

The term "delinquent child" shall be construed as meaning any male or female child living in Harford County under the ages above specified, and who, while under age, may violate any criminal law of the State, or is incorrigible, or knowingly associates with thieves, vicious and depraved persons, or is growing up in idleness or crime, or knowingly frequents any gambling places, or patronizes liquor or beer saloons unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, or is guilty of indecent, immoral and lascivious conduct.

161. All such children described in the foregoing Section, and residing in Harford County, are declared to be wards of the State, and the Judges of the Courts of the Third Judicial Circuit of Maryland, sitting as a Court of Equity, shall have full power to deal with such children when brought before such court and full jurisdiction over the disposition of such child or children. And the said Court shall have the power to designate one of its Judges to hear, determine and dispose of all such cases, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the trial and disposition of such cases as to said Court, may seem reasonable and proper.

162. Any person of respectable standing in his or her community, and being a resident of said County, or the agent of any society incorporated under the laws of this State for the care and protection of children, may file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County on the equity side thereof, a petition in writing, setting forth that a certain child or children, naming the same, if the name or names be known, and also naming the parent or parents of such child, if there be parent or parents, or the name of the custodian of such child or children, if there be such custodian, and the place or places of residence of such child or children, their parents or other custodian, is or are delinquent, dependent or neglected, as defined in Section 160 of this Act, and that it is for the interests of such child or children, and the State of Maryland, that it or they be taken from its or their parent or parents, guardian or custodian, and placed under the jurisdiction of the Equity Court for Harford County, together with such other pertinent facts, if any, as the petitioner may think proper to state. The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County shall file and preserve such petition and all papers relating to such petition, and docket such case, wherein the petitioner shall be named as plaintiff, and the child or children, its or their parent or parents, guardian, or custodian, when named, shall be made defendants in such case. It shall be the duty of the said