

gomery County Welfare Board, and the officer taking him shall immediately notify the court and shall file a petition when directed to do so by the court.

In the case of any child whose custody has been assumed by the court and pending the final disposition of the case, the child may be released in the custody of a parent, guardian, or custodian, or of a probation officer or other person appointed by the court, to be brought before the court at the time designated. When not released as herein provided, such child, pending the hearing of the case, shall be detained in such place of detention as provided above, subject to further order of the court, but no child shall be confined in any police station, prison, jail or lock-up, unless in a room or ward entirely separate from adults, or be transported or detained in association with criminal, vicious or dissolute persons.

Nothing in this sub-heading shall be construed as forbidding any peace officer, police officer, or probation officer from immediately taking into custody any child who is found violating any law or ordinance, or who is reasonably believed to be a fugitive from his parents or from justice, or whose surroundings are such as to endanger his health, morals, or safety unless immediate action is taken. In every such case the officer taking the child into custody shall immediately report the fact to the court and the case shall then be proceeded with as provided in this sub-heading.

547K. The court shall conduct all hearings in an informal manner, and may adjourn the hearings from time to time. In the hearing of any case the general public shall be excluded and only such persons as have a direct interest in the case and their representatives admitted. All cases involving children may be heard separately and apart from the trial of cases against adults. The court shall hear and determine all cases of children without a jury unless a jury be demanded by the child, his parent, or guardian or the court.

If the court shall find that the child comes within the provisions of this sub-heading, it may by order duly entered proceed as follows:

(a) Place the child on probation or under supervision in his own home or in the custody of a relative or other fit person, upon such terms as the court shall determine.

(b) Commit the child in a public or licensed private institution or agency; or to the Montgomery County Welfare Board.

(c) Make such further disposition of the child as may be provided by law and as the court may deem to be for the best interests of the child.

Whenever a child is committed by the court to custody other than that of its parent, the court may, after giving the parent a reasonable opportunity to be heard, adjudge that such parent