officers to receive no compensation from the public treasury. In case a probation officer shall be appointed by any court, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court, if practicable, to notify the said probation officer in advance when the child is to be brought before said court; it shall be the duty of said probation officers to make such investigation as may be required by the court. The probation officer or officers shall inquire into the antecedents, character, family history, environments and cause of dependency or delinquency of every alleged dependent or delinquent child brought before the juvenile court, and shall make his report in writing to the judge thereof; shall be present in order to represent the interests of the child when the case is heard; shall furnish the court such information and assistance as the judge may require, and shall take such charge of the child before and after the trial as may be directed by the court. In counties containing thirty thousand or more inhabitants, when it shall appear that there is a necessity for such county officer, the court may appoint one or more persons to act as probation officers, and one or more persons who shall have charge of detention rooms or house of detention, all of whom shall be paid as compensation for their services, such sums as may be fixed by the board of county commissioners, and who shall be paid as other county officers are paid; all probation officers shall possess all the powers conferred upon sheriffs and police officers to serve process and make arrests for the violation of any state law or city ordinances, relative to the care, custody and control of delinquent and dependent children.

SEC. 4. Expenses of probation officers. The probation officers, and assistant probation officers, and deputy probation officers in all counties of the state shall be allowed such necessary incidental expenses as may be authorized by the judge of the juvenile court, and the same shall be a charge upon the county in which the court appointing them has jurisdiction, and the expenses shall be paid out of the county treasury upon a written order of the judge of the juvenile court of said county directing the county auditor to draw his warrant upon the county treasurer for the specified amount of such expenses.

SEC. 5. How petitions may be filed. Any person may file with the clerk of the superior court a petition showing that there is within the county, or residing within the county, a dependent or delinquent child, and praying that the superior court deal with such child as provided in this act. Provided, That in counties having paid probation officers, such officers shall, as far as possible, first determine if such petition is reasonably justifiable. Such petition shall be verified and shall contain a statement of facts constituting such dependency or delinquency, as defined in section one of this act, and the names and residence, if known to the petitioner, of the parents, guardian or custodian of such dependent or delinquent child. There shall be no fee for filing such petitions.

SEC. 6. Summons to parent or guardian. Upon the filing of information, or the petition, the clerk of the court shall issue a summons

requiring the person having custody or control of the child, or with whom the child may be, to appear with the child at a place and time stated in the summons, which time shall not be less than twenty-four hours after service. The parents of the child, if living, and their residence is known, or its legal guardian, if there be one, or if there is neither parent nor guardian, or if his or her residence is not known, then some relative, if there be one, and his residence is known, shall be notified of the proceedings; and in any case the judge shall appoint some suitable person or association to act in behalf of the child. If the person summoned as herein provided, shall fail without reasonable cause to appear and abide the order of the court, or bring the child, he shall be proceeded against as for contempt of court. In case the summons cannot be served or the parties served fail to obey the same, and in any case when it shall be made to appear to the court that said summons will be ineffectual, a warrant may issue on the order of the court, either against the parent or guardian or the person having custody of the child, or with whom the child may be, or against the child itself. On return of the summons or other process, or as soon thereafter as may be, the court shall proceed to hear and dispose of the case in a summary manner. Pending the final disposition of the case, the child may be retained in the possession of the person having charge of same, or may be kept in some suitable place provided by the city or county authorities, or by any association having for one of its objects the care of delinquent and dependent children.

SEC. 7. Publication of summons. In any case where it shall appear by the petition or verified statement, that the person standing in the position of natural or legal guardian of the person of any child, is a non-resident of this state, or that the name or place of residence or whereabouts of such person is unknown, as well as in all cases where, after due diligence, the officer has been unable to make service of the summons or notice provided for in section six of this act, the court may, by order, direct the clerk of the court to publish a notice four consecutive weeks in some newspaper printed in the county and having a general circulation therein. Such notice shall be directed to the parent, parents or other person claiming the right to the custody of the child, if their names are known, and if unknown, the phrase "To Whom It May Concern" shall be used to apply to, and be binding upon, any such persons whose names are unknown. The name of the court, the name of the child (or children if of one family), the date of the filing of the petition and the date of hearing, which shall not be less than twenty days from the date of the last publication, and the object of the proceeding in general terms, shall be set forth and the whole shall be subscribed by the clerk. There shall be filed with the clerk an affidavit showing due publication of the notice and the cost of publication shall be paid by the county at not to exceed the rate paid by the county for other legal notices. The publication of notice shall be deemed equivalent to personal service upon all persons, known or unknown, who have been designated as provided in this section.

SEC. 8. Authority of court to change custody and provide support. When any child under the age of eighteen years shall be found to be delinquent or dependent, within the meaning of this act, the court may, at any time, make an order committing the child to some suitable institution,

or to the care of some reputable citizen of good moral character, or to the care of some training school or industrial school as provided by law, or to the care of some association willing to receive it, embracing in its objects the purpose of caring for or obtaining homes for dependent, neglected or delinquent children: Provided, Such order may be temporary or permanent in the discretion of the court, and may be revoked or modified as the circumstances of the case may hereafter require. In any case in which the court shall find the child dependent or delinquent, it may in the same or subsequent proceeding upon the parent or parents, guardian or other person having custody of said child, being duly summoned or voluntarily appearing, proceed to inquire into the ability of such persons or person to support the child or contribute to its support, and if the court shall find such person or persons able to support the child or contribute thereto, the court may enter such order or decree as shall be according to equity in the premises, and may enforce the same by execution, or in any way in which a court of equity may enforce its decrees. If it be found, however, that the parent or parents or guardian of a dependent or delinquent child is unable to pay the whole expense of maintaining such child, and in cases where the child is committed to one of the institutions or associations above mentioned, the court may, in the order providing for the custody of such child, direct such additional amount as may be necessary to support such child to be paid from the county treasury of the county for the support of such person. The amount so ordered to be paid from the treasury of said county shall not exceed in the case of any one person, the sum of twelve dollars per month: Provided, further, That no order for the payment of all or part of the expense of support and maintenance of a dependent or delinquent child from the county treasury shall be effective for more than six months, unless a new order is secured at the expiration of that period.

SEC. 9. Authority to adopt. In any case where the court shall award a child to the care of any association or individual, the child shall, unless otherwise ordered, become a ward and be subject to the guardianship of the association or individual to whose care it is committed; such association shall have authority, with the assent of the court, to place such child in a family home, either temporarily or for adoption. With the written consent of the parents, or other person having the right, under the laws of the state, to dispose of a dependent or delinquent child, the court may make an order or decree of adoption transferring to any suitable person or persons, willing to receive such child, all the rights of the parent or other guardian. The order of the court made upon such consent will be binding upon the child and its parents or guardian, or other person, the same as if such person were in court and consented thereto, whether made a party to the proceedings or not. The estate or property rights of any child shall not be affected nor subject to guardianship by the provisions of this act. The jurisdiction of the court shall continue over every child brought before the court, or committed pursuant to this act, and the court shall have power to order a change in the care or custody of such child, if at any time it is made to appear to the court that it would be for the best interests of the child to make such change.

SEC. 10. Provision for private hearing; social records to be withheld from public; jurisdiction over wards until twenty-one years.

The hearings may be conducted in any room provided for the purpose in the court house, or building where sessions of the court are held, and, as far as practicable, such cases shall not be heard in conjunction with other business of the court. At the hearing of any case involving a child, the court shall have power to exclude the general public from the room where the hearing is had, admitting thereto only such persons as may have a direct interest in the case. Any child may have a private hearing upon the question of its dependency or delinquency, and upon the request of said child, or either of its parents, or guardian, or custodian, such hearing may be had privately. An order of court adjudging a child dependent or delinquent under the provisions of this act shall in no case be deemed a conviction of crime. The probation officer's investigation record and report in each case shall be withheld from public inspection, but such records shall be kept open to the inspection of such child, its parents, or guardian, or its attorney, and to such other persons as may secure a special order of the court therefor. Such records shall be kept as unofficial records of the court and shall be destroyed at any time in the discretion of any judge presiding in said court on or before the child shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years. After acquiring jurisdiction over any child, the court shall have power to make an order with respect to the custody, care or control of such child, or any order which, in the judgment of the court, would promote the child's health and welfare. In any case of a delinquent or dependent child, the court may continue the hearing from time to time, and may commit the child to the care or guardianship of a probation officer, duly appointed by the court, and may allow such child to remain at its home subject to the visitation of the probation officer, such child to report to the probation officer as often as may be required and subject to being returned to the court for further proceedings whenever such action may appear to be necessary, or the court may commit the child to the care and guardianship of the probation officer, to be placed in a suitable family home, in case provision is made by voluntary contribution or otherwise for the payment of the board of the child until a suitable provision may be made for the child in a home without such payment, or the court may commit the child to a suitable institution for the care of delinquent or dependent children. In no case shall a child be committed beyond the age of twenty-one years. A child committed to such institution shall be subject to the control thereof, and the said institution shall have the power to parole such child, on such conditions as may be prescribed, and the court shall have the power to discharge such child from custody whenever, in the judgment of the court, his or her reformation shall be complete; or the court may commit the child to the care and custody of some association that will receive such child, embracing in its objects the care of neglected, delinquent and dependent children.

SEC. 11. Children under sixteen years of age may not be confined in jail. No court or magistrate shall commit a child under sixteen years of age to a jail, common lock-up or police station; but if such child is unable to give bail, it may be committed to the care of the sheriff, police officer or probation officer, who shall keep such child in some suitable place or house or school of detention provided by the city or county, outside the enclosure of any jail or police station, or in the care of any association willing to receive it and having as one of its objects the care of delin-

quent, dependent or neglected children. When any child shall be sentenced to confinement in any institution to which adult convicts are sentenced, it shall be unlawful to confine such child in the same building with such adult convicts, or to bring such child into any yard or building in which such adult convicts may be present.

SEC. 12. Transfer of juveniles between justice court, and juvenile and criminal departments of superior court. When, in any county where a court is held as provided in section two of this act, a child under the age of eighteen years is arrested with or without warrant, such child may, instead of being taken before a justice of the peace or police magistrate, be taken directly before such court; or if the child is taken before a justice of the peace or police magistrate, it shall be the duty of such justice of the peace or police magistrate to transfer the case to such court, and the officer having the child in charge shall take the child before that court, and in any such case, the court may proceed to hear and dispose of the case in the same manner as if the child had been brought before the court upon petition as hereinbefore provided. In any such case the court shall require notice to be given and investigation to be made as in other cases under this act, and may adjourn the hearing from time to time for such purpose. If, upon investigation, it shall appear that a child has been arrested upon the charge of having committed a crime, the court, in its discretion, may order such child to be turned over to the proper officers for trial under the provisions of the criminal code.

SEC. 13. Authority to maintain detention homes. Counties containing more than fifty thousand inhabitants shall, and counties containing a lesser number of inhabitants may, provide and maintain at public expense, a detention room or house of detention, separated or removed from any jail, or police station, to be in charge of a matron, or other person of good character, wherein all children within the provisions of this act shall, when necessary, be sheltered.

SEC. 14. Law to be liberally construed. This act shall be liberally construed to the end that its purpose may be carried out, to-wit: that the care, custody and discipline of a dependent or delinquent child as defined in this act shall approximate as nearly as may be that which should be given by its parents, and in all cases where it can be properly done, the dependent or delinquent child as defined in this act shall be placed in an approved family and may become a member of the family, by adoption or otherwise. No dependent or delinquent child as defined in this act shall be taken from the custody of its parent, parents or legal guardian, without the consent of such parent, parents or guardian, unless the court shall find such parent, parents or guardian is incapable or has failed or neglected to provide proper maintenance, training and education for said child; or unless said child has been tried on probation in said custody, and has failed to reform; or unless the court shall find that the welfare of said child requires that his custody shall be taken from said parent or guardian. In this act, the words used in any gender shall include all other genders, and the word "county" shall include "city and county," the plural shall include the singular and singular shall include the plural.

SEC. 15. Authority of court to modify order. Any order made by the court in the case of a dependent or delinquent child may at any time be changed, modified or set aside, as to the judge may seem meet and proper.

SEC. 16. No fees for juvenile proceedings. No fees shall be charged or collected by any officer or other person for filing petition, serving summons, or other process under this act.

SEC. 17. Liability for contributing to dependency or delinquency of child. In all cases where any child shall be dependent or delinquent under the terms of this act, the parent or parents, legal guardian or person having custody of such child, or any other person who shall by any act or omission, encourage, cause or contribute to the dependency or delinquency of such child shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and the juvenile court shall have jurisdiction of all such misdemeanors: Provided, however, That the court may suspend sentence for a violation of the provisions of this section and impose conditions as to conduct in the premises of any person so convicted, and make such suspension depend upon the fulfillment by such person of such conditions, and, in case of the breach of such conditions, or any thereof, the court may impose sentence as though there had been no such suspension. The court may also, as a condition of such suspension, require a bond in such sum as the court may designate, to be approved by the judge requiring same, to secure the performance by such persons on the conditions imposed by the court on such suspension. Such bond shall, by its terms, be made payable to the State of Washington, and any moneys received for a breach thereof shall be paid into the county treasury.

SEC. 18. Authorizing appointment of board of visitors. In each county the judge presiding over the juvenile court sessions, as defined in this act, may appoint a board of four reputable citizens, who shall serve without compensation, to constitute a board of visitation, whose duty it shall be to visit as often as twice a year all institutions, societies and associations within the county receiving children under this act, as well as all homes for children or other places where individuals are holding themselves out as caretakers of children; also to visit other institutions, societies and associations within the state receiving and caring for children, whenever requested to do so by the judge of the juvenile court: Provided, The actual expenses of such board may be paid by the county commissioners when members thereof are requested to visit institutions outside of the county seat, and no member of the board shall be required to visit any institutions outside the county unless his actual traveling expenses shall be paid as aforesaid. Such visits shall be made by not less than two members of the board, who shall go together or make a joint report. The board of visitors shall report to the court from time to time the condition of children received by or in charge of such institutions, societies, associations or individuals. It shall be the duty of every institution, society or association, or individual receiving and caring for children, to permit any member or members of the board of visitation to visit and inspect such institution, society, association or home where such child is kept, in all its departments, so that a full report may be made to the court. (Chap. 160, Laws 1913.)