

547N. Any person may inform the court that a child is within the purview of this Act, and if the court is so informed, the Magistrate shall make or order to be made a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the interests of the public or of the child require that further action be taken. Thereupon the court may make such informal adjustment as is practicable without a petition, or may authorize a petition to be filed by any person, or, any person may file with the Magistrate or with the Director of Social Work of the Court a petition in writing and under oath, setting forth that a certain child or children, naming same, if the names be known, and also naming the parent or parents of said child or children, if there be parent or parents known to the petitioner, or the name of the custodian of said 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, if known to the petitioner, is or are delinquent, dependent or neglected and that it is for the best interest of said child or children and the State of Maryland that it or they be taken from its or their parent or parents, guardian or custodian or place of residence and placed under the jurisdiction of the Magistrate for juvenile causes, together with such other pertinent facts as the petitioner may think proper to state. The Magistrate shall file and preserve such petitions and all papers relating to the petition and docket the case, wherein the petitioner shall be named the 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 Magistrate, if a formal hearing is to be had, shall order the Director of Social Work to issue a writ or writs of summons for all parties named in the proceedings as defendants, and for all witnesses in the case, in which shall be stated the purpose for which he or they have been summoned, and ordering the said parties or witnesses to appear before said Magistrate at the hour and upon the day named therein, and the Magistrate may, in his discretion, if it appears that the child is in such condition or surroundings that his welfare requires that his custody be immediately assumed by the court, order, by endorsement upon the summons, that the officer serving the same shall at once take the child into custody. Service of writs and process shall be by any officer who by law is authorized to serve and return such writs and process, as for criminal and civil proceedings in other cases provided.

In those causes, for wilful act or omission of persons contributing to any condition bringing a child within the jurisdiction of the court, any person may file with the Magistrate for Juvenile Causes for Montgomery County, a petition in writing, setting forth the name and residence of any parent,