

of his parents only when his welfare or the safety and protection of the public cannot be adequately safeguarded without such removal; 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.

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

547D. When used in this sub-heading, unless the content clearly requires otherwise:

- (a) "Court" means the Court presided over by the Magistrate for Juvenile Causes for Montgomery County.
- (b) "Magistrate" means the person appointed as Magistrate for Juvenile Causes for Montgomery County.
- (c) "Child" means a minor under the age of 18 years who is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.
- (d) "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or over.

547E. Except as otherwise provided, the Magistrate for Juvenile Causes for Montgomery County shall have the following jurisdiction and powers:

- (a) He shall possess the same powers as a justice of the peace or magistrate for criminal causes now has or may hereafter have as defined by law.
- (b) He shall have exclusive jurisdiction over other justices of the peace or trial magistrates in proceedings concerning any child within Montgomery County, who is dependent, delinquent, neglected or is a minor without proper care or guardianship.
- (c) He shall have power to place any child found to be delinquent, dependent or neglected, or a child without proper care and guardianship in the custody of such person or persons, juvenile institution or juvenile agency, for such period of time as may be deemed for the best interest and welfare of said child, if it shall appear that the present custodian or parent is not a fit person to have the custody of such child, or that it would be conducive to the best interest of such child to have a change of custodian.
- (d) He shall have power at any stage of the proceedings in the case of a child who is charged with delinquency, or whose care, commitment or custody is involved before the court, to suspend sentence, final judgment or further proceedings for such period of time or for an indefinite period of time, as may be deemed necessary, and at the time of suspension of sentence, final judgment or further proceedings, or subsequent thereto, he may impose such terms and conditions as may be deemed proper and necessary.