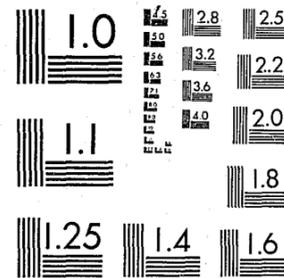


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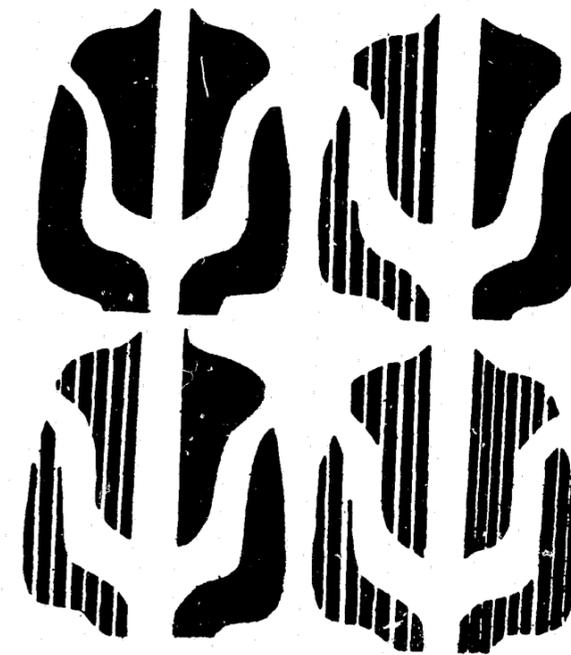
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A STUDY OF SELECTED JUVENILE JUSTICE  
SYSTEMS OF ALEPA REGION III



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ITER FOR CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY  
ARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
OBER, 1974

X  
SELECTED JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS OF  
X  
ALEPA REGION III

Center for Correctional Psychology  
Report Number 20

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## Introduction

The study of juvenile justice systems in ALEPA Region III was supported by ALEPA grant 72-DS-3 to the University of Alabama Department of Psychology. Its purpose is to provide the basis for long-range planning for the handling of juvenile problems. To make such planning possible, a clear picture of existing systems, including existing personnel, facilities, and community resources was necessary.

It is relatively easy to acquire statistics on the number and kinds of offenses of children processed by the courts; however, they are only a part of the total juvenile problem. It is also imperative to discover information about children whose actions do not become a matter of official record. Many children may be apprehended and then released, perhaps with an informal warning or police counseling. There are also children identified as potential problems in school who are given help before they become official statistics. Beyond the present numbers of children involved, changes in the number or kind of delinquents projected in the future are also important.

As a child is identified as a problem in school, begins to get into trouble in the community, and becomes known to the police and then to the courts, there are a number of points at which critical decisions are made. The policies responsible agencies follow in deciding to hold or release a child and the philosophies on which those policies are based are the very heart of the total system. In the same way, policies of the community agencies and schools are important as early crossroads in the child's history.

The extent of delinquency and the processes by which children are moved from one level to another in the juvenile justice system are only meaningful against the background of the unique community itself. Understanding the community, its people, and its resources is essential. A rural county, for example, lacks some of the obvious resources of referral agencies, money,

and personnel its larger neighbors enjoy. However, it may enjoy, because of its closer community structure, a willingness of its citizens to work together and a capacity for informal handling of problems which larger cities might well envy. Again, the community level of awareness of juvenile delinquency and the willingness of citizen groups to support programs may make it possible to recommend changes in one community which another would not support. Recommendations which are made in this report, therefore, are based upon the demographic characteristics of the county, the city, or the area in general.

Among the assets to be considered in planning are those personnel already available and whatever facilities are already in existence. An assessment of staff and personnel was made for each agency studied. Where necessary, suggestions in planning include ways in which their talents can be used differently or more fully. In the same way, available physical facilities were assessed and included in future planning. In keeping with the philosophy that good people and good facilities should be utilized as broadly as possible, some recommendations are made that would use good systems and resources over a larger area. In this way more children can benefit from what has been learned in a particular community. This is in keeping with the philosophy of regional cooperation in providing detention, probation, education, and prevention planning.

## Methodology

The area chosen by ALEPA to be the site of this study is a six-county section of mid-Alabama adjoining the urban Birmingham area. All of these counties are largely rural, but there are also cities and large towns in the area. Although eighty percent of the total area is rural, the towns are of considerable size and in a period of great expansion which demands attention be paid to urban problems. This diversity produces a wide range of juvenile problems and many different ways of handling such problems. Several counties in the area have recently begun to search for ways to improve their juvenile justice systems, and some new programs are presently being planned.

Data on the extent of juvenile delinquency, existing programs and services, and available resources were obtained directly from the agencies involved with juvenile justice. These agencies included representatives of several systems. For our purposes an agency is a particular, compact, geographically and functionally separate formal establishment for carrying out certain aims prescribed by society. A system is a distinguishable segment of related aims of society and the various agencies which make it up. Thus, law enforcement, for example, is a system and a particular police department such as the Jasper Police Department is an agency in that system. Agencies selected were chosen to be representative of both urban and rural segments of a county. The systems from which data was obtained were law enforcement, courts, schools, welfare, mental health, and vocational rehabilitation. The agency respondents were chosen to represent each of the systems. In each county there is one judge who hears all juvenile cases. Only two of the six counties presently has a probation officer. The respective judges and the probation officer were interviewed and information about the courts as a system is based on their responses.

Each of the six counties has a sheriff and he, or some deputy representing his staff, was interviewed. City law enforcement agencies presented a problem of selection. It was beyond the scope of this study to interview local law enforcement people from all small towns, therefore police departments in county seats were interviewed. Representatives of local police departments were chosen on the basis of their contact with juveniles. In no case was there an officer whose sole responsibility was juvenile crime, but where such offenses were handled by specific department officers, an attempt was made to interview them. Otherwise a representative member of the police force was selected.

Schools in most counties involve two systems; a county school system and separate school systems for each city or town. In most cases the superintendents or assistant superintendents were interviewed. In one county a school counselor was interviewed at the request of the superintendent. The Shelby County Superintendent refused to discuss juvenile problems or allow any of his staff to be interviewed.

The Department of Pensions and Security presently serves a dual function in several area counties. As the local public welfare agency, the Department is an appropriate helping agency to which courts, law enforcement, and schools can turn for help with specific cases or for information and background about particular children and their families. The second function of this agency has been to serve as an alternative or additional probation agency. This function is being phased out with new regulations under the Youth Services Act which will require each county juvenile court to have its own probation officer. Interviews of representative personnel from the local Department of Pensions and Security were conducted with both of these functions in mind, but recommendations are based on its use as a referral source and community resource.

There is a paucity of community resources in these counties. Both Mental Health Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation Services are available in Birmingham or in the case of Winston and Walker counties in adjacent counties. The distance involved makes intensive, effective use of these services difficult.

#### Interview Schedules

In order to insure the gathering of comparable information from all agencies detailed interview schedules were developed from a general model. Information sought was conceptualized in terms of various aspects of the agency operation. The relevant aspects were:

1. Purposes                      The goals of the agency
2. Target persons              Personal characteristics such as age, race, sex. Numbers in different categories. Numbers in different programs.
3. Staff                         Training  
                                      Needs  
                                      Attitudes
4. Procedures                  Pre-intake  
                                      Intake  
                                      Process  
                                      Review  
                                      Follow-up  
                                      Transfer  
                                      Problems
5. Programs                     Description  
                                      Needs
6. Plant                         Description  
                                      Needs
7. Ideals                         Respondents' view of what would constitute a model agency or program.

Specific questions were designed to apply to each agency; not all aspects of the information were applicable to all agencies. The design for the interview schedules used was a modification of those designed by the Child and Youth Services Planning Project for the Youth Service Division, Department of Institutions in Colorado.

#### Conducting Interviews

Wherever possible, interview appointments were set up in advance by members of the project staff making direct contact with officials in the various counties.

In many cases, there are discrepancies in the information given by two different people in the same agency or by two agencies in the same area. This is particularly true of the number given in answer to questions about how many delinquents are handled, their ages, races, sexes, and the number of children regarded as pre-delinquent. Records of the courts on the disposition of cases which come before them are, in general, accurate but in most cases law enforcement officers, probation officers, and school officials could provide only estimates. For that reason, information on the extent of unofficial or unrecorded delinquent behavior is largely based on the impressions of those who deal directly with the problems. In general, school officials can provide accurate information on numbers of children who drop out in their particular school, who are expelled, suspended, or truant. They can only estimate numbers who are delinquent, have serious behavior problems, or need special help. Most school information regarding the proportion of Black to White or male to female in each category is also based on the impressions of the school official being interviewed.

Law enforcement officers vary greatly in the extent to which they keep records, but for the most part, they have complete records only for cases which go to court. Numbers of children released with a warning or

percentages in various categories are necessarily estimates. Although they may be somewhat inaccurate, these figures are valuable as the best estimate available and as an indication of the way in which these officials perceive the delinquency problem in their area.

The data acquired from the interviews has been used to determine the extent of juvenile problems, existing ways of handling them, and future needs on a county by county basis. In each case, an important part of the problems, methods, and needs depends on subjective judgements of the agency representatives interviewed. The community concern about juvenile delinquency and the degree to which community agencies feel they are beseiged by the problems of troubled children play a large part in any decisions for change they may make. Thus, recommendations have been made with those felt needs in mind.

Descriptions of the Existing Systems  
by County

BLOUNT COUNTY

Demography

The Blount county population is comprised of 26,853 persons, 22,463 of whom live in rural areas and the remaining 4,390 who live in Oneonta, the county seat and largest town. There are 629 Black residents in the county who constitute 2.4% of the total population. The target juvenile population is: (1) 8,542 -- under sixteen years of age, and (2) 9,503 -- under eighteen years of age.

Educational Systems

There are 6,000 students served by the Blount County School system and its twelve schools; twelve to fifteen students per year are adjudged delinquent, with behavior problems concentrated at the Junior-Senior high school level. Six to eight students are truancy problems per year. Twenty-seven junior high and sixty-six senior high students drop out each year. Two students were caught smoking marijuana, and three were disciplined for drinking last year. There were five cases of vandalism last year, and one reported pregnancy.

One vocational counselor, five full-time guidance counselors, and one part-time guidance counselor are employed by the system. Most counselors are masters level personnel; in-service training opportunities are open to all of them.

Principals are responsible for handling suspensions in their schools. Suspension is for not more than three days, and letters to both the student's parent(s) and to the Superintendent must be filed. Expulsion is handled by the County Board of Education. Students may receive an intra-system transfer

to alleviate problems in a particular school.

The Oneonta City System is composed of two schools -- one of which is composed of grades one through seven and the other is made up of grades eight through twelve. This system was not contacted.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Blount County is handled by the Sheriff's Department and the Oneonta Police Department. In the past year, the Oneonta Police Department handled about two hundred juvenile cases, using informal procedures when possible.

Some of the main complaints were vandalism, disturbing the peace, shoplifting, loitering after hours, and driving without a license. The majority of the delinquents were boys ranging in age from fourteen to seventeen. There were more Whites than Blacks who were brought to the attention of the Police Department.

There is no special officer in the department who is assigned specifically to handle juvenile cases. Whoever is available handles the case. About twelve to fifteen hours a week is actually spent in dealing with juvenile complaints and cases. There are about eight or ten investigations done a month. However, there is one officer on the police force who has attended seminars and training workshops on Juvenile Delinquency. Due to the limited amount of funds for the department, the department cannot afford to assign him to handle juvenile cases only because he is needed as a regular officer on the force.

Once a petition has been filed against a delinquent, if the child is under age, he is usually put in the custody of the Department of Pensions and Security until further action is taken. The DPS caseworker in turn

confers with the judge about the child and the offense which has been committed. When a child is picked up, if DPS cannot place him in the custody of the parents or other agencies until further decisions are made, then he is usually placed in the county jail, which has no separate facilities for juvenile detention.

The Department of Pensions & Security usually handles all of the investigations and casework, and serves as a liaison between the judge and the juvenile.

Most of the complaints against juveniles comes from citizens and parents. Once a child has left the custody of the Police Department there is rarely a follow-up on the case. There are no programs within the Police Department which are geared toward juveniles.

There is no special person in the Sheriff's Department assigned to handle juvenile cases. Whoever is available when a complaint is called in handles the case. An average of about two cases are handled a day, and there are quite a few investigations made each month. Some of the complaints against juveniles were felonies, drunkenness, and drugs. Of the juvenile offenders, 90% were boys and 10% were girls, 10% were Black and 90% were White, and most ranged in age from fifteen to seventeen.

Once a complaint has been filed against a child, a petition is issued and the child is picked up. The Law & Equity Judge handles juvenile cases. He is contacted, and he in turn calls DPS or the caseworkers who work with the Juvenile Court. Usually, if it is a first offense, the juvenile is given a warning and released, unless the offense is one of a serious nature. Should there be an arrest, an arrest form is filled out, and the child is then placed in the county jail until further action is taken.

The Sheriff's Department does participate in delinquency prevention

programs. During the regular school term, two officers from the Sheriff's Department visit the schools and show films on drug abuse and have displays on the dangers of drug abuse.

#### Juvenile Court and Probation

The juvenile jurisdiction in Blount County is in the Law and Equity Court which sits in Oneonta. This is the usual inferior court jurisdiction of many small Alabama counties -- minor civil cases, juveniles and misdemeanors included. He is a lawyer and is employed full-time. The judge when interviewed was recently appointed and was, therefore, not fully conversant with the day-to-day operation of the Juvenile Court in Blount County.

It was determined from his records that there were approximately fifty juvenile cases within the past year. The offenses were predominantly grand larceny and burglary.

The Juvenile Court receives referrals from law enforcement agencies, citizens and DPS. The minimal probation service that is available is handled through DPS. There is no full-time probation officer or probation service available.

#### Community Resources

During the past year, the Department of Pensions & Security in Blount county has handled nineteen juvenile cases. Of this number thirteen were handled informally and six were left in the custody of the Juvenile Court.

Once a child is brought to the attention of DPS by the Juvenile Court, the case is investigated by the DPS caseworker assigned to work with juvenile cases. The Judge makes the final disposition concerning the case. However, DPS does have an informal probationary period concerning the delinquent.

## CHILTON COUNTY

### Demography

Chilton County has a total population of 25,180 persons. Of this number 5,868 people reside in Clanton, the county seat and largest town. The remaining population is classified as rural. There are 3,140 Black persons living in Chilton County. They comprise 7.4% of the total population figure. The target juvenile population is as follows: (1) under sixteen -- 7,607, and (2) under eighteen -- 8,584.

### Educational Systems

The Chilton County school system, with an enrollment of approximately 6,000 students, is a consolidated system for the entire county. There are some students who pose problems for the various schools in the system. Approximately twelve junior high and 79 senior high school students drop out each year. There are two full-time and four part-time counselors employed in the system as well as an Attendance Supervisor. Principals may suspend students for three-day periods, but expulsions are handled by the Board of Education.

### Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Chilton County is handled by the County Sheriff's Department and police departments in various cities throughout the county.

The Police Department in Clanton has reported that last year about 100 juveniles were brought to their attention for offenses such as stealing and breaking-and-entering. 95% were boys, ranging in age from eight through sixteen; 50% were Black and 50% were White.

Once a child has been picked up by the Police department, a juvenile bond and complaint form is filled out and taken to the juvenile officer; and if the offense is serious enough, the judge makes the decision as to

whether to detain or release the juvenile. About twenty are released outright.

The Police Chief supervises the juvenile cases. About six hours a week is spent doing investigations on juvenile cases. The complaints against juveniles come from local merchants, citizens, and the public schools.

Drug prevention programs are among some of the things that the department participates in for the prevention of delinquency.

The Chilton County Sheriff's Department handled about twenty-five juvenile cases last year for offenses such as burglary, shop-lifting, and vandalism.

There is no special officer on the force available to work with juvenile cases. However, about ten hours a week is put into investigations. About 10% of the juveniles arrested are released with a warning. There are eight officers and one Sheriff in the department.

When a complaint is called in, a juvenile petition is filed by the juvenile judge, and the arresting officer signs the complaint. The probation officer does the investigation on juvenile cases. If a juvenile has to be detained overnight, he is usually transferred to Selma to the detention home to wait for a hearing on his case. Most of the complaints come from schools, DPS, and citizens.

The Sheriff's Department participates in the Sheriff's Boys & Girls Ranches, and also participates in drug prevention programs.

### Juvenile Court and Probation

The juvenile jurisdiction in Chilton County is vested in the Law & Equity Court. The judge handles small civil cases, minor criminal matters, and juveniles. The judge is a lawyer and is full-time.

During the past year, there were 75-100 cases of juvenile delinquency handled by the court. The reporting of cases is on the upswing due to the addition of a probation officer. Chilton County has been a close-knit community that handled many problems of delinquency informally, but now utilizes court prevention services. The offenses ranged from burglary, larceny, and drugs to truancy and ungovernable behavior. The offenders were predominantly male with a 50-50 breakdown on racial figures. This is a significant difference in comparison to other Alabama counties which is accounted for in part by low reportage among Whites who prefer to settle cases informally.

Chilton County is a participating member of the Central Alabama Youth Services Project. This project provides a probation officer, detention facilities, a group home, and psychological services. There is a great deal of personal preventive counseling by the probation officer who also utilizes the backup services of the CAYS project.

Juveniles are referred by law enforcement, schools, and parents or relatives. A petition is prepared by the probation officer, the child is usually released to parents and a hearing docketed. Detention, if needed, is provided in Selma. Only one hearing per case is held in which the facts are determined, guilt or innocence is decided, and disposition is made. Disposition is normally probation on first offense and training school for multiple offenders. There is close followup by the probation officer, which includes visits to those sent to the training schools.

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY

### Demography

St. Clair County is populated by 27,956 persons, 22,310 of whom live in rural areas. The 5,646 persons classified as urban live in Pell City, one of the county seats. Ashville is the second county seat. There are 3,896 Black citizens in St. Clair county, making up 14% of the population. The target juvenile population is (1) 9,559 -- under sixteen and (2) 10,608 -- under eighteen.

### Educational Systems

There are fifteen schools in the consolidated St. Clair County system serving 7,400 students.

Less than ten students per year become adjudged delinquents, but it is estimated that seventy-five to one hundred commit delinquent or destructive acts and go uncaught or unpunished. One school in the system does have a particular problem with delinquency, and it is a junior high.

It was estimated that perhaps 100 students per year are truant; and that the same number leave the system as drop-outs each year. Smoking marijuana, drinking, use of narcotics, and vandalism are not problems during school hours or on school property, although one student was caught in possession of marijuana and there were some incidents of vandalism of school property after school hours. There are perhaps three pregnancies per year among students.

Principals in individual schools deal with behavior problems, but the system does employ seven counselors (five full-time) who do help. Three counselors are at the master's level, while several others are working on advanced degrees. In-service training opportunities are available.

The principals also handle suspensions in their schools. Not more than fifty students each year are suspended. Expulsion of a student is recommended by the principal to the County Board of Education, which sponsors a hearing with due process (including right to counsel if desired) before taking action. Only one student was expelled from the system last year.

#### Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in St. Clair county is handled by the Sheriff's Department which has two offices, one in the north end of the county (Ashville) and the main office located in Pell City, the south end of the county. The Sheriff for the county is located in Pell City and his Chief Deputy handles the office in Ashville. During last year the Sheriff's Department came in contact with about 51 delinquents.

The main complaints against them were burglary, vandalism, truancy, and drugs. Out of the above figure 41 were boys, ten were girls, one was Black and fifty were White, and their ages were from nine to sixteen years.

There are ten officers in the Sheriff's Department besides the Sheriff. There is no special officer assigned to handle juvenile cases, but the Sheriff works with the juveniles and the Juvenile Judge and does the investigations on juvenile offenses.

The department does about eight to ten investigations a month. Once a complaint has been filed against a juvenile, a preliminary investigation is conducted by the Sheriff's department. After the investigation, a petition is filed, an arrest form is filled out, and the Juvenile Judge is contacted. At this point the case may be referred to DPS. The seriousness of the offense determines the final disposition of the case.

About 20 delinquents are put on probation, and 31 are released with a

warning. The county jail is a two story building; the first floor is used for juvenile detention and women offenders. The Sheriff's department does participate in the Girls' & Boys' Ranches.

Out of a year's time the Pell City Police Department handled about twenty-five juvenile cases. The main complaint was petty larceny. Twenty-two offenders were boys and three were girls; all ranged in ages from eight to sixteen. The majority was White. There is no officer on the force specifically assigned to juvenile cases. Whenever a complaint is called in the officer who is available handles the case.

Among agencies and individuals in Pell City some of the main complaints against juveniles are called in by merchants, neighbors, and parents. The Police Department has no programs geared toward the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

#### Juvenile Court and Probation

The juvenile jurisdiction in St. Clair County is vested by law in the office of the Probate Judge. This office in Alabama normally handles tax collections, probation of wills, issuance of licenses, and other official county business. The judge is a full-time official; however, his many duties, as in the case of many public officials, very fully occupy his time. This is compounded by the fact that there are two courthouses in the county, and the judge splits his time between the two of them.

In the past year there were approximately 180 juvenile cases. The offenses most commonly heard were burglary, larceny, truancy, and runaways. Approximately 75% of the cases were males and 90% were White.

There is no probation officer at the present time. The probation services are covered at this time by DPS.

The court receives cases from law enforcement, schools, citizens and

a few from the schools. The law enforcement agency investigates the criminal act while DPS does social history investigations. The District Attorney prepares the delinquency petition when necessary. A warrant is issued on recommendation of the D.A., and a hearing is held for determination of delinquency. Most first offenders are placed on probation. Incarceration in the county jail is utilized, but only as a last resort. The present judge utilizes the Calhoun County juvenile facility for post-adjudication detention but feels strongly that pre-adjudication detention is costly and time-consuming for parents.

#### Community Resources

Resource agencies in St. Clair county are limited. The Department of Pensions & Security in the county handled about four juveniles during the span of a year. Once a child has been brought to the attention of DPS, the caseworker immediately gets in contact with the Juvenile Judge and the District Attorney, and from that point on DPS has no more jurisdiction over the case.

Schools, church groups, the Sheriff and the Police departments are very instrumental in referring juveniles to DPS. The Department participates in placement of juveniles in foster homes within the county.

## SHELBY COUNTY

#### Demography

Shelby County, with a population of 38,037, is largely rural with 31,639 persons living in rurally-classified areas. Columbiana is the county seat, and Montevallo and Alabaster are the largest towns. There are 6,416 Black citizens of Shelby county, who compose 17% of the county population figure. The target juvenile population is: (1) 12,806 -- under sixteen, and (2) 14,427 -- under eighteen.

#### Educational Systems

The county wide school system is made up of twenty schools: one area vocational school for grades nine through twelve and three other high schools for those grades, two high schools with grades one through twelve and one with grades eight through twelve. There are four schools composed of grades one through six, three with grades six through eight, two with grades one through five, and one each with grades one through eight, grades one through seven, grades five through seven, and grades five and six. The superintendent of the system refused to be questioned by the staff, and thus, no other descriptive information is available.

#### Law Enforcement

In Shelby County there are eight separate police forces besides the County Sheriff's Department. One police force and the Sheriff's office were contacted. The Sheriff was out of town, and the Police Chief was recently elected, so very little information was obtained. The Youth Service Bureau is becoming more fully utilized, and as it does, law enforcement contact with juveniles will be minimized even more.

### Juvenile Court and Probation

The juvenile jurisdiction in Shelby County is vested in the county court judge. He is a full-time official who also handles small civil cases and criminal matters.

In the past year, there were approximately 180 juvenile cases. These cases involved burglary, larceny, vandalism and "status" offenses. Males were involved more than females and the racial breakdown was sixty per cent White.

There is a probation officer who is paid by the county general fund and revenue-sharing funds. He works generally on supervision of offenders after adjudication. He co-operates with the Youth Aid Bureau which handles all pre-delinquency referrals in the county.

Basic referrals come predominantly from law enforcement agencies, but also from citizens, schools and other agencies. The law enforcement agency does the basic investigation of an alleged criminal act while the probation officer draws up the petition for delinquency. There are no separate hearings on adjudication and disposition nor any formal, periodic review of cases. The vast majority of offenders are placed on probation with extensive follow-up by the probation officer.

### Community Resources

The Youth Aid Bureau in Alabaster works along with the Sheriff's department and the police departments. The Bureau has about 450 active juvenile cases at the present time. The primary responsibility of the Bureau is in counseling and referrals. Counseling services are available for juveniles or pre-delinquents whenever needed. Also, the Bureau offers counseling services for families where a particular juvenile is present in the home.

The Bureau also handles referrals to other agencies, such as the Department of Pensions & Security, Mental Health, and Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Bureau keeps official records of all cases handled by their office. The drop-out line for the agency in terms of referrals is when a delinquent has been referred to another agency and the Bureau feels that they have accomplished what they had anticipated with helping the juvenile.

At the present time, the department has a staff of one director, two counselors, and one secretary-receptionist.

WALKER COUNTY

Demography

Walker county is populated by 56,246 persons, 10,798 of whom reside in the county seat and largest town, Jasper. 24.1% of the population is classified as urban. There are 4,567 Black citizens of Walker County, accounting for 8.2% of the county's total population figure. The target juvenile population is as follows: (1) 17,229 -- under sixteen, and (2) 19,461 -- under eighteen.

Educational Systems

There are three school systems in Walker county: Carbon Hill City Schools, Jasper City Schools, and Walker County Schools. Of these, the Jasper City and Walker County systems were contacted.

In the Walker County system, which handles 10,000 students each year, approximately 25 students are involved in cases which come before the juvenile court. However, it is estimated that perhaps 500 students commit delinquent acts that go unnoticed or unpunished.

The Superintendent's office estimates that they have 75 cases of truancy each year, 200 drop-outs, and 500 students who are caught and/or disciplined for breaking individual school rules. Eleven students were caught for smoking marijuana, twenty students were involved in drinking cases, three students committed acts of vandalism, and there were twelve to fifteen cases of pregnancy throughout the district.

The county schools employ an attendance supervisor in addition to counselors in the junior and senior high schools. Training opportunities are available, but space is not. Only the counselors' offices are used for working with delinquents or pre-delinquents.

Suspensions are handled by individual principals. The suspension period cannot be permanent, as only the Board of Education has the authority to suspend or expel on a longer, more severe basis. Some students are given intra-district transfers to try to alleviate problems at particular schools, but this is not a common practice.

In the Jasper City Schools last year, approximately five students were adjudged delinquents with perhaps twelve more who committed acts that went unnoticed or unpunished. Delinquency is more of a problem in the Junior High School, since many of the problem students drop out before they become known in high school.

At the junior high level, there were fifteen truancy cases, twelve students dropped out, three were caught smoking marijuana, eighteen were disciplined for insolent behavior, two students were found to have used narcotics, four or five students were involved in vandalism, and there were three cases of pregnancy.

The Junior High School employs one full time counselor, and the senior high has two who spend all their time with students. These counselors either already have the Master's degree or are working to complete them; they take advantage of in-service training opportunities sponsored by the state and their own system.

Students are suspended in the Jasper system for one to three days, after which the parent(s) must return to school with the suspended child before reinstatement. Principals may give students three trials on suspension, after which the Board of Education, with the juvenile judge as consultant, may take action toward a more permanent expulsion.

### Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Walker county is typified by the County Sheriff's Department and the Jasper Police Department. Generally, the law enforcement agent simply makes juvenile contact and decides to release or detain the youngster. If a juvenile requires detention, the first floor of the county jail is utilized. This portion is also used for adult female offenders. The juvenile judge maintains close contact and supervision of juveniles detained in jail.

Most of the offenses for which juveniles were picked up by the Sheriff's Department were drugs, burglary, truancy, and run-aways. There is no special officer on the force assigned specifically to handle juvenile cases. Once a juvenile is picked up by the Sheriff, the juvenile judge is contacted, and he makes the decision as to releasing or detaining the juvenile. About 40% of juveniles picked up by the Sheriff's Department are released with warning. The remaining 60% are left in the court's custody. Other agencies in the county are instrumental in bringing children to the attention of the Sheriff's Department.

### Juvenile Court and Probation

The juvenile judge in Walker county, whose office is in Jasper, is the Intermediate Court Judge. He handles small civil cases, misdemeanors, and juvenile cases. He is a full-time county official. There were approximately 180 juvenile cases last year. These ranged from larceny, drugs, alcohol, and burglary to the regular status offenses. White offenders comprised some 92% of the total while Black comprised the remaining 8%.

The juvenile court gets referrals from law enforcement agencies, schools, DPS, and individuals. The appropriate law enforcement agency does the investigation surrounding the alleged criminal act while DPS workers do social

history background.

Once the delinquency petition is filed, the judge sets the case on the docket. After a social and psychological workup is made, the juvenile is informed of his/her rights. There is then an evidentiary hearing held and later a separate dispositional hearing. Probation is generally given on a first offense although each individual case is considered on its own merit.

There is no court staff at the present time to work with juveniles. There are plans to employ several probation officers in the near future. There is also a citizens group called Concerned Citizens for Youth which assists the court in activities for juveniles--planning and fund-raising. It should be mentioned that the current juvenile judge actively seeks out informal, friendly contacts with young people in the area so that he is aware of their milieu, perceptions, and problems. This contact proves invaluable in preventive work as well as in unofficial cases.

### Community Resources

Resources and referral agencies in Walker county are few in number, but the services provided by these agencies are very instrumental and helpful to the Walker county Juvenile Justice system. Out of a years time, the Department of Pensions and Security handled about 100 cases; about ten cases a week. Out of the above number, thirty-five of these children were placed in foster homes throughout the county.

Once a child has been brought to the attention of DPS by the juvenile court and the County Sheriff's Department, and a very thorough and extensive investigation is made concerning the offense the child has been brought in for, the Department of Pensions and Security works very closely with the juvenile judge.

The department is involved in various programs geared toward the prevention of delinquency. One of the programs is the Teen Challenge program.

The Department of Mental Health in Walker county is a satellite center of the center in Hamilton, Alabama. Few juveniles are handled, but the center personnel co-operates with the juvenile judge when requested to offer psychological assistance.

## WINSTON COUNTY

### Demography

Winston county has a population of 16,654 persons, 12,250 of whom live rurally. The urban population of 4,134 is concentrated in Haleyville, the largest town in the county. Double Springs is the county seat. There are fifty-one Blacks who live in Winston county, constituting .4% of the total population. The target juvenile population is: (1) 5,305 -- under sixteen and (2) 5,885 -- under eighteen.

### Educational Systems

The Winston County School System serves 2,100 students through seven schools. Few students are adjudged delinquent, and no school has a particular problem with delinquency although what problems there are are concentrated in the upper levels -- grades seven through twelve. The truancy rate is about 10%, sixty-seven students per year drop out, two or three per year are caught smoking marijuana, and five to ten cases of pregnancy occur per year.

The county employs two system-wide counselors, one of whom is full-time, and one who works part-time. There are training programs open to them and to the attendance officer for the system.

Suspensions are for up to three days and are handled by each principal. He is also responsible for expulsion of students, which he must report to the Superintendent.

### Law Enforcement

Law enforcement in Winston County is typified by the county Sheriff's Department and various other city Police Departments located in other towns in the county. The Sheriff's Department handled about seventeen juvenile cases within a year's period. One of the main offenses was breaking-and-

entering. 50% were boys and the other 50% were girls, ranging in ages from thirteen to fifteen. They were all White.

Once a child is picked up for an offense, the Department of Pensions and Security is immediately contacted. They in turn will get in touch with the Judge. Out of the above figure about 75% were detained in the county jail, and the remaining 25% were released with warning. The Judge makes the final decision about the disposition of the juvenile and what necessary action should be taken.

The Sheriff's Department keeps no formal records of cases, unless the Judge requests it. The department has no assigned officer to handle juvenile cases. The department works along with the various programs sponsored by the Civic Center for the benefit of the pre-delinquent and the delinquent population for the prevention of delinquency.

The Double Springs Police Department out of a year's time handled about four delinquents. The offense was drugs. They were all boys, and all four were White. The main complaints came from citizens.

Once a child is picked up, the department gets permission from the Judge whether or not to lock the delinquent up or to release him in the custody of responsible adults. The county jail does have separate facilities for the detention of juveniles. Investigations are made by the Police Department and the District Attorney's office. Once a delinquent has come in contact with the Police Department, a follow-up on the case is usually done.

The Police Department participates in various community activities that are geared specifically toward the prevention of delinquency.

#### Juvenile Court and Probation

The juvenile judge in Winston county is the County Court Judge. His

jurisdiction includes civil cases, misdemeanors and juvenile cases. He is a part-time official and maintains a fairly large law practice in addition to his judicial duties. He hears juvenile cases in both Haleyville and Double Springs. There were approximately fifteen cases of juvenile delinquency during the past year. The offenders were male, White and, mainly, their offenses involved larceny.

The juvenile court gets cases referred from law enforcement, schools, DPS, and individuals. The appropriate law enforcement agency does the investigation of the alleged offense, and DPS does the social history of the juvenile offender. DPS also serves as intake for the court which results in that agency preparing the petition for juvenile delinquency.

An evidentiary hearing is first held, and then a separate hearing for disposition. These hearings are closed to the public. Probation is generally given for a first offender.

There is no probation officer available for services in Winston County. There is some use of foster homes when deemed necessary. The other two alternatives for disposition are probation or incarceration in one of the state training schools.

#### Community Resources

The Department of Pensions & Security in Winston County does not handle any juvenile delinquents, however, the department does have jurisdiction over the dependent/neglected youth who might have come in contact with the law, and are considered to be delinquent.

If there is an instance where a dependent/neglected child is brought to their attention, investigations are made, and a petition is filed asking for a custody hearing.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELECTED COUNTIES  
OF ALEPA REGION III

The main purpose of this study is to provide information to ALEPA and the juvenile justice systems of these selected counties of Region III for use in improving their delivery of justice to juveniles. These recommendations are based on statements of need from judges, probation officers, law enforcement, educators, other professionals, interested citizens and the staff of Juvenile Justice Project III. These recommendations follow the Alabama Corrections Master Plan juvenile justice section so that all applications for grants to ALEPA which might flow from this study will be compatible with that plan. These recommendations are directed at the counties, both regionally and individually, as their juvenile problems are similar. It should be noted that Shelby and Chilton are exceptions due to their relatively well-developed approaches to solutions.

General Recommendations

1. THERE SHOULD BE A REGULAR MEETING OF ALL PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE FIELD TO SHARE IDEAS AND WORKING CONCEPTS AND TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS.

There is apparently not a full utilization of all professional resources within this area. Many individuals and agencies are working with juveniles in successful ways, but communication is such that a juvenile worker in the next county might not know a particular method is being employed by his neighbors. It is recommended that a local educational institution in consultation with the regional ALEPA office provide an opportunity for professional juvenile workers to meet and share ideas, programs and procedures that have been successfully utilized. We recommend that these sessions be set up on a six-month basis so that juvenile workers can be kept abreast of new funding possibilities, changes in juvenile law and exposure to developing national and state-wide trends in treatment of juveniles in trouble.

2 THERE SHOULD BE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING AND BETTER USAGE OF THE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCIES IN THESE COUNTIES.

Although this recommendation is related to the previous one, it is felt that it deserves separate consideration. There are tentative relationships between those working with juveniles and those social agencies which are able to render assistance with their special expertise. These relationships need to be broadened and strengthened so that those who work with juveniles are aware of all possible diversions prior to adjudication and judges have an awareness of the maximum number of alternatives. The State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Department of Mental Health, the State Department of Education and the new Youth Services Department are all capable of providing more service in these counties than is now being demanded. Implementation of a regular meeting between all concerned professionals should allow full disclosure and understanding of available resources so that better utilization will be forthcoming.

3. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS OF THIS AREA SHOULD BECOME AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN PREVENTING AND TREATING JUVENILES IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW.

The educational systems have, by and large, adopted the twin attitudes that behavior problems are caused by family problems and that those who exhibit disruptive behavior should be shunted aside so that the school can function smoothly. It seems that since the schools have the responsibility of educating the child for such a long period of time, there must be some more adequate method of dealing with behavior problems than that currently employed. Perhaps a conference on juveniles and educational policy arranged through an area educational institution could raise these issues and provide the ferment which might produce answers. In-service training through professional associations might be another way to assist schools in considering their responsibility to juveniles in trouble.

4. THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS OF THE AREA SHOULD CONSIDER USING BOOKLETS TO INFORM JUVENILES BROUGHT BEFORE THEIR COURTS OF THEIR RIGHTS AND THE PROCEDURES WITH WHICH THEY WILL BE PROCESSED.

There is a tendency in most juvenile courts to ignore the constitutional rights of alleged offenders because of a feeling of paternalism. There is, in addition, an ignorance of a child's feeling of bewilderment at facing the complex procedures/processes of the juvenile court because the judge and probation staff are comfortable with the procedures. It is suggested that a formalized written set of rights and procedures be given each alleged delinquent when he/she is seen on intake.

A booklet has been developed by the Oakland County Probate Court, Juvenile Division in Pontiac, Michigan. It is a thorough description of what happens to a juvenile from the time he is arrested through disposition. The use of a modified booklet by these juvenile systems should alleviate concerns of the juvenile and assist the court in the knowledge that they are safeguarding the rights of juveniles under their jurisdiction. A copy of the Michigan booklet is attached as Appendix A to these general recommendations.

5. THERE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE RECORD-KEEPING SYSTEM BY EACH OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS SO THAT ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON A CHILD IS READILY AVAILABLE ON A "NEED-TO-KNOW" BASIS TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL.

Record-keeping in any system is often seen as time-consuming paperwork and of little importance in accomplishing specified tasks. It is essential, however, that minimal records be kept so that client progression can be monitored and, in this case, courts and agencies be held accountable for the performance of their duties. Each of the juvenile justice systems in this area could stand some improvements in their methods of record-keeping. Law enforcement agencies should have records of each and every contact so that exact parameters of juvenile delinquency can be determined. Probation/intake staff need records separate from the judge so that adequate treatment can be determined and provided for each child. Courts need records so as to make disposition and termination decisions in an informed manner.

6. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES USE A TICKETING SYSTEM WHEN CONTACT IS MADE WITH A JUVENILE.

The Shelby County Youth Aid Bureau has developed and promulgated for use by local law enforcement agencies a ticket that is used for juvenile contacts. This ticket has a copy for the juvenile/parent, one for police records, one for the officer and one for the referral agency (Youth Aid Bureau). This system could be easily adapted for use by other law enforcement agencies and juvenile courts. It would minimize police work, prevent unnecessary lock-up, aid in intake procedures and establish better contact records by police agencies. The ticket is reproduced below:

**YOUTH CONTACT REPORT \_\_\_\_\_ P.D.**

Name (last, first, middle)		Sex	Race	D.O.B. / /	Age
Address		Phone	School	Grade	
Vehicle (year, make, model, color)		License	V.I.N.		
I N C I D E N T	<input type="checkbox"/> LOITERING <input type="checkbox"/> DURING SCHOOL HOURS, <input type="checkbox"/> LATE AT NIGHT		Parent's name		
	<input type="checkbox"/> LOITERING IN A CAR		Parent's address (phone)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (specify type, amount)		Date / /	Time	<input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.
	<input type="checkbox"/> CREATING A DISTURBANCE		Location of contact		
	<input type="checkbox"/> TRESPASSING		Companions		
	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify below)		1.		
Remarks		2.			
Youth's signature (not admission of guilt)		3.			
NOTE TO PARENTS	YOUR CHILD WAS CONTACTED BY THE POLICE CONCERNING THE ABOVE MARKED INCIDENT. HIS(HER) SIGNATURE VERIFIES THAT FACT. YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE YOUTH AID BUREAU(663-6828) WITHIN 72 HRS. WITH REGARD TO THIS INCIDENT. THE YOUTH AID BUREAU HAS A COPY OF THIS REPORT AND IS WILLING AND ABLE TO ASSIST YOU IN PREVENTING RECURRANCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS.		Officer	Serial	

WHITE- This copy to juvenile    YELLOW- Police records    PINK- Officer    CARDBOARD- Youth Aid Bureau

7. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CERTAIN COUNTIES IMMEDIATELY EMPLOY PROBATION OFFICERS AND ALL COUNTIES PLAN FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

The only counties which currently have a minimum of one probation officer are Chilton and Shelby. The needs expressed by each county are as follows: (1) St. Clair -- two probation officers; (2) Chilton -- two additional officers; (3) Blount -- one officer; (4) Winston -- one probation officer; (5) Shelby -- one additional officer; and (6) Walker -- one officer. Funding for these additional personnel may come from county general funds, federal revenue-sharing funds or juvenile court budgets. Contact is also underway by the Department of Youth Services in discussion of subsidy funds available. Attention should be paid to the hiring of Black and female officers where appropriate caseloads so indicate.

The staff would like to emphasize what the ALEPA Master Plan calls for as a role model for probation officers. It is that he/she should be a "youth advocate". By this it is meant that a probation officer should work for the sole purpose of seeing that a juvenile in contact with the system is diverted at the earliest possible moment or given the best possible treatment by the system. His/her concern should run from point of contact through ultimate disposition. Although economic conditions and habit have demanded in the past that probation officers serve in roles which juveniles may perceive as antithetical, these can and should be changed. For instance, a probation officer should not serve as detention referee. Nor should he/she prepare and prosecute a case against the alleged offender. These role changes may be difficult to make, but awareness of the problem and willingness on the part of the judge should lead to adequate change.

8. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE VARIOUS COUNTIES EMPLOY CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHOSE PRIMARY DUTY IS HANDLING JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

There are often law officers who develop specialized skills in work-

ing with young offenders. The implementation of this recommendation should lead to better record-keeping, handling and liaison with the juvenile court. The Shelby County Youth Aid Bureau is the best example of a police prevention program currently operating in the region. This program with necessary modifications could be adopted for use in all counties. The officer should, as far as possible, perform the "youth advocate" role similar to that described in Recommendation 7.

Attached to this recommendation section in Appendix B is a model set of record-keeping forms used by the Muscle Shoals Youth Aid Division of the Police Department.

9. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS STUDY AND PLAN TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE THE JUVENILE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ALEPA CORRECTIONS MASTER PLAN.

ALEPA has commissioned and published a Master Plan for Corrections which includes five specific recommendations for Alabama juvenile justice systems. This section is meant to orient the systems included in this study as to what those recommendations are and how they might be implemented.

There is a recommendation as to change or enhancement of the philosophical basis of dealing with juveniles. In terms of juveniles, it is stressed that all persons who deal with the juvenile, except the judge, define themselves as child "advocates". This means that from the moment of arrest to termination of supervision, either formal or informal, that each person do his/her utmost to see that the child obtains his/her rights, assistance and aid from the juvenile system. The juvenile judge has the mandate to balance the needs of the society at large against the needs of the child. It is essential that all juvenile personnel adopt the advocacy stance so that no child be deprived of any available opportunity to change his/her behavior. He or she may then become a successful, functioning member of society.

There is a recommendation that the uniform age of juveniles be raised state-wide to include sixteen and seventeen year olds. This should be done on the pure logic of making this uniform with the age of majority in Alabama. One should not be burdened with the responsibilities of adulthood without having the privileges. Statistical information indicates that this would not bring about an enormous increase in the number of juvenile handled.

There is a recommendation that "status" offenses, i.e. truancy, ungovernable behavior, curfew violation, runaways, etc., be abolished. A child should be adjudicated delinquent only if he/she has committed an offense which would be criminal if he/she was an adult. The current "status" offenses are mainly systematic manifestations of personal, familial or societal maladjustment. When exhibited, these behaviors need to be treated and modified not subject to censure and punishment. This approach should lead to lower case loads for juvenile courts and fairer treatment for troubled youngsters.

There is a recommendation that juveniles not be incarcerated in adult jails. Counties should seek alternative places of detention than adult jails because of the obvious influences of mixing adult criminals and juvenile offenders. Alternatives may include regional detention centers or, preferably, group homes or foster homes.

One recommendation that has been implemented by legislation is the creation of a State Department of Youth Services. A director has been hired and the agency will be operational within the next few months. This should result in better state-wide communication and sharing of ideas, programs and problems. The agency should be able to provide co-ordinating efforts for funding sources and better reporting methods. An immediate result will

be the addition of numbers of probation officers to the non-urban areas of Alabama.

The final recommendation to be considered is that of regionalization. The implementation of this concept is one that will require a good deal of planning and discussion in Region III. There are geographic problems in that the distance between points in Region III is greater than in other ALEPA regions. A large factor in juvenile planning in Region is the obviously overwhelming size of Birmingham. Some of the selected counties, such as Shelby and St. Clair, have more contact/interest in that city than others, such as Walker and Winston. The juvenile work in Jefferson county is extensive and well done, however, they have neither the staff nor time to give much assistance to the surrounding counties in developing juvenile justice. This is a tough issue but one that must be openly faced and discussed. The staff does recommend that these juvenile justice systems work through the Region III ALEPA office in discussing what regional co-operation can mean for their particular county. It has been suggested that some form of regional detention beyond over-night and short of training school be made available. In line with the recommendations of the National Council on Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, we do not recommend that any massive capital outlay be made on a building. This study instead attempts to bring a focus on community-oriented treatment -- personnel, facilities (group homes), and prevention-treatment programs.

NOTES

Appendix A

**"YOUTH AND THE LAW"**

**OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
JUVENILE DIVISION**

**DONALD E. ADAMS, PROBATE JUDGE  
NORMAN R. BARNARD, PROBATE JUDGE  
EUGENE ARTHUR MOORE, PROBATE JUDGE  
JAMES W. HUNT, DIRECTOR**

**County Service Center  
1200 North Telegraph Road  
Pontiac, Michigan 48053  
Telephone: 338-4751**

## I WHAT IS THE JUVENILE COURT?

The Oakland County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over children within Oakland County under 17 years of age who are either charged with a traffic violation, or are accused of being delinquent, or whose parents are accused of neglecting them.

When a child is placed under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, the Court is charged with giving such care, guidance and control as the child should have received in his own home. The Court must do that which will be best for the child's welfare and conducive to the best interest of the community. The juvenile Court can continue to have control over the youngster until he reaches age 19.

## II

### HOW DO CASES COME BEFORE THE JUVENILE COURT?

Complaints are referred to the Court from police, schools, private and public agencies, and private citizens of Oakland County. Approximately 70% of all referrals come from police departments, 20% from schools and 10% from other sources such as public and private agencies and individuals including parents who may be having problems with their youngsters.

## III

### WHAT TYPE OF CASES ARE REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT?

#### Youth Assistance Cases:

Many cases are handled without official action of the Juvenile Court. Some are referred to Youth Assistance, a volunteer program for children. Usually they have not had previous contact with the Court

and there is no official Court record as a result of the contact with Youth Assistance. Every school district in Oakland County has a Youth Assistance Program.

#### Unofficial Cases:

Many other cases are closed at the Intake Office of the Court or referred to another appropriate agency for needed services. These also are handled without official action of the Court.

#### Official Cases:

Official cases involve the following types of referrals: The *delinquent* youngsters are those who have been found guilty of violating laws or ordinances of the State or local community, or those who have run away from home, or those who are truant from school, or are incorrigible at home or in school. The *neglected* youngsters are referred to the Juvenile Court because of lack of support, or improper care, or bad home environment, or abuse, or abandonment by their parents. In addition, any Oakland County youngster under 17 years of age who receives a traffic violation is referred to the Juvenile Court for a hearing and disposition.

During 1972, the five highest types of referrals to the Oakland County Juvenile Court are as follows: Burglary - 303; Home Truancy - 299; School Truancy - 90; Home Incorrigibility - 88; Aggravated Assault - 63.

## IV

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE ARRESTED BY THE POLICE?

If you are arrested you may be taken to the police station. While you are in the police car or in the police station, you should remember that *you have the right to remain silent and anything you say can*

and will be used against you in a Court. Your parents must be notified immediately. If you are questioned, you have the right to have a lawyer and/or your parents with you at that time. If your parents cannot afford to hire a lawyer and you want a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning or at any point in the questioning if you so desire. Also, you have the right to know the nature of the charges against you. The police may release you to your parents or take you directly to the Court for a preliminary hearing to be held within 48 hours. The Court may release you to your parents or detain you in the Children's Village until your official Court hearing.

## V

### WHAT HAPPENS AT A PRELIMINARY HEARING AT JUVENILE COURT?

If a complaint is filed at the Juvenile Court by the police, school, or a citizen concerning you, may be called to the Juvenile Court for a preliminary hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to determine if you should stay in the County's Children's Village until your trial date or if you may return home to live with your parents until your trial date. If you are detained at Children's Village immediately following the alleged offense, you are entitled to have a preliminary hearing within 48 hours after you are taken into custody. At this time, you have the very same rights as you would have if the police were questioning you, and in addition, you have the right to bring witnesses in on your behalf and confront and question those testifying against you. If your parents' interest and your interest conflict, you have the right to have *your own* attorney who will represent *you*.

When you come to court for trial you are presumed innocent of the charge unless you admit your guilt or the Court finds you guilty. If you deny the charges you may request a trial before the Judge or a trial by jury. You have a choice of which one you want. If you are detained as a result of your preliminary hearing, and you are charged

with being a delinquent, you have the right to have *bond* set. No bond is set when detention is ordered because your parents are accused of neglecting you.

## VI

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE DETAINED AT THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE?

If you are detained at the Children's Village, there are certain rules which you must obey during your stay, including certain mail regulations. These rules will be given to you when you enter the institution.

In addition, you have certain rights while you are living there, subject to the Judge's discretion. You have the right to talk with your parents and to actually see them at least once a week, unless specifically limited by a Judge or Referee. You have the right to see an authorized clergy, the right to have contact with an attorney, the right to proper medical attention, the right to continue your education, the right to meals and clothing, the right to have contact with a court worker and the right to see a counselor.

YOU CAN EXPECT A TRIAL TO BE HELD IN APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS.

## VII

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO FOR YOUR TRIAL?

You are entitled to notice of a pending court hearing 72 hours prior to the hearing. When you do go to your Court hearing you are, of course, presumed innocent until proven guilty. If you admit the charges against you or if your Court Referee, Judge, or jury who hears your case finds you guilty of the offense, the Judge will then decide what disposition should be made. You could be placed in a

children's institution or a foster home until the age of nineteen; you could also be placed on probation; or you may just be warned and sent home.

At your Court trial you have the same right to a lawyer that you have at a preliminary hearing. If you do not admit to being guilty at the Court trial, you have the constitutional right to remain silent; you and/or your lawyer have the right to ask questions of those who accused you; you have the right to bring in witnesses to help prove that you are innocent; and you have the right to either a trial by a Juvenile Court Judge or trial by a jury.

If you are dissatisfied with the Juvenile Court's decision, you may request a rehearing in the Juvenile Court or appeal the case to a higher court.

## VIII

### WHAT DECISIONS CAN THE JUVENILE COURT MAKE IF YOU ARE FOUND GUILTY?

In Juvenile Court there is no specific penalty for any specific crime. The Judge can decide what he thinks should be done for your best interests and the interests of society. Many youngsters who are found guilty are allowed to go home with their parents and are placed on probation and supervised by the Juvenile Court probation officers. Others are placed in the Children's Village. Some are placed at *Camp Oakland*, in foster homes, or in private or State institutions. If you are placed in an institution, there is no "sentence" given. Your case is reviewed at least every six months, and the Judge will decide when you are released from probation or when you can go home, often based on your behavior. The Court can keep jurisdiction over you until your 19th birthday.

Sometimes before the Court decides what should be done with a youngster, the Juvenile Court Psychological Clinic will conduct psychological testing and the youngster may later be interviewed by Court psychiatrists.

## IX

### THE JUVENILE COURT HAS JURISDICTION OVER PARENTS

Your parents may be placed under the supervision of the Court if the Judge feels that they need some aid in learning how to properly care for you or supervise you. Some parents are referred to Parent Education classes, where they are taught how to cope with problems that they may encounter in raising their families. Other parents may be required to attend therapy sessions at a private or public agency. Many are required to pay in part for the cost of placing their child in an institution.

## X

### WHAT IS MEANT BY A WAIVER TO CIRCUIT COURT?

If a youngster 15 years of age or older is charged with committing a very serious offense called a felony, such as murder or breaking and entering, it may be necessary to allow the case to be tried in the adult Court. The Prosecuting Attorney may make a request in such cases to the Juvenile Court Judge to have the adult Court try the case. The Probate Judge will then grant a hearing to determine if the interest of the youngster and the public would be served best by granting a waiver of jurisdiction to the criminal Court, or by saying the child will be tried in Juvenile Court.

**YOUNGSTERS AND PARENTS ALIKE AT ALL TIMES SHOULD  
FEEL FREE TO CALL ON THE JUVENILE COURT FOR  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AND FOR ASSISTANCE.**

Appendix B

**YOUTH AID DIVISION**  
MUSCLE SHOALS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35660

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo. Day Year

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS   
or  
GUARDIAN

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYMENT \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

VIOLATION \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION: Warned  Charged  Youth Aid   
Division   
and  
RELEASE: Parents  Detention Home  Will be Contacted   
by Court

**NOTICE: PLEASE READ**

This is to advise that the above youth has been arrested or detained and is being released into your custody. Therefore, it is your responsibility to supervise and bring this youth to COURT or to the YOUTH AID DIVISION at the time specified.

Release to: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

OFFICERS \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUNTARY POLICE SUPERVISION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PLACED ON V. P. S. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE ENDS \_\_\_\_\_

OFFENSE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

OFFENSE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

OFFENSE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITIONS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

DATES REPORTED IN:

JAN. \_\_\_\_\_ MAY \_\_\_\_\_ SEPT. \_\_\_\_\_

FEB. \_\_\_\_\_ JUNE \_\_\_\_\_ OCT. \_\_\_\_\_

MAR. \_\_\_\_\_ JULY \_\_\_\_\_ NOV. \_\_\_\_\_

APR. \_\_\_\_\_ AUG. \_\_\_\_\_ DEC. \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS:

MUSCLE SHOALS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
YOUTH AID BUREAU  
CASE HISTORY

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Hair \_\_\_\_\_ Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ Complexion \_\_\_\_\_

cars \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Father \_\_\_\_\_  
Living: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Living: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Mother works: \_\_\_\_\_ Father works: \_\_\_\_\_

DRIVER'S LICENSE \_\_\_\_\_ Own Auto \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ PASTOR \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE AVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_

Principal or Teacher's Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Duty \_\_\_\_\_  
Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Salary \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIVES: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Placed in Custody of: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_ 55

**SCHOOL REPORT**

<b>NAME</b> _____				<b>Date</b> _____	
<b>SCHOOL</b> _____				<b>Grade</b> _____	
Subject	Week's Grade	Days Attended	Conduct	Teacher	
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					

(Remarks on back)

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME REPORT CARD**

<b>Name</b> _____	<b>Date</b> _____						
<b>Address</b> _____	<b>Phone</b> _____						
	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Sun.</b>
<b>Attended Church</b>							
<b>Attended School</b>							
<b>Time-in Night</b>							
<b>Time-in School</b>							
<b>Home Conduct</b>							
<b>Home Attitude</b>							

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

(Remarks on back)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S CHARGE SHEET**

Date of Interview _____	Time and Date of Offense _____
(1) Name of Defendant _____	Address _____ Race _____ Sex _____ DOB _____
(2) _____	_____
(3) _____	_____

IS DEFENDANT IN CUSTODY? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ PLACE OF CONFINEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

CHARGE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME AND DATE OF ARREST \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF CRIME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHARGE BROUGHT BY: \_\_\_\_\_

INJURED PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
Show Ownership in Burglary and Larceny Cases and Victim in Assault.

**BURGLARY AND GRAND LARCENY CASES**

Name of person that closed building, date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person that discovered break-in; date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCUPATE DESCRIPTION	EVIDENCE OBTAINED HOW OBTAINED	PRESENT LOCATION

DID ACCUSED MAKE A STATEMENT? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_.

NAME & ADDRESS OF TESTIMONY OF EACH WITNESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

