

**COUNTIES, ORPHANS' AND INDIGENT CHILDRENS' HOMES**  
**Act of May 16, 1921, P.L. 666, No. 281**  
AN ACT

Cl. 16

Providing for the purchase of land and the erection and improvement of buildings, by counties of the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth classes, for the purpose of providing a home for indigent orphans and certain incorrigible, indigent, dependent, and neglected children; providing for the maintenance, regulation, and management of such homes, and for commitments thereto by juvenile courts, the directors of the poor, and the county commissioners.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the county commissioners of any county of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth class, by and with the approval of the grand jury and of the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the county, shall have authority, and are hereby authorized, to purchase a farm or plot of ground within the county, and erect buildings thereon, or add to and improve buildings already erected, and make improvements thereon and thereto, as may be convenient and necessary for the use and purpose of providing a home within the county for the keeping, care, education, and training of all indigent orphans dependent upon the public for support and not otherwise provided for, incorrigible, indigent, dependent, and neglected children of either sex, under sixteen years of age, who shall be committed to said home by the court of quarter sessions of the peace acting as juvenile court of the county, or by the county commissioners, poor directors of said county, or the poor directors of any district within the county, by and with the consent of the juvenile court of the county, and pay for the same out of the public funds belonging to the said county.

(1 amended Apr. 9, 1931, P.L.22, No.21)

Section 2. The courts, county commissioners, poor directors, or any other authority, before making orders for the commitment of children to said "Children's Home," shall place them first, as far as possible, in care and custody of persons having the same religious belief as the parents of the child, or with some association which is controlled by persons of such religious belief, and shall, as far as possible, provide in making orders of commitment that the care, custody, and discipline of the child shall be as nearly as possible that which should be given by its parents. In all cases where it can be properly done, the child shall be placed in an approved family home, and become a member of the family by legal adoption or otherwise. The court, before making a final order for the commitment of any child to said "Children's Home," shall cause said child to be examined by a competent physician, and shall obtain a full report as to the physical and mental condition of said child, together with a certificate of the examining physician that said child is not suffering from any physical or mental condition which will interfere with its proper care, treatment, or training in said

"Children's Home" or with the proper care, treatment, or training of the other children in said home.

Section 3. That said land, when purchased, shall be deeded to the county, and shall be known as "Children's Home," and shall be thereafter supported and maintained by the county out of the public funds of the said county.

Section 4. The said county commissioners are hereby authorized to receive, from time to time, donations, gifts, legacies, endowments, devises, and conveyance or conveyances of property, either real or personal, that may be made, given, or granted towards the support and maintenance of said "Children's Home," and use the same for said purpose.

Section 5. Said county commissioners shall have full control of said "Children's Home," and of the inmates therein, and may, with the consent and approval of, and subject to terms stipulated by, the juvenile court, place the said inmates, or any one or more of them, in private homes, to be kept and maintained in said private homes, having due regard to the religious belief of the parents of such inmate as provided in section two; and the county commissioners, with the consent and approval of, and subject to terms stipulated by, the juvenile court, may discharge from said home any inmate when, in their discretion, the county commissioners consider said inmate capable and able to care for himself or herself, or for any other sufficient reason.

Section 6. Said county commissioners shall have authority, and they are hereby authorized, in the support, conduct, and management of said "Children's Home," to employ a superintendent and such other teachers, employes, and other assistants as may be necessary, to keep said children or inmates properly clothed, fed, and cared for in sickness and in health, and to make proper provisions for giving said inmates instructions in reading, writing, arithmetic, drawing, duties of citizenship, and such branches as may be deemed requisite for a good English education, which instruction shall be subject to the provisions of the act approved the eighteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred nine), and known as the school code, its amendments and supplements, and shall be under the direction of the county superintendents of schools.

Section 7. It shall be lawful for said county commissioners to employ and require the inmates committed in said "Children's Home" to do and perform any work, in said home or on said farm, not beyond their strength and not interfering with their attendance at school during school hours established by said institution.

Section 8. Said county commissioners shall have authority to adopt all necessary by-law, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth, for the control, conduct, and management of said "Children's Home."

Section 9. Said county commissioners shall have authority, and are hereby authorized, at any time after purchase of said farm or property, to buy and purchase any additional land and erect additional buildings from time to time as the

circumstances and requirements of the said "Children's Home" shall require, and pay for the same out of the funds of the said county, by and with the approval of the grand jury and of the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the said county.