

to be bound out, the parent or parents of said child, if living in the county, shall be summoned to appear before the said justices; and the inclination of the said parent or parents, so far as is reasonable, shall be consulted in the choice of the person to whom the said child shall be bound out; but when any child shall be before the court for the purpose of being bound out as an apprentice, if any relation or other person will, with sufficient security, enter into bond in the penalty of 100l. for the due and comfortable maintenance; and for the providing sufficient and proper cloathing for such child, till of age as aforesaid, and also for the reasonable schooling and education of such child; then the court shall not proceed to bind out such child.—1793, c. 45, §. 2.

2. Any one or more of the justices of the peace may take any child or children who is or are destitute, or suffering for want of support, or the child or children of beggars, and place the same in the care of some proper person or persons until the next meeting of the orphans' court, when the said child or children shall be bound out as apprentices by the said orphans' court as aforesaid; and in such case it shall be lawful for the said orphans' court to make such an allowance as to them shall seem reasonable, for the expence incurred by supporting as aforesaid the said child or children, and the same shall be levied on and paid by the county to which such child or children shall belong, except the person or persons who have had the care of such child or children, or some other person or persons can be found who will agree to take the said child or children as an apprentice or apprentices as aforesaid, and pay the expence incurred as aforesaid.—*Ibid.* §. 3.

3. Any father may bind out his child as an apprentice, on reasonable terms, for any time not longer than till full age; that is to say, boys to 21, and girls to 16 years of age, and the terms of such apprenticeship, with the age of the apprentice, shall be contained and expressed in an indenture, under the hand and seal of the father and master; and the said indenture shall be lodged by the said master with the register of the orphans' court of the county where such master resides, within thirty days after the execution thereof, under the penalty of 3l. current money, to be recovered from said master by indictment in the county court, or criminal court of said county, to be applied to the use and benefit of the poor of said county, and the register of the said orphans' court shall receive and record the said indenture, and he shall be allowed 3s. current money for every indenture so recorded, to be paid by the said master.—*Ibid.* §. 4.

4. It shall be lawful for the trustees of the poor of any county, or for any three of them, to bind out any orphan or orphans, or other poor child or children, under their care in the poor house of said county, to any discreet person applying for said orphan or orphans, or poor child or children, always having a regard to give a preference to tradesmen and mechanics,