

persons applying for or receiving *social services, child welfare services, general assistance, old age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to families with dependent children, or aid to the permanently and totally disabled, directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files, investigations or communications of the State, county or city, or subdivisions or agencies thereof, or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties.*

7. **[County]** *Local* attorneys to represent local **[welfare]** departments.

(a) It shall be the duty of the attorney to, or an attorney to be designated by, the local governing authority in each county of the State and in Baltimore City, as defined in Section 4 of this article, to institute and defend all civil cases in which its local **[welfare]** department is an interested party. All such suits shall be instituted in the name of the local **[welfare]** department.

(b) Whenever such attorneys institute suit for the recovery, from the estate of a recipient of any type of public assistance, of the amount paid to such recipient during his lifetime, or whenever such attorneys institute suit for the recovery, from a recipient of any type of public assistance, of the amount paid to such recipient prior to his coming into possession of any property or income in excess of the amount stated in his application for assistance and in excess of his need, such attorneys may be allowed such fees for their services as may be fixed by the court, and the amount of such fees allowed by the court, shall be deducted from the gross amount of the recovery in each case, and the net amount of the recovery turned over to the local **[welfare]** department, to be divided between the State, the county or Baltimore City as the case may be, and the federal government in proportion to the amount paid by each respectively.

(c) For such other legal services as are required of such attorneys on behalf of local **[welfare]** departments and not provided for otherwise, they shall be paid such fees as may be established, from time to time, by the State Department, the cost thereof to be borne from regular administrative funds.

[8.

No member of the Board of Public Welfare nor any of the employees of the State Department of Public Welfare shall be directly or indirectly interested in any contract for building, repairing or furnishing in whole or in part, or be financially interested in any contract with any institution coming under the supervision of this Department, nor shall any officer, secretary or employee of any such institution be eligible to appointment on the Board of Public Welfare.]

[9. Powers as to agencies, etc.

(a) In general.—To enable the State Department of Public Welfare to discharge properly the duties imposed upon it, the said Department may of its own motion, or by the direction of the Governor shall cause charges to be formulated against any corporation, association, institution or agency engaged in charitable or social wel-