

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for
3 informal hearing and for disposition of dependent child.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Sections 6332 and 6351 of Title 42 of the
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended by adding
8 subsections to read:

9 § 6332. Informal hearing.

10 * * *

11 (c) School of child in shelter care.--The following shall
12 apply to situations in which a child is placed in shelter care
13 in a new school district:

14 (1) (i) The court shall hold that the child shall
15 remain in the child's original school and that the child
16 shall be a resident of the school district of the
17 original school for purposes of section 1301 of the act
18 of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public

1 School Code of 1949, unless:

2 (A) the distance between the placement and the
3 original school would make the child's travel time
4 unreasonable; or

5 (B) remaining at the original school would be
6 contrary to the child's safety or well-being.

7 (ii) In making the determination under subparagraph
8 (i), the court shall consider the wishes of the parent
9 and, where appropriate, the wishes of the child.

10 (2) The court shall provide written notice to the local
11 education agency liaison for homeless children and youth at
12 the school the child will be attending stating that the child
13 may be awaiting placement under Title VII, Subtitle B of the
14 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law 100-
15 77, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.). The local education agency
16 liaison may use or disclose the information provided by the
17 court only for the limited purpose of ensuring that the child
18 receives the protections of Title VII, Subtitle B of the
19 Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

20 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be read to limit a
21 child's rights under Title VII, Subtitle B of the Stewart B.
22 McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

23 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
24 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
25 subsection:

26 "Local education agency." As defined in section 9101(26) of
27 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law
28 89-10, 20 U.S.C. § 7801(26)).

29 "Original school." The school a child attended prior to a
30 transfer of custody or change in placement.

1 § 6351. Disposition of dependent child.

2 * * *

3 (b.2) Required education findings for children placed in
4 temporary legal custody.--The following shall apply to
5 situations in which a child is placed in temporary legal custody
6 in a new school district:

7 (1) The court shall determine whether it is in the
8 child's best interests to remain in the original school.

9 (i) The court's determination in this paragraph may
10 be made during the initial disposition hearing. The issue
11 of the child's best interests may also be brought before
12 the court any time the child is placed in a new school
13 district.

14 (ii) In making the determination in this paragraph,
15 the presumption shall be in favor of maintaining the
16 child in the original school. The court shall consider:

17 (A) The distance from the child's placement to
18 the original school.

19 (B) The child's relationships with other
20 students and faculty at the original school.

21 (C) The quality and appropriateness of
22 programming and curricula at each school.

23 (D) Whether the school is the least restrictive
24 setting available to the child.

25 (E) The child's safety.

26 (F) The wishes of the parent and, where
27 appropriate, the wishes of the child.

28 (2) If the court determines that it is in the best
29 interests of the child to remain in the original school:

30 (i) the child shall be a resident of the school

1 district of the original school for purposes of section
2 1301 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
3 as the Public School Code of 1949; and

4 (ii) the child may continue to attend the original
5 school for as long as the court deems appropriate.

6 (3) The county agency that placed the child shall
7 provide or arrange for the provision of the child's
8 transportation to and from school when the need for
9 transportation is due to the placement by the county agency.

10 (4) If the court does not have full information at
11 disposition on the particular placement for the child, the
12 child shall remain a resident of the school district of the
13 original school and shall attend the original school after
14 placement unless the public agency authorized by law to
15 receive and provide care for the child determines that:

16 (i) the distance between the placement and the
17 original school would make the child's travel time
18 unreasonable; or

19 (ii) remaining at the original school would be
20 contrary to the child's safety or well-being.

21 (5) The court shall provide written notice to the local
22 education agency liaison for homeless children and youth at
23 the school the child will be attending stating that the child
24 may be awaiting placement under the Title VII, Subtitle B of
25 the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law
26 100-77, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.). The education agency
27 liaison may use or disclose the information provided by the
28 court only for the limited purpose of ensuring that the child
29 receives the protections of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless
30 Assistance Act.

1 (6) Nothing in this subsection shall be read to limit a
2 child's rights under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless
3 Assistance Act.

4 * * *

5 (k) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
6 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
7 subsection:

8 "Local education agency." As defined in section 9101(26) of
9 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law
10 89-10, 20 U.S.C. § 7801(26)).

11 "Original school." The school a child attended prior to a
12 transfer of custody or change in placement.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.