

Government of Madras

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 169, 5th February 1925

Madras Children Act—Juvenile courts—Non-official agency to assist their working.

E D U

Government of Madras
LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 169, 5th February 1925

Madras Children Act—Juvenile courts—Non-official agency to assist their working.

Order—No. 169, Law (Education), dated 5th February 1925.

In October last the Women's Indian Association submitted to the Government a memorandum on the establishment of a juvenile court for Madras City. The subject was also discussed at a conference at which Mrs. Hume Stanford, a member of the Association, who has had experience of the working of juvenile courts in South Africa was present. The Government propose, in view of the public notice the matter has attracted, to explain their policy in this respect.

2. Since the extension of the Madras Children Act, 1920, to the City of Madras, special arrangements have been made, in accordance with the recommendations of the Indian Jails Committee in paragraph 370 of their report, for the trial of cases in which juveniles are charged. The Chief Presidency Magistrate hears such cases on a day set apart for the purpose outside the ordinary court hours and in a private room and every effort is made to see that the procedure followed is as informal and elastic as possible. So far, therefore, as the actual holding of the court is concerned, the suggestions made by the Association are already in force in the city.

3. At the conference, however, it was elicited that what the association had in mind was not so much the procedure for the trial of child offenders as the creation of an executive machinery which would be in touch with the court and would not only be able to place it in possession of information about children charged before it and assist in the disposal of them but would also be able in many cases to obviate the necessity for bringing such cases into courts at all. It is the experience of countries in which juvenile courts have been developed that such agencies are essential to their successful working. For, in the first place, it is necessary, if a court is to be in a position to decide satisfactorily how a child offender brought before it should be dealt with, that it should have access to the fullest possible details about the child's antecedents, home surroundings and the circumstances which have led him into crime. Secondly, one of the best ways of effecting the reformation of a child offender is to place him under the continuous supervision of some person possessing strength of character and sound judgment who will keep himself in close touch with the child, understand his difficulties and give him advice whenever needed, assist him in procuring work and generally direct and influence his conduct for good. In England this important function is undertaken in many cases by the "police court missionaries" who are the servants and nominees of a private body and in America, where there is a more widely extended system of paid probation officers than in England, voluntary agencies render most useful assistance.

4. The Government find themselves in entire agreement with the suggestion that executive machinery should be created in the city which would (i) arrange for the custody of children while under trial, (ii) assist the court in collecting information about the antecedents, etc., of children brought before them, and (iii) assist in finding suitable institutions or homes in which they can be placed and supervising children released on probation. In their view, however, it would not be sound policy for them to set up a separate department of Government for this purpose. They consider that welfare work of this kind is best undertaken under the auspices of non-official societies. Enquiries are being made as to the possibility of expanding the work and organization of existing societies to enable them to meet the larger demand for specialized work which will now arise. When a suitable organization is constituted for dealing with these problems, the Government will be prepared to recognize it and afford it financial assistance.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

V. T. KRISHNAMA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table.

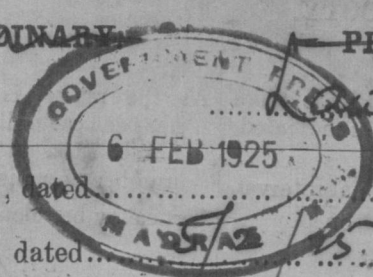
143857 B 17.2, 14, 1-28157
G.O. Ms. No. 1794, Hume, 4-27.6.58

ORDINARY

PRESS SLIP.

PREFERENCE

URGENT (a).



Current No. dated 191

G.O. No. 169, dated 191

Number of MS. pages sent { (b) Correspondence Nil
(b¹) Notes Nil

Brief subject *Madras Child Act - juvenile courts*

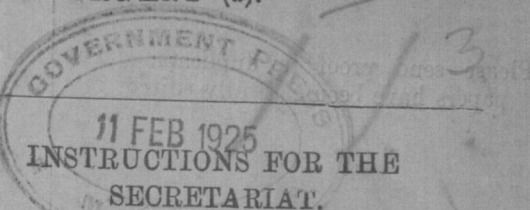
(c) Number of copies required when struck off (not including copies for volumes and editors' table which are retained in the Press). E. T. copies to supply requisitions for purchase by the public. Complete correspondence and orders. Notes.

FOR RECORD.*			
Madras Records	4	20	
City Records		2	
For filing with original		1	
Total		23	
FOR ISSUE.†			

	Letter only.	Complete G.O.	Special issue copies (b) of G.O.		Notes.
			No.	Papers.	
Signature copies		1			
India Office					
Govt. of India					
Revenue Department					
Public Works Department					
Local and Municipal Department					
Educational Department					
Public Dept.					
Judicial Dept.					
Political					
Financial Dept.					
Marine Dept.					
Ecclesiastical Dept.					
Total					

Spare copies

The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
The					
Total		1			



(a) If a paper is marked to be printed urgently, the Superintendent of the section concerned should sign the Press slip. The Superintendent should exercise a careful discretion in the matter.

(b) Each letter, memorandum, or order, or set of orders, in the file of correspondence should be headed in succession with the Roman numeral I, II, III, etc., the number being written in red ink or blue chalk above the item. The particular papers to be printed in the special issue-copies should be indicated by the Roman numeral (I, II, etc.) by which that item has been headed in the correspondence file. All matter, including marginal remarks or references, to be printed should be written in ink and matter which should not be printed should be encircled. Initials and signatures that are not quite legible should be re-written distinctly.

(b¹) For rules regarding printing of notes, see rule 315 of the office Manual.

(c) The number of copies and the details of distribution should be filled in by the Superintendent or Referencer concerned.

(d) In the absence of special instructions to the Press to keep matter standing for a specified period, ordinary papers of 8 pages and under will be kept standing for one week, and larger papers for two weeks only. The type of notes and of all confidential papers is distributed immediately after striking.

(e) This slip, properly and completely filled in, should accompany every paper sent to Press; it will be returned by the Press when proofs are furnished; it should be sent to the Press when a call is made for revised proofs or when a corrected proof is sent for striking. When finally returned by Press it should be filed with the original order or letter.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESS.

(a) If, in the opinion of the Superintendent of the Press, a paper has been marked urgent unnecessarily, he should send the Press slip to the Registrar with a remark to that effect.

(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

* Copies distributed on ‡(Press Clerk).

† Copies distributed on ‡(Press Despatcher).

‡ To be initialled and dated.

A	B	C
Please send proof in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.	Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated.	As the matter is clear manuscript and has been carefully edited, (b) proof need not be sent. Please print and supply number of copies as indicated.
Type may be released _____ after usual interval at once.	Type may be released _____ after usual interval at once.	Type may be released after usual interval.
..... Referencer. Clerk.	 Referencer. Clerk.	 Referencer. Clerk.
..... Supdt.	 Supdt.	 Supdt.

Press. Please furnish copies very
urgently
C.P. A. Chetty
for Suptt, Law (Gen)

tions of the Indian Jails committee in paragraph 370 of their report, for the trial of cases in which juveniles are charged. The Chief Presidency Magistrate hears such cases on a day set apart for the purpose, outside the ordinary court hours, and every effort is made to see that the procedure followed is as informal and elastic as possible. So far, therefore, as the actual holding of the court is concerned, the suggestions made by the Association are already in force in the city.

3. At the conference, however, it was elicited that what the Association had in mind was not so much the procedure for the trial of child offenders as the creation of an executive machinery which would be in touch with the court and would not only be able to place it in possession of information about children charged before it and assist in the disposal of them but would also be able in many cases to obviate the necessity for bringing such cases into courts at all. It is the experience of countries in which juvenile courts have been developed that such agencies are essential to their successful working. For, in the first place, it is necessary if a court is to be in a position to decide satisfactorily how a child offender brought before it should be dealt with, it

Page 176 of Report
(put up)
and in a private room

should have available possible details about the child's antecedents, home surroundings and the circumstances which have led him into crime. Secondly, one of the best ways of effecting the reformation of a child offender is to place him under the continuous supervision of some person, possessing strength of character and sound judgment who will keep himself in close touch with the child, understand his difficulties and give him advice whenever needed, assist him in procuring work and generally direct and influence his conduct good. In England this important function is undertaken in many cases by the "police court missionaries" who are the servants and nominees of a private body viz., the Church of England Temperance Society, while even in America, where there is a more widely extended system of paid probation officers than in England, voluntary agencies render most useful assistance.

4. The Government find themselves in entire agreement with the suggestion that an executive machinery should be created in the City which would:

- (i) arrange for the custody of children while under trial;
- (ii) assist the court in collecting information about the antecedents etc. of children

the duty of finding suitable institutions
or homes in which they can be placed and
of supervising children released on pro-
bation. In their view, however, it would
not be sound policy for them to set up a
separate department of Government for this
purpose. They consider that welfare work
of this kind is best undertaken under the
auspices of ^{Society} non-official society. [Such
a society already exists in the Society
for the protection of children but it is
clear from what has been said above, that
a much larger organisation than that
society is able to maintain will be
needed if the problem is to be systemati-
cally and thoroughly tackled. When a suit-
able voluntary organisation is constituted
for dealing with these problems, the
Government ^{will} be prepared to recognise
it and afford it financial assistance.

V-T
24.1
24

and Enquiries are being
made as to the possibility
of the work being organised
existing societies to enable
them to meet the large
demand for specialised work
which will now arise

2
The D.P.S.
E.T.

