

The Department

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The State Department of Juvenile Services, created by Chapter 126, Acts of 1966, is the central coordinating administrative agency for juvenile investigation, probation and after-care services, and for State juvenile diagnostic, training, detention, and rehabilitation institutions. On July 1, 1967, the Department assumed administrative responsibility for all State juvenile training schools, children's centers, and boys' forestry camps, all of which were formerly administered by the State Department of Social Services. On the same date, the Department incorporated into a single Statewide program the juvenile probation and after-care services provided by the counties, Baltimore City, the State Department of Social Services, and the State Department of Parole and Probation.

The Department is administered by a Director appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene. There is a twelve-member Advisory Board of Juvenile Services which acts in a general consultatory and advisory capacity to the Director. The Board consists of representatives of the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, the State Department of Mental Hygiene, the State Police, and the Department of Social Services, as well as representatives of the judiciary of the State. Three members represent volunteer child welfare agencies, and three members are chosen from the public at large because of their experience and interest in minors and in juvenile problems. Members may serve only two consecutive terms. The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene appoints the Chairman.

The Board has the duty of recommending to the Director policies and programs designed to improve the State's juvenile services. The Board also participates in interpreting the objectives of the Department to the public as well as in planning for the development and use of all available resources for the promotion of the needs of the Department. The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene appoints the members of the Board for three-year overlapping terms, with four terms expiring each year.

The Department certifies for operation within the State the public and private institutions, organizations and agencies which deal with the Department in the area of juvenile delinquency in the State.

The Department administers and supervises the four State training schools—one for girls, and three for boys. This includes development and promulgation of regulations, standards of care, policies affecting operation and management of programs serving children in the institutions.

The Department also administers and supervises the State's five Forestry Camps for delinquent boys. It is authorized to transfer to these camps, boys from Boys' Village, Victor Cullen, or the Maryland Training School for Boys who could benefit from such care.

The Department also administers and supervises the Maryland Children's Center, opened in 1959, a facility for short-term detention and study of children judged delinquent by the Courts. The Thomas J. S. Waxter Children's Center, opened in 1963, is a forty-bed facility at Laurel for the detention of juvenile offenders.

The Department supervises probation and after-care post-institutional supervision and counselling staff to all juvenile courts. Probation and after-care are separate functions, with probation being the supervision of youngsters who are adjudicated delinquent but not institutionalized, and after-care being the supervision and counselling