

bonds in criminal cases until he shall have been approved by such rules as the Circuit Court for Prince George's County may adopt. The said bondsmen so approved shall pay a license fee of one (1) percent of the gross value of all bonds written in all courts of the county. The fee shall be paid to the court as prescribed by the rules of court. The said fee shall be used for the payment of any expenses incident to the administration of this section. Any absolute bond forfeitures collected may be used to defray the above expenses.

#### 76. Jurisdiction and powers of court.

Except as otherwise provided, the [People's Court judge for juvenile causes of Montgomery County] *judges of the District Court in Montgomery County sitting for juvenile causes* shall have the following jurisdiction and powers:

(a) The court shall have exclusive jurisdiction in proceedings concerning any child within Montgomery County who is alleged to be delinquent, dependent, neglected, or to be in need of supervision; and except where the child is under the jurisdiction of a circuit court of the State of Maryland, the court shall have the power to determine the custody of the person of any child living within the county whose welfare appears to be endangered, and to determine parental rights in connection with such proceedings and to order either the father or mother of said child to pay such sum as will cover in whole or in part the support of such child after giving the parents a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

(b) The judge shall have power to place any child found to be delinquent, dependent or neglected or a child who is in need of supervision in the custody of such person or persons, juvenile institution or juvenile agency, or to appoint a guardian of the person therefor, for such period of time as may be deemed for the best interest and welfare of said child, if it shall appear that the present custodian or parent is not a fit person to have the custody of such child or that it would be conducive to the best interest of such child to have a change of custodian or to be placed under guardianship. A guardian appointed hereunder shall have no control over the property of his ward, unless and until he shall apply for and receive such authority under other applicable provisions of this Code.

(c) The judge shall have power at any stage of the proceedings in the case of a child who is charged with delinquency, or whose care, commitment or custody is involved before the court, to suspend sentence, final judgment or further proceedings for such period of time or for an indefinite period of time, as may be deemed necessary, and at the time of suspension of sentence, final judgment or further proceedings, or subsequent thereto, he may impose such terms and conditions as may be deemed proper and necessary.

(d) The court shall have original jurisdiction in proceedings under § 79 of this article against adults charged with willfully contributing to, encouraging, or tending to cause by any act or omission any condition which would bring a child within the provisions of this subtitle. The defendant shall have the right to elect to be tried either in the juvenile court or in the criminal court according to the usual criminal procedure.