

mining whether such stable moral environment exists, the court shall consider, among other things, whether the parent, guardian, or person with whom the child lives

- (i) Is unable to provide such environment by reasons of immaturity, or emotional, mental or physical disability;
- (ii) Is engaging in promiscuous conduct inside or outside the home;
- (iii) Is cohabiting with a person to whom he or she is not married;
- (iv) Is pregnant with an illegitimate child; or
- (v) Has, within a period of twelve months preceding the filing of the petition alleging the child to be neglected, either has been pregnant with or given birth to another child to whose putative father she was not legally married at the time of conception, or has not thereafter married."

It is certainly the intent of the General Assembly in providing funds for the welfare program, "Aid to Dependent Children," that these funds do not go to a parent who is engaged in promiscuous conduct inside or outside the home, or to a parent who is cohabiting with a person to whom he or she is not married, or to a mother who is pregnant with an illegitimate child, or to any parent or home which is not providing a stable and healthy moral environment.

If such conditions exist in a home, the expenditure of additional welfare funds without removing the child from the home is the height of folly.

In such a home and with such parents, the children are taught the ways and paths of vice, crime and corruption. They are encouraged, by the example of their parents, to grow into and pursue anti-social patterns of behavior. The probability is greatly increased that they will grow into non-productive and non-social citizens, continuing the vicious circle of immorality and complete irresponsibility.

If such parents and conditions exist in a home which is receiving welfare payments under the program for "Aid to Dependent Children," it is the considered judgment of the members of the General Assembly that the child or children involved ought to be removed from the home so that society may at least have a fighting chance to reclaim the child from the examples of iniquity and of irresponsibility; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That this body strenuously urges upon the Department of Public Welfare throughout the State of Maryland that payments not be made to parents or in a home where these conditions of immorality exist, under the program of "Aid to Dependent Children," unless the child or children for whom the aid is intended are removed from the home and provided with a stable, wholesome, and responsible environment; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of State is directed to send copies of this Resolution to the State Board of Public Welfare, the Welfare Board in each of the several political subdivisions, the Governor of