

The Seattle Juvenile
Court Report
for 1925



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JANUARY 1, 1926
KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT BUILDING
200 BROADWAY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

SEP 7

THE
SEATTLE JUVENILE COURT
REPORT *for the* YEAR
1925

COURT SESSIONS
MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS
AT 1:30 P. M.
KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT BUILDING
200 BROADWAY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

PERSONNEL OF STAFF

The Court

HONORABLE KING DYKEMAN, *Judge. Resigned June 15, 1925.*

HONORABLE A. W. FRATER, *Judge*
Deceased December 25, 1925

MARION SOUTHARD, *Chief Probation Officer*

MRS. FRANCETTE P. MARING, *Assistant Chief Probation*
Officer and Superintendent of Detention Home

KATE NYE, *Clerk of the Court*

FLORENCE BALL, *Investigator*

MRS. MARTHA CASTBERG, *Probation Officer*

JANET DONALDSON, *Probation Officer*

A. R. MCCURDY, *Probation Officer*

EVELYN DOBSON, *Secretary to Chief Probation Officer*

RUTH EISINGER, *Stenographer*

DR. LILLIAN C. IRWIN, *Medical Examiner for Girls*

DR. ADA COLLISON, *Medical Examiner for Girls*

DR. STEVENSON SMITH, *Consulting Psychologist*

Mothers' Pension Department

LENA E. HEMPHILL, *Commissioner*

JOSEPHINE E. PORTER, *Investigator*

VIOLET STOUT, *Secretary*

MRS. EMILY CURRY, *Visitor*

MRS. BESSIE MAYNARD, *Visitor*

ANNA KELSO, *Visitor*

Detention Home

MRS. CARRIE E. HOUGHTON, *Assistant to Superintendent*

MISS RUBY FARLEY, *School Teacher*

MRS. IRENE WAMSLEY, *Boys' Attendant*

MRS. MELVY WOOD, *Girls' Attendant*

MRS. LOUISE MCKEE, *Kitchen Attendant*

MR. GEORGE S. HOUGHTON, *Building Attendant*

REPORT FOR 1925

MARION SOUTHARD, *Probation Officer*

THE COURT

The year 1925 brought to the Seattle Juvenile Court more changes in its leadership than experienced at any time throughout the preceding years. Judge King Dykeman resigned June 15th, 1925, after a service of eleven years.

Judge A. W. Frater then renewed the active direction of the Court which he had organized twenty years previously. Barely six months elapsed until his illness and death on December 25, 1925. The Court is now under the direction of Judge Everett Smith, whose long interest in the individual and community aspect of boys' and girls' welfare has equipped him well for a sympathetic handling of juvenile problems.

Formal court orders were made in 1,083 of the 2,054 cases which passed through the court in 1925; 971 were handled informally.

Conduct cases to the number of 1,310 formed sixty-four per cent of the total volume. Seven hundred forty-four cases or thirty-six per cent were because of neglect and dependency.

Juvenile court procedure is characterized by informality, but its motive is not just to punish children more lightly than an adult court. Its method and aim is that of a social agency interested primarily in understanding the individual child and directing him as would

a wise parent. Cases of neglect can only infrequently be adjusted out of court—hence they form a large proportion of court hearings.

The statistical report shows an increase of twenty per cent in the number of conduct cases over the year 1924. Although much of this increase is real, some of it must be attributed to a closer tabulation of records. The total indicates the number of appearances in the department rather than the number of different children. Children who are recorded more than once should not necessarily be thought of as repeaters—their return to court ordinarily indicates uncorrected home and community conditions.

Along with this increase in conduct cases is an increase of forty-six per cent over 1924 in the number of dependent and neglected children reported to the court. The court is increasingly asked to provide financial aid for dependent children cared for by local agencies relying upon the community fund for support, as no county funds are available for the care of such children except through the court.

Feeble-minded children are committed to the State Custodial School through the juvenile court. Ten children were so placed by the court in 1925. This is no index of the larger number of children for whom application was made but for whom there was no opening at the school.

THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

There has been no increase in the personnel of the probation staff, although the increasing demands made upon the court more than justify it. There has been but one additional probation officer added to the staff

since 1911. It is only through an adequate probation department that the court can carry out its policy of making homes suitable for children to remain in rather than relying upon change in guardianship and institutional placement to solve the problem of the child handicapped by environment. There is nothing more essential to the re-direction of a child's energies than the personal influence of some individual in whom he has confidence and whose leadership he is willing to follow. The probation officer should have sufficient time to supply this need to every child under his care.

There were 472 children under supervision by the three probation officers at the end of 1925. As minimum standards of probation require that one probation officer carry not more than fifty cases, the staff is greatly over-taxed. The need for enlargement of probation service is apparent.

THE DETENTION HOME

The detention home cared for 1,408 children during 1925. The average period of each child's stay was 5.8 days. The detention home provides not only for sheltering protection but also the opportunity for acquaintance between children and members of the staff. Some children and parents emphasize the restrictive qualities of the detention home, not appreciating the positive gains that come from placement in a controlled environment.

The detention home gives many an adolescent boy and girl the opportunity for contemplation and conference resulting in an understanding and insight which would never have been reached in the distractions of their daily lives.

CLINICAL NEEDS

The court is handicapped in the study of the individual child through its lack of clinical facilities. Fifteen years ago Dr. Lilburn Merrill, as director of the department of diagnosis of this court, showed that the essentials of constructive court work were based on thorough knowledge of a child's family and developmental history, his physical and mental condition, and the factors in community life which might contribute to the development of juvenile problems. It is only in this way that symptoms of delinquency can be met with understanding rather than moral criticism.

Delinquency is not a classification that explains conduct problems. It is the result of complex forces from within and without the individual. An examination of the environment of a child does not always result in explaining the causes of his misconduct; the difficulty may be within the personality and require the service of an expert, or group of experts, if it is to be analyzed and corrected.

The psychiatrist, the physician, the psychologist and the social worker form the nucleus of the modern child-guidance clinic. No court can call itself modern which does not have some such expert service, either as part of its organization or available within the community to help solve the problems of childhood.

STATISTICS

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

Year	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Delinq'nt										
Boys	536	443	335	503	841	765	913	957	838	979
Girls	81	108	105	115	145	232	225	232	246	331
Neg'cted										
Boys	241	149	90	146	221	179	188	193	247	381
Girls	229	122	113	133	224	169	319	227	263	364
Totals	1,087	822	643	897	1,431	1,345	1,645	1,609	1,594	2,054
County School										
*Census	63,936	67,051	77,660	84,760	86,515	86,269	86,622	89,438	94,698	99,392
Ratio	1:58	1:81	1:21	1:94	1:60	1:64	1:53	1:56	1:59	1:48

* The school census, which includes all children between the ages of four and twenty-one years, nearly parallels the juvenile court jurisdiction which includes all children under eighteen years. The numerical variations of these groups is so slight that the census provides a satisfactory basis for a ratio.

COMPARATIVE POPULATION OF DETENTION HOME DURING TEN YEARS

Year	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Boys	724	694	935	970	980	755	828	900	818	909
Girls	423	311	440	451	502	509	623	576	519	499
Totals	1,147	1,005	1,375	1,421	1,482	*1,264	1,451	1,476	1,337	1,408
Average period of detention (days)	7	6	6.5	5.2	6.9	6.2	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.8

*No children received for six weeks in 1921 because of smallpox quarantine.

OFFENCES AND CONDITIONS WHICH BROUGHT CHILDREN TO COURT DURING YEAR 1925

The classification in this table indicates the major behavior fault or neglect revealed by the court investigation.

	Boys	Girls	Totals
CONDUCT			
Dishonesty	412	9	421
Vagrancy and runaways	132	50	182
Sex delinquency	16	147	163
Insubordination	108	79	187
Truancy	85	28	113
Disorderliness	175	18	193
Traffic violation	47	---	47
Curfew violation	4	---	4
Total (conduct cases)	979	331	1,310
NEGLECT			
Inadequate moral guardianship	324	311	635
Abandonment	26	20	46
Poverty	21	29	50
Feeble-mindedness	10	3	13
Total (neglect cases)	381	363	744
Grand total	1,360	694	2,054*

* Formal court action was had in 1,083 of these cases and 971 were adjusted informally.

NUMBER OF APPEARANCES DURING CURRENT AND PRECEDING YEARS OF CHILDREN BROUGHT INTO COURT DURING YEAR 1925

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
First time	581	220	234	183	1,218
Second time	208	63	87	94	452
Third time	102	27	28	52	209
Fourth time	46	10	13	17	86
Fifth time	15	3	8	12	38
Sixth time	9	3	1	4	17
Seventh time	14	2	10	4	30
Eighth time	2	---	---	---	2
Ninth time	2	---	---	---	2
Totals	979	328	381	366	2,054

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT
DURING YEAR 1925

	Boys	Girls	Totals
Parents and children advised.....	788	158	946
Probationary supervision.....	152	164	316
Boys' Parental School.....	86	---	86
Girls' Parental School.....	---	29	29
Washington Children's Home Society.....	61	27	88
State Custodial School.....	8	2	10
State Training School.....	34	---	34
State School for Girls.....	---	19	19
Ruth School for Girls.....	---	29	29
House of Good Shepherd.....	---	30	30
Seattle Children's Home.....	5	7	12
Y. W. C. A. Everett Smith Cottage.....	---	3	3
Sacred Heart Orphanage.....	---	4	4
Florence Crittenden Home.....	---	6	6
Ryther Home.....	6	1	7
Firland Sanatorium.....	1	2	3
Orthopedic Hospital.....	4	5	9
Committed to individuals.....	117	112	229
Sent to other jurisdictions.....	22	23	45
Continued indefinitely.....	14	11	25
Dismissed.....	24	18	42
Referred for criminal prosecution.....	---	---	---
Absconded.....	1	---	1
Financial aid.....	37	44	81
Totals.....	1,360	694	2,054

PARENTAL RELATION TABLE FOR THE YEAR 1925

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Parents living together.....	597	154	109	92	952
Parents not living together due to death, divorce, separation or desertion.....	382	174	272	274	1,102
Totals.....	979	328	381	366	2,054

[10]

TABLE OF AGES OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT
DURING 1925

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
1 year and under.....	---	---	54	30	84
2 years.....	---	---	32	19	51
3 years.....	---	---	25	24	49
4 years.....	---	---	11	28	39
5 years.....	2	---	17	14	33
6 years.....	5	---	35	17	57
7 years.....	4	---	22	10	36
8 years.....	13	3	25	20	61
9 years.....	16	---	17	16	49
10 years.....	47	8	15	21	91
11 years.....	43	7	33	17	100
12 years.....	72	16	26	25	139
13 years.....	92	17	17	18	144
14 years.....	156	38	28	29	251
15 years.....	185	80	14	32	311
16 years.....	192	88	6	28	314
17 years.....	136	63	3	18	220
18 years*.....	16	8	1	8	25
Totals.....	979	328	381	366	2,054

* Children made wards of Court prior to 18th birthday.

SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS LEADING TO COURT HEARING
DURING 1925

	Boys	Girls	Totals
Police Department.....	718	187	905
School Attendance Department.....	138	85	223
Probation Officers.....	194	231	425
Parents.....	168	85	253
Citizens.....	99	71	170
Citizens (in own behalf).....	8	9	17
Children (in own behalf).....	1	---	1
Washington Children's Home Society.....	1	---	1
Social Welfare League.....	23	23	46
Public Welfare Department.....	---	3	3
Transcripts from Justice Courts.....	11	---	11
Totals.....	1,360	694	2,054

[11]

WASHINGTON MOTHERS' PENSION LAW

SECTION 1. In every county it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to provide out of the moneys of the county treasury an amount sufficient to meet the purposes of this law for the support of mothers who, by reason of destitution, insufficient property or income, or lack of earning capacity, are unable to support their children under the age of fifteen years.

SECTION 2. The allowance to such mother shall not exceed fifteen (\$15) dollars per month when she has but one child the age of fifteen years, and if she has more than one child under the age of fifteen years, it shall not exceed the sum of fifteen dollars per month for the first child, and five dollars per month for each of the other children under the age of fifteen years.

SECTION 3. Such allowance shall be made by the juvenile court in the counties where such court is held and elsewhere by the superior court, and only upon the following conditions: (1) The child or children for whose benefit the allowance is made must be living with the mother of such child or children; (2) When by means of such allowance the mother will be able to maintain a home for her child or children; (3) The mother must in the judgment of the court, be a proper person, morally, physically and mentally, for the bringing up of her children; (4) No person shall receive the benefit of this act who shall not have been a resident of the state for three (3) years and of the county in which such application is made for at least one year next before the making of such application for such allowance.

SECTION 4. Whenever any child shall reach the age of fifteen years any allowance made to the mother of such child for the benefit of such child shall cease. The court may in its discretion at any time before such child reaches the age of fifteen years, discontinue or modify the allowance to any mother and for any child.

SECTION 5. Any person procuring fraudulently any allowance for a person, not entitled thereto, shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

SECTION 6. In each case where an allowance is made to any woman under the provisions of this act, an order to that effect shall be entered upon the records of the court making such allowance. Proceedings to obtain the benefit of this act shall be instituted and maintained in the same manner as proceedings are instituted and maintained in the juvenile court, and the prosecuting attorney shall render all necessary assistance to applicants under this act and shall appear in every such proceeding and through the probation officer, the charity commissioner or any person having knowledge of the facts, shall carefully investigate the merits of every application

to the end that this act may be fairly administered and no person granted relief hereunder except those justly entitled thereto, and no officer of the court or county officer shall receive any fees for any service rendered in carrying out the provisions of this Act. A certified copy of said order shall be filed with the county auditor of the county in which such child's mother is resident, and thereupon and thereafter and so long as such order remains in force and unmodified it shall be the duty of the county auditor each month to draw his warrant on the current expense fund of the county in favor of the mother for the amount specified in such order, which warrant shall be by the auditor delivered to the mother upon her executing duplicate receipts therefor, one to be retained by the auditor and the other to be filed by the clerk with the other records in the proceedings relating to such child or children. It shall be the duty of the county treasurer to pay such warrant out of funds in the current expense fund of the county.

SECTION 7. That sections 8385-1, 8385-2, 8385-3, 8385-4, 8385-5 and 8385-6 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington be, and the same are hereby repealed.

MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT

STATISTICS PREPARED BY LENA E. HEMPHILL, SUPERVISOR

MAJOR REASONS FOR GRANTING RELIEF

	1925
Husbands deceased	243
Divorced	67
Deserted	85
Husbands incapacitated at home.....	31
Husbands incapacitated at hospitals.....	27
Husbands in penal institutions.....	9
Total.....	462

ALLOWANCES

\$ 7.50	1925	
10.00		1
15.00		16
20.00		105
25.00		188
30.00		102
35.00		30
40.00		13
		7
Total		462

REASONS FOR REVOCATION

Children reached the age of 15 years	1925	
Children living away from home		17
Disregarded requirements of the Court		9
Husbands contributing to support		11
Husbands regained health		9
Left jurisdiction of the Court		2
Married		14
Self-supporting		19
Receiving War Pension		38
Mothers died		2
Received property		3
Received insurance		1
		6
Total		131

NATIONALITY OF MOTHERS

American	1925	
American Negress		262
Austrian		3
Australian		3
Bohemian		3
Canadian		1
Canadian Negress		18
Danish		1
English		4
Finnish		17
French		12
German		1
Holland Dutch		7
Hungarian Jew		1
Indian		1
Irish		1
		11

[14]

Italian		4
Japanese		1
Norwegian		49
Polish		3
Roumanian		1
Russian		2
Russian Jew		5
Scotch		10
Swedish		32
Sephardic Jew		5
Serbian		1
Syrian		2
Welsh		1
		462
Total		462

RELIGION OF MOTHERS

	1925	
Adventist		6
Baptist		28
Catholic		73
Christian		24
Christian Science		21
Congregational		12
Church of Nazarene		1
Church of God		1
Episcopal		23
Friends' Church		1
Free Methodist		2
Full Gospel		1
Greek Orthodox		2
Jewish		10
Latter Day Saints		2
Lutheran		74
Lutheran Free Scandinavian		1
Methodist		63
Norwegian Methodist		1
New Thought		2
Pentacostal Faith		3
Presbyterian		56
Protestant		47
Swedish Mission		4
Salvation Army		1
Theosophy		1
		462
Total		462

[15]

SOURCES OF MOTHERS' VOCATIONAL INCOME

Bakery	1925
Boarders and roomers	3
Bookbinder	20
Beauty parlor	1
Car cleaner	3
Cashier	1
Chambermaid	3
Clerks	3
Cooks	25
Canvassing and demonstrating	5
Day work	8
Elevator operator	106
Factory	3
Furrier	28
Garden and chickens	1
Housekeeper	12
Janitress	2
Laundry	26
Millinery	27
Mothers at home	2
Music teacher	109
Nursing	1
Office work and stenography	3
Photography	16
Printer	2
Restaurant	1
School lunch	19
Sewing and needle work	1
Telephone operator	23
Tailoring	5
Tailoring	3
Total	462

HOMES OF MOTHERS

Buying on contract or mortgaged	1925
Boarding	113
Free rent	5
Homes owned, free of debt	10
Homes with relatives or friends	62
Renting	46
Renting	226
Total	462

RENTALS BEING PAID BY 226 MOTHERS

	1925
\$ 4.00	2
5.00	5
6.00	2
7.00	4
9.00	6
10.00	25
12.00	11
13.00	9
14.00	1
15.00	62
16.00	7
17.00	8
18.00	10
19.00	2
20.00	26
22.50	14
25.00	18
27.50	3
30.00	5
35.00	2
40.00	3
45.00	1
Total	226

AUDITOR'S REPORT COVERING BUDGET EXPENDITURES AND LIABILITIES FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1925 MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT

	Obligations	BUDGET	
		Appropriation	Unexpended
Appointive	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$
Employees	7,800.00	7,800.00
Postage	60.00	50.00	10.00*
Records and Supplies	239.70	250.00	10.30
Relief Fund	112,170.00	115,000.00	2,830.00
Transportation	815.83	900.00	84.17
Capital Outlay	47.60	47.60
	\$123,533.12	\$126,447.60	\$ 2,934.47

*Amount expended in excess of budget appropriation.

In Memoriam

The richness of the life and thought of Judge A. W. Frater, whose death occurred on the morning of Christmas, 1925, was expressed in the organization and upbuilding of the Seattle Juvenile Court. It was his guiding hand which directed it from the day of its establishment on June 10, 1905, to the time of his resignation, April 6, 1914. He was in close touch with the work and staff during the years intervening from that time until June, 1925, when he resumed the duties of juvenile judge. His time was never so crowded but that he devoted some of it to juvenile court work when called upon.

His life was true to the precept which he impressed on the developing generation of young men and young women—that happiness and success come only with integrity, honest effort and work well done.



JUDGE A. W. FRATER



KING COUNTY JUVENILE COURT BUILDING
(ERECTED 1914)