

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3-802.

(a) 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; and to provide for a program of treatment, training, and rehabilitation consistent with the child's best interests and the protection of the public interest;

(2) To remove from children committing delinquent acts the taint of criminality and the consequences of criminal behavior;

(3) To conserve and strengthen the child's family ties and to separate a child from his parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interest of public safety;

(4) TO HOLD PARENTS OF CHILDREN FOUND TO BE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE RESPONSIBLE, WHERE POSSIBLE, FOR REMEDYING THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT REQUIRED THE COURT'S INTERVENTION;

[(4)](5) If necessary to remove a child from his home, to secure for him custody, care, and discipline as nearly as possible equivalent to that which should have been given by his parents; AND

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

(b) This subtitle shall be liberally construed to effectuate these purposes.

3-820.

(K) IN A CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE CASE, IF THE DISPOSITION INCLUDES REMOVAL OF THE CHILD FROM THE HOME, THE COURT SHALL ISSUE AN ORDER:

(1) MAKING SPECIFIC FINDINGS OF FACT AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAUSED THE NEED FOR THE REMOVAL; AND

(2) INFORMING THE ~~PARENT~~ PARENTS THAT THE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT HAVING COMMITMENT OF THE CHILD MAY CHANGE THE PERMANENCY PLAN OF REUNIFICATION TO ANOTHER PERMANENCY PLAN WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE FILING OF A PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS IF:

(I) THE PARENTS HAVE NOT MADE SUBSTANTIAL SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TO REMEDY THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAUSED THE NEED FOR THE REMOVAL AS SPECIFIED IN THE COURT ORDER; AND

(II) THE PARENTS ARE ~~NOT WILLING OR ABLE~~ UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO GIVE THE CHILD PROPER CARE AND ATTENTION WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.