

CHAPTER 247

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN

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247.01 STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL; LOCATION; PURPOSE; TEMPORARY EMERGENCY USE. The state public school for dependent children shall be continued at Owatonna. Its purpose shall be to furnish a temporary home for dependent and neglected children and to provide them with proper permanent homes, proper care, and instruction, while in the home, in the branches usually taught in the common schools and with moral, physical, and industrial training. Provided, that from June 30, 1945, until June 30, 1947, the State Public School at Owatonna may be used temporarily as an institution to provide academic education and vocational training for those feeble-minded persons who may, through such education and training, be prepared for return to society as self-supporting individuals. Provided, further, that if during the period from June 30, 1945, to June 30, 1947, the director of social welfare determines that the facilities of the state public school at Owatonna are necessary for the proper care and training of dependent and neglected children, then and in such event the facilities at said school shall be made available for such purpose.

[R. L. s. 1938; 1945 c. 565 s. 1] (4618)

247.02 COMMITMENTS TO SCHOOL. Children under 15 years of age who are dependent on the public for support, abandoned, neglected, or ill treated, and who are sound of mind and free from disease, shall be received into the state public school for dependent children upon commitment by a juvenile court. When the number of such children shall exceed the capacity of the school, preference shall be given to the younger children and to those in greatest need. The children received shall be divided among the several counties as justly as possible, taking into consideration the number of such children in each county and its population. The director of public institutions, or superintendent, shall notify the juvenile court of any county of the number of children that can be received from such county, when vacancies exist, or upon inquiry from the court. The children of soldiers shall be given preference in admission. No child who can be received into the school shall be maintained in any poorhouse. Before any child under one year of age shall be ordered sent to this school, a written statement from the superintendent shall be obtained, showing that the child can be received and cared for in the school.

[R. L. s. 1941; 1917 c. 214 s. 1; 1927 c. 286] (4619)

247.03 DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO ASSUME GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILD. A child admitted to the state public school for dependent children shall remain therein and be subject to the guardianship of the director of social welfare until a proper home is procured for him. The director of social welfare may return or discharge each child when satisfied that he is unsound in mind, or diseased, or for other cause is not a proper inmate of this school. Upon such return or discharge, the guardianship of the director of social welfare shall cease and the child shall again be under the custody of his parents or guardian, or a charge upon the county from which he was sent.

[R. L. s. 1945; 1917 c. 214 s. 2] (4620)

247.04 ADOPTION AND APPRENTICESHIP. The director of social welfare so far as practicable shall secure permanent homes for such children in proper families by adoption or apprenticeship; and for that purpose may consent, or authorize the superintendent to consent, to the legal adoption of any such child in the same manner as his parents might have done; or the director of social welfare may place him in a proper family during minority or for a shorter period, under a

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written contract providing for his proper education in public schools, for teaching him some useful occupation, for kind and proper treatment as a member of such family, and for payment to the director of social welfare at the termination of the apprenticeship, for the use of the child, of such sum as may be provided in the contract. Such contract shall reserve to the director of social welfare the right of cancellation when in his judgment the interest of the child requires it, and to the person taking the child the right so to cancel at any time within 90 days, upon returning the child to the school free of expense.

[R. L. s. 1947] (4621)

247.05 DISCHARGE OF CHILD. When any such child, not indentured, has become self-supporting or his parents have become able to provide for him and are otherwise suitable the director of social welfare may discharge him; whereupon the guardianship of the director of social welfare shall cease and such child shall be entitled to his earnings, with power to contract for his services, or returned to the custody of his parents, as the director of social welfare shall direct.

[R. L. s. 1948] (4622)

247.06 AGENTS; APPOINTMENT; DUTIES. Suitable persons shall be appointed to act as agents of the school. They shall visit the wards of the director of social welfare, at his direction, report to him their condition and any violation of contracts, and perform such other duties as the director of social welfare may direct. They, or the superintendent, shall provide homes for wards, investigate applications for apprentices; and, on behalf of the director of social welfare, execute contracts of apprenticeship. They shall be allowed in addition to their salaries their necessary traveling expenses, to be audited by the director of social welfare.

[R. L. s. 1949] (4623)

247.07 RECORD OF INMATES. The director of public institutions shall cause to be kept at the home a record containing the names, ages, and residences of all children received; the names, residence, occupation, and character, so far as known, of the living parents; the record of military or naval service of the parents, if any, in the force of the United States, with a separate index thereof; the date of reception; and of adoption or indenture, with the name, occupation, and residence of the person with whom the child is placed; the date and cause of the cancellation of any contract; the date and cause of discharge; and a brief history of each child during minority.

[R. L. s. 1950] (4624)

247.08 HOMES FOR CHILDREN. The director of public institutions is hereby authorized to receive, keep, maintain, train, and find homes for such children as the controlling board or other managing authorities of any institution or association which is permitted to receive, find homes for, or secure adoption for children under the supervision of the director of social welfare may request.

[1913 c. 404 s. 1; 1917 c. 214 s. 3] (4625)

247.09 VISITATORIAL POWERS. The director of public institutions is authorized to visit and investigate the conditions of all children for whom homes have been found by an institution within the state which has or may at any time have been permitted by the director of social welfare to receive and find homes for dependent children.

[1913 c. 404 s. 2; 1917 c. 214 s. 4] (4626)

247.10 PENALTIES. Any parent, guardian, or other person who shall abduct, conceal, entice, carry away, or improperly interfere with any child committed to the guardianship of the director of social welfare, or who shall obstruct or interfere with any officer or agent in the performance of any duty imposed by this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[R. L. s. 1952] (4627)