

will serve the child's welfare and the best interests of the state; and when such child is removed from his own family, to secure for him custody, care and discipline as nearly as possible equivalent to that which should have been given by his parents.

The principle is hereby recognized that children under the jurisdiction of the Court are wards of the State, subject to the discipline and entitled to the protection of the State, which may intervene to safeguard them from neglect or injury and to enforce the legal obligations due to them and from them.

b. To confer upon the Juvenile Court special and exclusive jurisdiction, as among the several Magistrates' Courts in Washington County, over and concerning cases involving non-support of dependents, including children, wives and parents, and to provide adequate means of paying over to such dependents support money ordered to be paid by said Court and the Circuit Court for Washington County, with the view of more adequate protection for said dependents.

559. Construction of the Act.

This act shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purposes herein sought.

560. The following words, as used in this act, are hereby defined as follows:

a. When the words "the Court" are used in this act, they mean the Juvenile Court established by this act.

b. The word "Magistrate" means Magistrate for Juvenile Cases.

c. The word "child" means a person less than eighteen years of age.

d. The word "adult" means a person eighteen years of age or older.

e. The words "Delinquent Child" include:

A child who has violated any criminal law of this State or any ordinance or regulation of a subdivision of the State; or who is incorrigible, habitually disobedient or beyond the control of his parents, guardian or other lawful authorities; or who is growing up in idleness or crime; or who knowingly frequents gambling places, pool parlors, taverns or places selling alcoholic beverages unaccompanied by parent or guardian; or who is guilty of indecent, immoral or lascivious conduct; or who conducts himself in a manner injurious to the morals, health or general well being of himself or others, or who is habitually absent from home or school contrary to the Public General Laws or Public Local Laws of Maryland.