

FREE HOSPITALIZATION FOR MATERNITY CASES

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{ New Department of Welfare
established to administer most
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in Canada. }

THE ALBERTAN—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1944

Claims Child Welfare Act Probably Finest In Dominion

Mayor Davison Opens
26th Annual
Meeting of Council

"It is probably the finest Child Welfare Act in the Dominion," said Mayor Andrew Davison in opening the 26th Annual Child Welfare Week Monday afternoon in the Elks' hall. In commenting on the "excellent job" of the committee which had been appointed by the provincial government to investigate and submit recommendations for juveniles in Alberta, the mayor said the bill, which had been the result, has been received favorably by all parties. While only experience will tell the degree of perfection of the bill, he felt it formed a basis for a working program which can be improved upon by the "trial and error method." Mrs. Harold Riley, president of the Alberta Council on Child and Family Welfare, presided. Declaring that much had been said about the increase of juvenile delinquency, Mayor Davison pointed out such was not the case in Calgary. In 1939 there had been 201 cases of major crimes, but in 1943 140, 127 cases among youth totalled 13 females.

A
SUMMARY
OF
ACTS

CHILD WELFARE ACT

(Chapter 8)

This Act amends and consolidates in one Act the provisions of the following Acts:

The Child Welfare Act;

The Juvenile Court Act;

Part VII of The Domestic Relations Act—dealing with adoptions;

The Children of Unmarried Parents Act.

Part I—Neglected and Dependent Children

Section 3 of the Act provides for the appointment of a psychiatrist to be attached to the Child Welfare Branch to assist in the care and placement of mental defective children and also to assist the Commission and the Superintendent in the care, training and treatment of juvenile delinquents and neglected children. The appointment of a psychiatrist was recommended in the report of the Child Welfare Committee.

Section 4 of the Act places the administration and direction of child welfare under the authority of a Child Welfare Commission of not less than three members nor more than five members. This Commission has all the powers formerly held by the Superintendent of Child Welfare who is a member of and the Chairman of the Commission. The powers of the Commission are contained in section 5 of the Act.

Section 6 of the Act provides for the appointment of a Probation Officers Selection Committee consisting of three or more persons whose prior approval shall be necessary to the appointment of all probation officers, inspectors and child welfare workers made under the provisions of this Act. This is to provide for the appointment of persons properly qualified and trained in the handling of children.

Section 7 of the Act provides for the appointment of a Home Investigating Committee of three or more persons to approve of applications for the care and custody of children in foster homes and to arrange for the supervision and inspection of foster homes in which children have been placed for adoption or otherwise.

Section 12 of the Act provides that all inspectors and child welfare workers appointed in cities and towns shall be under the direction and supervision of the Commission. It is proposed that the Commission shall have the overall supervision and direction of all child welfare work in the Province.

Section 15 of the Act, which replaces section 9 of the old Act, provides that a judge of the Juvenile Court may make one of two orders; either that the child be returned to his parents under the supervision of the Superintendent or that the child be committed temporarily or permanently to the care and custody of the Superintendent as a ward of the Government. Formerly the judge could commit a child to an institution but it is felt that the child should be first committed to the Superintendent, who, if he deems it desirable, may place the child in an institution.

Section 17 of the Act provides for an appeal from the order of a Juvenile Court judge to a judge of the Supreme Court. This is a new provision and is not contained in the old Act.

Section 20 of the Act provides that the Commission may require a city to make provision for the establishment of an observation home and may direct that the observation home be combined with a detention home.

The provisions relating to immigrant children have been left substantially the same as they were in the old Act.

The provisions relating to the establishment of child welfare organizations have also been left substantially the same as under the old Act except that no child welfare society may have a child committed to its care and custody by a Juvenile Court judge.

Section 68 of the Act provides that any person who employs a girl under the age of eighteen years in a restaurant or hotel without the consent of her parents or guardian is guilty of an offence.

The provisions relating to the ill-treatment of children have been strengthened to some extent.

Section 68 of the Act replaces the old section 69 and it provides that the publisher of a newspaper is required to obtain the approval of the Commission before publishing any advertisement dealing with the adoption, putting out or care of children.

Section 72 of the Act enables the Minister to make regulations governing the duties of the Commission and officials appointed under the Act and governing other matters necessary to carry out the provisions of this part of the Act.

Part II—Juvenile Court

The provisions of this Part of the Act are substantially the same as those contained in The Juvenile Court Act.

Part III—Adoption of Children

This Part of the Act is substantially the same as the provisions of The Domestic Relations Act dealing with the adoption of children except that the information to be given on applications for adoption is more extensive than that contained in the old Act.

Part IV—Children of Unmarried Parents

This Part of the Act is substantially the same as the provisions of The Children of Unmarried Parents Act except that it is clearly extended to cover the case of a married woman who has given delivery to an illegitimate child while living apart from her husband.

There are other minor changes from the provisions of the former Acts which are made for the sake of clarification and greater facility in dealing with matters relating to child welfare. Practically all of the recommendations of the Committee on Child Welfare have been incorporated in Part I of this Act.

This Act is to come into force on May 1, 1944.

MATERNITY HOSPITALIZATION ACT

(Chapter 9)

This Act provides for the free hospitalization of maternity patients when they have resided in Alberta for the period set out in the Act, and also under special circumstances to be defined by Order in Council. Provision is made for the Minister of Health entering into agreements with the various hospitals and approved nursing homes for the hospitalization of the patients in question.

Section 4 authorizes the Minister, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to make regulations in connection with the details in the carrying out of the Act.

Section 5 defines the women who are entitled to the benefit of the Act and limits the period of free hospitalization to twelve days.

Section 6 provides for persons obtaining hospitalization in a semi-private ward at their own expense in so far as the extra expense is concerned, and section 7 provides that persons make arrangements for their own hospitalization without regard to the Act.

This Act came into force on April 1, 1944.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE ACT

(Chapter 6)

This Act creates a new Department whose functions are set out in section 6.

Authority is given for the appointment of a Minister, Deputy Minister and other officials.

It is provided that the Department shall submit to the Lieutenant Governor in Council an annual report on the work of the Department which will be laid before the Assembly within fifteen days of the commencement of each session.

The various Acts to be administered by the Department are to be fixed by Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.



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