

State of Iowa

1949

**QUESTIONS  
and  
ANSWERS  
on  
CHILD WELFARE  
SERVICES  
IN  
IOWA**

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**STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE**

**DES MOINES, IOWA**

**January, 1949**

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# CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IN IOWA

## I. Definition

1. Q. *What are Child Welfare Services?*

A. They are services given by a person with experience and training who helps to analyze problems and make recommendations in relation to a child's adjustment to his home, school or community.

2. Q. *Is a fee charged for the services?*

A. No. Funds are made available jointly by the County, State and the Federal Government to provide child welfare services through county welfare personnel.

## II. How to apply

1. Q. *Where should application be made?*

A. In the local County Department of Social Welfare.

2. Q. *Who may refer a child for service?*

A. Parents, relatives, friends of the child concerned, local judges, county attorneys, physicians, public health nurses, school and police officials or any other interested person may refer children for service.

## III. Eligibility

1. Q. *Who is eligible for service?*

A. Any child under 21 years anywhere in the state in need of counselling.

2. Q. *Are there eligibility conditions?*

A. No. All children in the state regardless of residence, religion, race or income are eligible.

3. Q. *If the recommended plan involves a financial expenditure, how is this provided?*

A. Where possible the child's family pays the cost of any special care required. If this is not possible, arrangements for the cost of care may be made through the local welfare office.

4. Q. *How long are Child Welfare Services provided?*

A. As long as the services are needed and desired.

#### **IV. What types of services are given**

1. Q. *What kind of service is given to dependent or neglected children?*

A. Usually the worker tries to strengthen or re-establish the child's natural home by helping his own parents to give him adequate care. Where this is not possible, plans may be made to place the child in a boarding home, with relatives or other suitable persons. A child caring agency

or institution may be asked to assist in achieving such a plan. If placement for adoption is advisable referral is made to a licensed child-placing agency.

2. Q. *What kind of service is given to a pre-delinquent or delinquent child?*

A. After careful study of the child, his background, his behavior in the home, school and community, the worker counsels with parents, relatives and local authorities, and other persons concerned about the child's behavior, and then together with the child tries to effect a change in his behavior.

3. Q. *What kind of service is given to the mentally retarded child?*

A. The worker, with the help of psychologists, determines the mental capacity of the child and then in consultation with his family and other persons concerned, tries to effect a plan which will allow the child freedom for such development as he may be capable of attaining—either in his own home or in an institution.

4. Q. *What kind of service is given to a physically handicapped child?*

A. The worker, in cooperation with the child's family and physician, tries to carry out the recommendations that are made, not only for improving the physical handicap, but also for

helping the child and his family adjust to his limitations.

5. Q. *What kind of service is given to unmarried mothers?*

A. The worker plans with the unmarried mother and other persons concerned for confinement care and assists the mother in her decision and plan as to keeping or placing the child.

6. Q. *What psychological services are provided?*

A. The local children's worker can arrange for a member of the State Department's Psychological Unit to examine any child for whom such service is deemed advisable. Psychological studies are made in relation to the various types of service enumerated above and become a part of the basis for the planning that is done in trying to effect a solution to a particular problem.

## **V. Other services given in behalf of children**

1. Q. *What responsibility does the State Board of Social Welfare have for foster homes in which children are placed on a boarding basis?*

A. The State Board sets minimum standards of care, and licenses those homes caring for more than two

children at a time, after a study has been made by the supervising agency.

2. Q. *What constitutes a study of a boarding home?*

A. A study of a boarding home, which is made by the agency supervising the home, evaluates the interest of the foster parents in caring for other peoples' children; the foster parents' ability to give wholesome care, and their facilities for providing this.

3. Q. *What responsibility does the State Board of Social Welfare have for adoptions?*

A. The State Board can be designated by the Court to make a social investigation of the suitability of the child for placement and of the adoptive parents to care for the child. A report of these findings with recommendations is submitted to the Court, who in turn decides whether or not the adoption should be granted.

4. Q. *Does the State Board of Social Welfare place children for adoption?*

A. The State Board of Social Welfare has no program for placing children for adoption. Such placements are made by licensed child placing agencies and the State Board of Control.

5. Q. *What responsibility does the State*

*Board of Social Welfare have for private child placing agencies and child-caring institutions?*

- A. The State Board sets standards of child care and placing, licensing all private agencies and institutions serving children.

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