

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 herein.

70L. (Hearings.) (a) 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 may be excluded at the discretion of the Court, 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.

(b) If the Court shall find that the child comes within the provisions of this sub-title, it may by order duly entered proceed as follows:

(1) 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.

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

(3) 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.

(c) 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 shall pay in such manner as the Court may direct such sum as will cover in whole or in part the support of such child, and if such parent shall willfully fail or refuse to pay such sum, he may be proceeded against as provided by law for cases of desertion or failure to provide subsistence, and the mother of such child may be proceeded against in the same manner as the father.

(d) Whenever the Court shall commit a child to any institution or agency, it shall transmit with the order of commitment a summary of its information concerning such child.

(e) No adjudication upon the status of any child in the jurisdiction of the Court shall operate to impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily imposed by conviction, nor shall any child be deemed a criminal by reason of such adjudication, nor shall such adjudication be deemed a conviction of a crime, nor shall any child be charged with or convicted of a crime in any court, except that in the case when a child 16 years of age or over is charged with an offense which would amount to a felony in the case of an adult, the Judge, after full investigation, may waive jurisdiction and order such child held for trial under the regular procedure of the Court which would have jurisdiction of such offense if committed by an adult; or such other Court may exercise the powers conferred upon the Juvenile Judge in this chapter in conducting and disposing of such case. The dis-