

70.

*The purposes of this subtitle are:*

(1) *To provide for the care, protection and wholesome mental and physical development of children coming within the provisions of this subtitle;*

(2) *To remove from children committing delinquent acts the taint of criminality and the consequences of criminal behavior, and to substitute therefor a program of treatment, training, and rehabilitation consistent with the protection of the public interest;*

(3) *To place a child in a wholesome family environment whenever possible;*

(4) *To separate a child from his parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interests of public safety;*

(5) *To provide judicial procedures for carrying out the provisions of this subtitle.*

*This subtitle shall be liberally construed to effectuate these purposes.*

70-1.

~~(a)~~ *As used in this subtitle, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and phrases in this section have the meanings listed.*

(A) "COUNTY" MEANS EACH COUNTY IN THE STATE AND THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

(b) "Minor" means a person who has not reached his 21st birthday.

(c) "Child" means a person who has not reached his 18th birthday, except in Baltimore City, where, until July 1, ~~1971~~ 1970, "child" means a person who has not reached his 16th birthday.

(d) "Adult" means a person who has reached his 21st birthday.

~~(e) "Court" means the Juvenile Court, or that division of the highest Court of general trial jurisdiction specially assigned to hear juvenile causes.~~

(E) "PARTY" MEANS A CHILD NAMED IN A PETITION, OR HIS PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAN.

(f) "Judge" means the judge exercising juvenile court jurisdiction.

(g) "Delinquent act" means an act which is in violation of Article 66½ of this code, any other traffic violation, or an act which would be a crime if done by a person who is not a child.

(h) "Delinquent child" means a child who commits a delinquent act and who requires supervision, treatment, or rehabilitation.

(i) "Child in need of supervision" means a child:

(1) *subject to compulsory school attendance who is habitually and without justification truant from school;*