1924

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Recommended Citation
Drew, Virginia (1924) "The Work of the Juvenile Court," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 4 : No. 9 , Article 11.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol4/iss9/11

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The Work of the Juvenile Court
By VIRGINIA DREW

In an analysis of the juvenile-court legislation, it is well to note the extent to which the effort to obtain this form of control has prevailed in the states. Juvenile-court laws have been enacted throughout the United States with the exception of Connecticut, Maine, and Wyoming. There have been passed laws dealing with some problems usually covered in the juvenile-court laws.

The jurisdiction of the juvenile court in Illinois, including Iowa, extends to children under 16 years of age. In 17 states, jurisdiction extends to 17 years, in Maryland the limitation is extended to 18 for girls and 20 for boys, and in California, to 21 for both boys and girls. A number of states provide that jurisdiction once obtained over any minor may continue until he reaches 21.

Before the enactment of juvenile-court legislation, the courts dealt only with those juveniles accused of violating state or local ordinances. In other states, legislation as to juvenile delinquency was not provided for.

In growing up in idleness or crime (5) knowingly visits a poolroom, or gambling place, (6) knowingly visits a house of ill-fame, (7) wanders about the streets at night, (8) wanders about railroad yards, jumps on moving trains, or enters cars or engines without authority. (9) habitually uses or writes vile, indecent, or obscene language, (10) absents himself from home without just cause or consent of his parents, guardian, or insane. (12) is a habitual truant.

In dealing with the child who is charged with theft, or crime punishable by death or life imprisonment, the legislatures of most states have refused to apply the essential principles of juvenile-court legislation. In some cases, the child in which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, the judge may, in his discretion dismiss the case and allow the child to be tried under the ordinary procedure of the criminal court.

In most states proceedings are begun in juvenile cases by petition, filed by some reputable person who believes the child is within the provision of the law. A further step in differentiating the juvenile-court procedures from the ordinary procedure is made by securing the presence of the child and parent or guardian by summons instead of by warrant. The due process of law provided by the court for a preliminary investigation of the case by the probation officer before the child is brought in for a hearing.

One other feature which has been found in New Mexico is the presence of a woman to hear cases of boys and in Connecticut, Maine, and Wyoming. Whether the child is within the provisions of the case in newspapers. In California it is unlawful to take a photograph or make a motion picture of a child in court.

California and New Mexico are the only states that provide by law for the appointment of a woman to hear cases of girls. Massachusetts and North Dakota provide for the appointment of a woman for the hearing of cases of persons to hear cases of girls.

There has been a great deal of discussion as to whether the child should be saved by the state more than any other by the father. The informal nature of the proceedings makes it almost impossible to have a jury, but in many states, the child, parent, guardian, or interested person shall demand a jury.

The Illinois law provides that "a disposition of any child under this act or any evidence given in such case shall not be any civil, criminal or other cause or proceeding whatever in any court, be lawful or proper evidence, against such child for any purpose whatever, except for subsequent causes against the same child under this act."

A child needing medical care may be in the custody of the court, provided the child does not become dependent on the court for his support. Virginia provides that the procedure shall be as that in cases of non-support.

Laws vary as to whether the court has any further jurisdiction over a child once disposed of, or over the institution to which he has been committed.

At the present time the great problem before the court is the working out of practical methods by which the principles of the juvenile court may be beneficially applied. It has been especially hard for courts in rural areas to develop effectively their work for children. One most difficult problem is the provision of a suitable method of detention for children who cannot be kept in their own homes, pending the disposition of their cases.

The great need for early recognition and control of delinquency is equally as important for the child's physical, moral or mental development, has been conclusively shown, and in this field the responsibility reverts to the home, school, and other social agencies of the community.

The adequate fulfillment of these obligations will result in the prevention of a considerable amount of juvenile delinquency, and in the consequent reduction of the number of children who come before the courts.

Massachusetts adopted two amendments to the state constitution at the recent election. One strikes the word "male" out of the qualifications for voters to conform with the national amendment. The other gives women the right to hold any state county or municipal office and provides that the marriage of a woman will not take away her commission, as it has formerly done.

In a recent issue appeared a notice that Alice McClure, ex-'15, spent the summer in France with her husband. It was later learned that Mrs. McClure passed away after being wounded in France and her body being taken to France for burial.