

## 568. Procedure in Children's Cases:

## a. Information, investigation, petition:

Any person, individually or as the agent of any society incorporated under the laws of this or any other State for the care and protection of children, may, and any Police Officer shall, give to the Magistrate any information in his possession relative to any child that is intended to come within the provisions and is in need of the protection of this act. Thereupon the Magistrate shall make preliminary inquiry to determine whether the interests of the public or of the child require that further action to be taken. Whenever practicable, such inquiry shall include a preliminary investigation of the home and environmental situation of the child, his previous history and the circumstances of the conduct or conditions alleged. If the Magistrate shall determine that formal jurisdiction should be acquired, he shall then authorize a petition to be filed with the Clerk to said Magistrate.

Said petition shall be in writing, under oath or affirmation, and shall allege in substance as follows: That a certain child or children, naming the same, if the name or names be known, and also naming the parent or parents of such child, if there be parent or parents known to the petitioner, or the name of the custodian of such child or children, if there be such custodian known to the petitioner, and the place or places of residence of such child or children, their parents or other custodian, where known to the petitioner, is or are delinquent, dependent or neglected as defined in Section 560 of this subtitle, and that it is for the interest of such child or children, and the State of Maryland that it or they be taken from its or their parent or parents, guardian or custodian, and placed under the jurisdiction of said Magistrate for Juvenile Cases, together with such other pertinent facts if any, as the petitioner may think proper to state. The Clerk to said Magistrate for Juvenile Cases shall file and preserve such petition and all papers relating to such petition, and docket such case, wherein the petitioner shall be named as plaintiff, and the child or children, its or their parent or parents, guardian or custodian, when named, shall be made defendants in such case. The said Clerk shall immediately upon the filing of the petition and making the proper docket entries, call the same to the attention of the said Magistrate for Juvenile Cases.

## b. Summons, notice, custody of the child.

After a petition shall have been filed and after such further investigation as the Magistrate may direct, unless the parties hereinafter named shall voluntarily appear, the