



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT

(CHAPTER 38)

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Children and Young Persons Act

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An Act to provide for the welfare, care, protection and rehabilitation of children and young persons who are in need of such care, protection or rehabilitation, to regulate homes for children and young persons and to consolidate the law relating to children and young persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[21st March 1993]

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Children and Young Persons Act.

Interpretation

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“approved institution” means an institution approved under section 12 of the Probation of Offenders Act (Cap. 252) for the reception of persons who may be required to reside therein by a probation order;

“approved welfare officer” means a person who is appointed by the Director under section 3(4) to carry out any investigation, assessment, supervision, consultation or evaluation in relation

to any child or young person or the parent, guardian or family members thereof for the purpose of determining the welfare and state of development of such child or young person or for any other purpose under this Act;

“assessment” means an assessment to determine either the state of the health or development of the child or young person or whether the child or young person is in need of care or protection or both;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“child” means a person who is below the age of 14 years;

“development” means physical, intellectual, psychological, emotional, social or behavioural development;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“Director” means the Director of Social Welfare appointed under section 3(1) and, in relation to any provision in this Act in which the word is used, includes any public officer or other person who is appointed or authorised by the Director under section 3(3) to perform any of the duties or exercise any of the powers of the Director under that provision;

“fit person” means a person whom the court or the protector, having regard to the character of the person, thinks competent to provide care, protection and supervision of a child or young person;

“guardian”, in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who, in the opinion of the court having cognizance of any case in relation to the child or young person, or in which the child or young person is concerned, has for the time being the charge of, or control over, the child or young person;

“health” means physical or mental health;

“home for children and young persons” means any establishment the object of which is, or is held out to be, the provision of residential accommodation with board and personal care for children or young persons, for the purposes of their protection or rehabilitation or both;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“ill-treatment”, in relation to a child or young person, has the meaning assigned to it in section 5;

“juvenile” means a male or female person who is 7 years of age or above and below the age of 16 years;

“juvenile rehabilitation centre” means any institution or part thereof appointed or established under Part VI as a juvenile rehabilitation centre;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“licence” means a licence issued under section 52B and licensee shall be construed accordingly;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“licensed home for children and young persons” means a home for children and young persons in respect of which a licence is issued under section 52B;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“manager” includes a director, manager and superintendent or other person having the management or control of any juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home, place of detention or place of temporary care and protection;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“place” includes any vessel, conveyance, house, building, enclosure, street, land or open space;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“place of detention” means a place provided or appointed by the Minister as a place of detention under section 55(1);

“place of safety” means any institution or part thereof appointed or established under Part VI as a place of safety;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“place of temporary care and protection” means any place or institution appointed or declared to be a place of temporary care and protection under section 27 or any other suitable place the occupier of which is willing temporarily to receive a child or young person committed under section 8A, 9 or 49;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“protector” means the Director and includes any public officer or other person who is appointed or authorised by the Director under section 3(3) to exercise the powers and perform the duties of a protector under this Act;

“registered medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174), and includes a dentist registered under the Dental Registration Act (Cap. 76);

[22/2007 wef 01/01/2008]

“relevant offence” means —

- (a) any offence under Part II;
- (b) any offence under Chapter XVI of the Penal Code (Cap. 224); or
- (c) any offence involving the causing of bodily injury to a child or young person;

“remand home” means any home or institution or part thereof provided or appointed by the Minister as a remand home under section 53(1) for the detention of juveniles sent there under the provisions of this Act;

“Review Board” means the Review Board appointed under section 52G;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“voluntary care agreement” means a care agreement entered into between the Director and the parent or guardian of a child or young person to secure the safety and welfare of the child or young person;

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

“young person” means a person who is 14 years of age or above and below the age of 16 years.

[20/2001]

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a person shall be deemed to have already reached any specified age when he has since his birth completed that number of years of life reckoned according to the Gregorian calendar.

Appointment of Director of Social Welfare and other officers

3.—(1) The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint an officer to be the Director of Social Welfare.

[20/2001]

(2) The Director shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this Act, subject to the general or special directions of the Minister.

[20/2001]

(3) The Director may —

(a) appoint any public officer; or

(b) with the approval of the Minister, in writing authorise any other person,

to perform any of the duties or exercise any of the powers of the Director or a protector under this Act, subject to such conditions and limitations as may be specified by the Director.

[20/2001]

(4) The Director may appoint any suitably qualified person as an approved welfare officer to carry out any investigation, assessment, supervision, consultation or evaluation in relation to any child or young person or the parent, guardian or family members thereof for the purpose of determining the welfare and state of development of such child or young person or for any other purpose under this Act.

[20/2001]

(5) The Director and any public officer or other person appointed or authorised by him under subsection (3) and any approved welfare officer shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code (Cap. 224).

[2A

[20/2001]

Principles

3A. The following principles apply for the purposes of this Act:

(a) the parents or guardian of a child or young person are primarily responsible for the care and welfare of the child or

young person and they should discharge their responsibilities to promote the welfare of the child or young person; and

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

- (b) in all matters relating to the administration or application of this Act, the welfare and best interests of the child or young person shall be the first and paramount consideration.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

PART II

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

Welfare

When child or young person in need of care or protection

4. For the purposes of this Act, a child or young person is in need of care or protection if —

- (a) the child or young person has no parent or guardian;
- (b) the child or young person has been abandoned by his parent or guardian and despite reasonable inquiries the parent or guardian cannot be found, and no other suitable person is willing and able to exercise care or guardianship in respect of the child or young person;
- (c) the parent or guardian of the child or young person —
- (i) is unable or has neglected to provide adequate food, clothing, medical aid, lodging, care or other necessities of life for the child or young person; or
 - (ii) is unfit or unable or has neglected to exercise proper supervision and control over the child or young person, and the child or young person is falling into bad association, or is exposed to moral danger, or is beyond control;
- (d) the child or young person has been, is being or is at risk of being ill-treated —
- (i) by his parent or guardian; or

- (ii) by any other person, and his parent or guardian, although knowing of such ill-treatment or risk, has not protected or is unlikely or unwilling to protect the child or young person from such ill-treatment;
- (e) the child or young person needs to be examined, investigated or treated for the purpose of restoring or preserving his health or development and his parent or guardian neglects or refuses to have him so examined, investigated or treated;
- (f) the child or young person behaves in a manner that is, or is likely to be, harmful to himself or to any person and —
 - (i) his parent or guardian is unable or unwilling to take necessary measures to remedy the situation; or
 - (ii) the remedial measures taken by the parent or guardian fail;
- (g) there is such a serious and persistent conflict between the child or young person and his parent or guardian, or between his parents or guardians, that family relationships are seriously disrupted, thereby causing the child or young person emotional injury;
- (h) the child or young person —
 - (i) is a person in respect of whom a relevant offence has been or is believed to have been committed; or
 - (ii) is a member of the same household as another child or young person in respect of whom a relevant offence has been or is believed to have been committed, and the child or young person appears to be in danger of a similar offence being committed against him,

and either the person who committed or is believed to have committed the offence or who has been convicted of the offence is the parent or guardian of the child or young person or a member of the same household as the child or young person, or the parent or guardian of the child or young person is unable, unlikely or unwilling to protect the child or young person from such offence; or

- (i) the child or young person is found to be —
- (i) destitute or wandering without any settled place of abode and without visible means of subsistence;
 - (ii) begging or receiving alms (whether or not there is any pretence of singing, playing, performing or offering anything for sale) or loitering for the purpose of so begging or receiving alms;
 - (iii) engaged in carrying out illegal lotteries, illegal hawking, gambling or other undesirable activities; or
 - (iv) using or inhaling any intoxicating substance (as defined in the Intoxicating Substances Act (Cap. 146A)) for the purpose of inducing or causing in himself a state of intoxication.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[3

Ill-treatment of child or young person

5.—(1) A person shall be guilty of an offence if, being a person who has the custody, charge or care of a child or young person, he ill-treats the child or young person or causes, procures or knowingly permits the child or young person to be ill-treated by any other person.

[20/2001]

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a person ill-treats a child or young person if that person, being a person who has the custody, charge or care of the child or young person —

- (a) subjects the child or young person to physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) wilfully or unreasonably does, or causes the child or young person to do, any act which endangers or is likely to endanger the safety of the child or young person or which causes or is likely to cause the child or young person —
 - (i) any unnecessary physical pain, suffering or injury;
 - (ii) any emotional injury; or
 - (iii) any injury to his health or development; or

(c) wilfully or unreasonably neglects, abandons or exposes the child or young person with full intention of abandoning the child or young person or in circumstances that are likely to endanger the safety of the child or young person or to cause the child or young person —

- (i) any unnecessary physical pain, suffering or injury;
- (ii) any emotional injury; or
- (iii) any injury to his health or development.

[20/2001]

(3) For the purpose of subsection (2)(c), the parent or guardian of a child or young person shall be deemed to have neglected the child or young person in a manner likely to cause him physical pain, suffering or injury or emotional injury or injury to his health or development if the parent or guardian wilfully or unreasonably neglects to provide adequate food, clothing, medical aid, lodging, care or other necessities of life for the child or young person.

[20/2001]

(4) A person may be convicted of an offence under this section notwithstanding —

- (a) that any actual suffering or injury on the part of the child or young person or the likelihood of any suffering or injury on the part of the child or young person was obviated by the action of another person; or
- (b) the death of the child or young person in respect of whom the offence is committed.

[20/2001]

(5) Subject to subsection (6), any person who is guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) in the case where death is caused to the child or young person, to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or to both; and
- (b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$4,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 4 years or to both.

[20/2001]

(6) The court may, in lieu of or in addition to any punishment specified in subsection (5), order the person guilty of an offence under this section to execute a bond, with or without sureties, as the court may determine, to be of good behaviour for such period as the court thinks fit, and may include in such bond a condition requiring such person to undergo such counselling, psychotherapy or other programme as may be specified therein.

[20/2001]

(7) If a person who is ordered to execute a bond of good behaviour under subsection (6) fails to comply with any of the conditions of such bond, he shall —

- (a) if such bond is in lieu of a penalty under subsection (5), be liable to the penalty provided for in that subsection; or
- (b) if such bond is in addition to a penalty under subsection (5), be liable to a further fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to a further term of imprisonment not exceeding 7 years or to both.

[4

[20/2001]

Contribution to delinquency of child or young person

6.—(1) Any person who causes or procures any child or young person or, having the custody, charge or care of a child or young person, allows that child or young person to be in any place for the purpose of —

- (a) begging or receiving alms, or of inducing the giving of alms, whether or not there is any pretence of singing, playing, performing or offering anything for sale; or
- (b) carrying out of illegal hawking, illegal lotteries, gambling or other illegal activities or activities detrimental to the health or welfare of the child,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) If a person having the custody, charge or care of a child or young person is charged with an offence under this section and it is proved

that the child or young person was in any place for any such purpose and that the person charged allowed the child or young person to be in the place, he shall be presumed to have allowed him to be in the place for that purpose unless the contrary is proved.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[5

Sexual exploitation of child or young person

7. Any person who, in public or private —

- (a) commits or abets the commission of or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any person of any obscene or indecent act with any child or young person; or
- (b) procures or attempts to procure the commission of any obscene or indecent act by any child or young person,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[51/2007 wef 01/02/2008]

Protector's power to obtain information

8.—(1) Where a protector —

- (a) has reasonable grounds to believe that a relevant offence has been, is being or will be committed against any child or young person or that any child or young person is in need of care or protection; and
- (b) has reason to believe that any person can —
 - (i) furnish any information regarding the commission of any relevant offence in respect of a child or young person; or
 - (ii) furnish any information which will assist him in ascertaining whether a child or young person is in need of care or protection,

the protector may exercise the powers conferred under subsection (1A).

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(1A) The protector may, by order in writing —

- (a) require the person referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii) to furnish such information to the protector in writing within such time as may be specified by the protector; or
- (b) require such person to appear before and furnish such information to the protector at such time and place as may be specified by the protector.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) The person referred to in subsection (1A)(b) shall be bound, as the case may be, to furnish the required information in writing or to attend before the protector and answer truthfully and to the best of his ability any question concerning the offence.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[7

Power to order child or young person to be produced for assessment or treatment, etc.

8A.—(1) Where the Director, a protector or a police officer is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is in need of care or protection, the Director, protector or police officer may by notice in writing order any person to —

- (a) produce the child or young person before the Director, protector or police officer at a specified time and place; or
- (b) produce the child or young person before a registered medical practitioner, a psychologist or an approved welfare officer for an assessment or for any medical or other treatment as may be necessary,

following which the Director, protector or police officer may, if he thinks necessary, remove the child or young person and commit the child or young person to a place of temporary care and protection or to

the care of a fit person until the child or young person can be brought before a Youth Court to be dealt with under section 49.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) For the purposes of this section and sections 9 and 9A, a reference to a police officer is a reference to a police officer not below the rank of sergeant.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Power to remove child or young person to place of temporary care and protection, etc.

9.—(1) Where the Director, a protector or a police officer is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is in need of care or protection, the Director, protector or police officer may without warrant and with such assistance and by such force as is necessary, by day or by night enter any place in which the child or young person is to be found and —

(a) remove the child or young person and commit him to a place of temporary care and protection or to the care of a fit person until the child or young person can be brought before a Youth Court to be dealt with under section 49; or

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(b) remove the child or young person and, before committing him to a place of temporary care and protection or to the care of a fit person under paragraph (a), present the child or young person before a registered medical practitioner, a psychologist or an approved welfare officer for an assessment or for any medical or other treatment as may be necessary.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Subject to subsection (3), every child or young person who is removed by the Director, a protector or a police officer under section 8A or this section shall, unless he is sooner returned to the custody of his parent or guardian, be brought before a Youth Court within 3 working days from the date of his being so removed in order that he may be dealt with under section 49.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) If for any reason it is not possible for the child or young person to be brought before a Youth Court within the time specified in subsection (2) —

- (a) the Director, protector or police officer (as the case may be) who removed the child or young person under subsection (1) shall, within 3 working days from the date of the removal of the child or young person, inform the Youth Court of the removal and the reason for which it is not possible to comply with subsection (2); and
- (b) the Youth Court may make such order as the circumstances may admit and require in relation to the custody, charge and care of the child or young person until such time as the child or young person may be brought before the Youth Court.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) Where the Director or a protector is of the view that any contact or access between the child or young person removed under subsection (1) and any other person is not in the best interests of the child or young person, the Director or protector may order that —

- (a) the other person concerned shall not make any contact or have access to the child or young person during the period before the child or young person is brought before the Youth Court under subsection (2); or
- (b) the other person concerned may only have contact or access to the child or young person subject to such conditions as the Director or protector may impose.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Assessment, examination and treatment of child or young person, etc.

9A.—(1) A registered medical practitioner, a psychologist or an approved welfare officer to whom a child or young person is brought under section 8A or 9 —

- (a) shall conduct the requisite assessment of the child or young person and report his assessment to the Director, protector or

police officer, as the case may be, who presented the child or young person for assessment; and

- (b) may, with the consent of the parent or guardian of the child or young person or, if such consent cannot be obtained or if there is immediate risk to the health of the child or young person, with the authorisation of the Director, protector or police officer —
- (i) administer or cause to be administered to the child or young person such procedures and tests as may be necessary to diagnose the condition of the child or young person; and
 - (ii) provide or cause to be provided to the child or young person such treatment (including any surgical treatment) as he considers necessary as a result of his assessment or diagnosis.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) If the registered medical practitioner, psychologist or approved welfare officer conducting the assessment of the child or young person under subsection (1) believes on reasonable grounds that the child or young person is suffering from any physical or emotional injury or any injury to his health or development as a result of being ill-treated, the registered medical practitioner, psychologist or approved welfare officer shall immediately notify the Director, protector or police officer, as the case may be, who presented the child or young person for assessment.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) Section 87 shall apply to a registered medical practitioner, a psychologist or an approved welfare officer who makes a notification under this section as if it were a notification made under section 87(1).

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(4) If the registered medical practitioner conducting the assessment of the child or young person under this section is of the opinion that the hospitalisation of the child or young person is necessary for the purpose of treating the child or young person, the Director, protector or police officer may authorise the hospitalisation of the child or young person.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Warrant to search for or remove child or young person

10.—(1) If a Magistrate's Court, upon receiving any information or complaint, has reason to believe that a relevant offence has been or is being committed in respect of a child or young person, the Court may issue a warrant authorising any police officer named therein to search for the child or young person, if necessary, and remove the child or young person and commit him to a place of temporary care and protection until he can be brought before a Youth Court to be dealt with under section 49.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) A warrant issued by a Magistrate's Court under this section may authorise the police officer named therein, before committing the child or young person concerned to a place of temporary care and protection, to present the child or young person before a registered medical practitioner or an approved welfare officer for an assessment or for any medical or other treatment as may appear to be necessary.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(3) Sections 9(2), (3) and (4) and 9A(1) to (4) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, in the case where a child or young person is removed under this section as they apply in the case where a child or young person is removed under section 9.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(4) A Magistrate's Court issuing a warrant under this section may, by the same warrant, cause any person accused of any offence in respect of the child or young person to be apprehended and brought before the Court and proceedings to be taken against that person according to law.

(5) Any police officer authorised by warrant under this section to search for any child or young person or to remove any child or young person, with or without search, may enter, by the use of force if necessary, any house, building or other place specified in the warrant and may remove the child or young person therefrom.

(6) Every warrant issued under this section —

- (a) shall be addressed to and executed by a police officer who shall be accompanied by the person laying the information, if that person so desires, unless the Magistrate's Court by which the warrant is issued otherwise directs; and
- (b) may, if the Court by which the warrant is issued so directs, also be accompanied by a registered medical practitioner appointed by the Director for the purpose.

[20/2001]

(7) It shall not be necessary in any information or warrant under this section to name the child or young person, but, in such case, the child or young person shall be described as particularly as the knowledge of the informant or the Magistrate's Court permits.

Restrictions on children and young persons taking part in public entertainment

11.—(1) No child or young person shall take part in any public entertainment —

- (a) which is of an immoral nature;
- (b) which is dangerous to life or prejudicial to the health, physical fitness and kind treatment of the child or young person; or
- (c) without the consent of his parent or guardian.

(2) Any person who causes or procures such a child or young person, or being his parent or guardian allows him, to take part in any public entertainment in contravention of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) If the person convicted under subsection (2) is the holder of a licence under the Public Entertainments and Meetings Act (Cap. 257), the court may also order the cancellation of the licence or its suspension for such period as the court may think fit.

(4) In this section —

“entertainment” includes an exhibition or performance;

“public entertainment” means an entertainment to which the public or any section of the public is admitted or in connection with which a charge, whether for admission or otherwise, is made.

Trafficking in Children

Unlawful transfer of possession, custody or control of child

12.—(1) Every person who takes any part in any transaction the object or one of the objects of which is to transfer or confer, wholly or partly, temporarily or permanently, the possession, custody or control of a child for any valuable consideration shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 4 years.

(2) Every person who, without lawful authority or excuse, harbours or has in his possession, custody or control any child with respect to whom the temporary or permanent possession, custody or control has been transferred or conferred for valuable consideration by any other person within or outside Singapore shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) It shall be a defence in any prosecution under this section to prove that the transfer took place in contemplation of or pursuant to a bona fide marriage or adoption and that at least one of the natural parents of the child or the legal guardian was a consenting party to the marriage or to the adoption by the adopting party, and had expressly consented to the marriage or adoption.

(4) In this section, “legal guardian”, in relation to a child or young person, means a person lawfully appointed by deed or will or by the order of a competent court to be the guardian of that child or young person.

[20/2001]

Importation of child by false pretences

13. Any person who, by or under any false pretence, false representations or fraudulent or deceitful means made or used either within or outside Singapore, brings or assists in bringing any child into Singapore shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Power to examine children and persons in charge of them

14.—(1) A protector or any person authorised in that behalf by a protector in writing may require any child and any person who may appear to have the custody or control of the child to appear before the protector at any reasonable time and at any convenient place.

(2) The protector may examine the child as to his reasons for entering or being in Singapore and may examine the person respecting the child, and the child and that person shall be legally bound to answer such questions truthfully to the best of their ability.

Consent to marriage

15. No female below the age of 18 years who is or has been detained or in respect of whom a bond or security has been taken under the provisions of this Act shall contract any form of marriage without the previous consent in writing of a protector.

Power of protector to require security

16. If a protector has reasonable cause to believe that any child or young person —

- (a) has been brought into Singapore either after having been transferred for valuable consideration or by fraud, misrepresentation or any false pretence;
- (b) has been transferred to the custody or control of any person for valuable consideration either within or outside Singapore;
or
- (c) is being detained against his will by some person other than his parents or lawful guardian,

he may either —

- (i) order any person in whose custody or under whose control the child or young person appears to be —
 - (A) to furnish him with copies of the photographs of the child or young person and the photographs of that person; and
 - (B) to furnish security to his satisfaction that the child or young person will not leave Singapore without the previous consent in writing of the protector, and that the child or young person will be produced before the protector whenever he requires it; or
- (ii) in the first instance, or if default be made in complying with any order made under sub-paragraph (i), order that the child or young person be taken out of the custody of the person in whose care, custody or control the child or young person is and commit the child or young person to a place of temporary care and protection or, on such security and on such conditions as the protector may require, to the custody of a relative or other fit person until the child or young person attains the age of 18 years or for any shorter period.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Inspection

17.—(1) A protector or any officer generally or specially authorised in that behalf in writing by a protector may at any time visit and inspect the place where any child or young person in respect of whom security has been furnished under section 16 lives or is believed to live or to be.

[20/2001]

(2) The protector or any such officer may inquire into the condition and circumstances of the child or young person and for the purposes of the inquiry, the protector or such officer may require any person to answer any question he may think proper to ask and that person shall be legally bound to answer such questions truthfully to the best of his ability.

[20/2001]

(3) Any person who obstructs or hinders or attempts to obstruct or hinder a protector or any such officer in the exercise of the powers conferred by this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Powers of arrest

18. A protector may, during or after any inquiry referred to in section 8, 14 or 17, arrest or cause to be arrested any person reasonably believed to have committed an offence under section 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 or 13 and seize and detain any article or document which he may have reason to believe relates to the offence.

General

Powers of search

19.—(1) A protector or any officer generally or specially authorised in that behalf in writing by a protector may enter and, for that purpose, use such force as may be reasonably necessary, and search any place where he has reasonable cause to suspect that an offence under this Act has been or is being committed.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Any person who obstructs or hinders or attempts to obstruct a protector or any such officer in the exercise of the powers conferred by this section shall be guilty of an offence.

When court may try offence

20. No court shall try any offence punishable under this Act except with the consent of the Public Prosecutor or a Deputy Public Prosecutor or upon a complaint made by —

- (a) a protector;
- (b) a Justice of the Peace;
- (c) a police officer not below the rank of sergeant; or

- (d) any other person authorised in writing by the Minister or by a protector, either by name or office, to make complaint of any offence under this Act.

[20/2001]

[15/2010 wef 02/01/2011]

Court may determine and declare age of child or young person

21.—(1) Where, in any proceedings under this Act, a person is alleged to be a child or young person, the court may, after making such inquiry as it thinks fit as to the age of that person, determine and declare his age.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, the age declared by the court under subsection (1) shall be deemed to be the true age of that person, unless the contrary is proved, in the same or any subsequent proceedings brought in relation to that person.

(3) Where a person is charged with an offence under this Act in respect of a person apparently under a specified age, it shall be a defence to prove that the person was actually of, or above, that age.

Offences and penalties

22. Any person who —

- (a) refuses to answer, to the best of his knowledge and belief, any question which he is legally bound to answer and which is asked of him by any officer appointed or authorised under this Act;
- (b) makes, signs or delivers or causes to be made, signed or delivered any wilfully false or incorrect notification, report or statement;
- (c) refuses to allow an officer appointed or authorised under this Act such entry or access to any place as he is required by this Act to allow; or
- (d) contravenes any order made by a protector under this Act,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Certificate of protector to be evidence

23. A certificate purporting to be under the hand of a protector as to any entry in a register or any other record or as to any matter or thing which he is authorised by this Act to make or to do shall be prima facie evidence of the entry having been made and of the contents thereof and of the matter or thing having been done or not done.

Maintenance of child or young person when committed to care of any person

24.—(1) Where under this Act a child or young person is committed to the care of any person —

- (a) that person shall, while the order of committal is in force, have the like control over the child or young person as if he were the parent of the child or young person and shall be responsible for the maintenance of the child or young person; and
- (b) the child or young person shall continue in the care of that person notwithstanding that he is claimed by his parent or guardian or any other person.

[20/2001]

(2) Any person who —

- (a) without lawful authority removes a child or young person from the custody of the person to whose care the child or young person has been committed under this Act;
- (b) knowingly assists or induces, directly or indirectly, a child or young person to escape from the person to whose care he has been committed under this Act; or

(c) knowingly —

- (i) harbours or conceals a child or young person who has escaped from the person to whose care he has been committed under this Act;
- (ii) prevents such child or young person from returning to the person to whose care he has been committed under this Act; or
- (iii) assists any other person in doing any of the acts mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(3) For the purposes of this section, a child or young person who, under this Act, is committed or sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home, a place of detention or a place of temporary care and protection shall be deemed to have been committed to the care of the manager of the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home, place of detention or place of temporary care and protection, as the case may be.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Contribution orders

25.—(1) Where an order has been made by a protector under section 16 committing a child or young person to a place of temporary care and protection or to the custody of a relative or other fit person, the protector may at the time of or subsequent to the making of such order make a further order (referred to in this section as a protector's contribution order) requiring the parent or guardian or the person having the custody of the child or young person at the time of the making of the order to contribute such weekly or monthly sum in respect of the maintenance of the child or young person as the protector having regard to his means thinks fit.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(2) It shall be the duty of the parent or guardian or other person to comply with the terms of a protector's contribution order.

(3) No protector's contribution order shall be made without giving the person ordered to make a contribution an opportunity to be heard.

(4) A protector's contribution order shall remain in force for so long as the committal order in respect of the child or young person is in force except that such order —

- (a) may be varied, revoked or suspended by the protector; and
- (b) shall not be so varied as to increase any contribution payable thereunder without giving the person making the contribution an opportunity to be heard.

[20/2001]

(5) If any person wilfully neglects to comply with a protector's contribution order made under this section, a court may, for every breach of the order, by warrant direct the amount due to be levied in the manner by law provided for levying fines imposed by a Magistrate's Court, or may sentence the person to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month for each month's contribution remaining unpaid.

Powers of District Court

26. Any power exercisable by a Magistrate's Court under this Part may also be exercised by a District Court.

Provision of places of temporary care and protection

27. The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette* —

- (a) appoint any place or institution to be a place of temporary care and protection under this Act; and
- (b) declare any orphanage, hospital, home, institution or other place to be a place of temporary care and protection for the purposes of this Act.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Restriction on publication of information leading to identification of child or young person who is subject of investigation, etc.

27A.—(1) No person shall, without the Director’s approval, publish or broadcast any information that identifies, or is likely to lead to the identification of any child or young person as a child or young person —

- (a) who has been or is the subject of any investigation under this Act;
- (b) who has been taken into care or custody by the Director, a protector or a police officer under this Act; or
- (c) who is the subject of an order made by a court under this Act.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) If any information or picture is published or broadcast in contravention of subsection (1) —

- (a) in the case of the publication of any information or picture as part of a newspaper or periodical publication, every proprietor, editor, publisher or distributor thereof;
- (b) in the case of the publication of any information or picture otherwise than as part of a newspaper or periodical publication, the person who publishes or distributes it; or
- (c) in the case of the broadcast of any information or picture, every person who transmits or provides the programme in which the information or picture is broadcast and every person having functions in relation to the programme corresponding to those of the editor of a newspaper or periodical publication,

shall jointly be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) In this section, “broadcast” and “publish” have the same meanings as in section 35(5).

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

PART III
YOUTH COURT

General consideration

28.—(1) Every court in dealing with a child or young person who is brought before it, either as being in need of care or protection, or as an offender or otherwise, shall have regard to the welfare of the child or young person and shall, in a proper case, take steps for removing him from undesirable surroundings, and for securing that proper provision is made for his education and training.

(2) A court shall not order a child below the age of 10 years to be sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a remand home or place of detention unless for any reason, including the want of a fit person of his own religious persuasion who is willing to undertake the care of him, the court is satisfied that he cannot suitably be dealt with otherwise.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Children and young persons not to associate with adult offenders

29. No child or young person while detained in a police station or while being conveyed to or from any court, or while waiting before or after attending in any criminal court, shall be permitted to associate with an adult (not being a relative) who is charged with an offence other than an offence with which the child or young person is jointly charged.

Bail of children and young persons arrested

30.—(1) Where a person apparently below the age of 16 years is arrested with or without warrant and he is not released, he shall be brought before a Youth Court.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) Where the person cannot be brought immediately before a Youth Court as required under subsection (1), the police officer or other officer from a law enforcement agency making the arrest shall,

without unnecessary delay, take or send the person arrested before a Magistrate.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) The Youth Court or Magistrate, as the case may be, before whom a person is brought under subsection (1) or (2) shall inquire into the case and shall determine whether —

- (a) the charge is one of an offence triable only by the High Court;
- (b) it is necessary in the interest of the person to remove him from association with any undesirable person;
- (c) the person is likely to abscond;
- (d) the person may commit further offences;
- (e) it is necessary to —
 - (i) prevent the loss or destruction of evidence relating to the offence with which the person is charged; or
 - (ii) prevent interference with any witness in respect of any such offence; or
- (f) there is reason to believe that the release of that person would otherwise defeat the ends of justice.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) If none of the circumstances referred to in subsection (3) exist, the Youth Court or Magistrate shall release the person on a bond, with or without sureties, for such amount as will, in the opinion of the Youth Court or Magistrate, secure the attendance of the person upon the hearing of the charge.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(5) The bond shall be entered into by the parent or guardian of the person or any other person responsible for the care and control of the person.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Attendance at court of parent or guardian of child or young person charged with an offence, etc.

31.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), where a child or young person is charged with any offence or is brought before a court under the provisions of this Act or any other Act —

- (a) his parent or guardian shall, unless the court otherwise orders, attend before the court during all stages of the proceedings; and
- (b) the court may compel the attendance of the parent or guardian as if he were required as a witness in the proceedings.

[20/2001]

(2) If it appears to a court to be necessary to do so in the interest of a child or young person, the court may require his parent or guardian to withdraw from the court.

[20/2001]

Constitution of Youth Court

32.—(1) [Deleted by Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) [Deleted by Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) A judge of a Youth Court, when determining the method of dealing with a child or young person in respect of whom a written report is obtained by the Youth Court regarding his background, family history, school record or such other matters, shall sit with 2 advisers from a panel of advisers nominated by the President except that where it appears that the Court cannot without adjournment be fully constituted and that an adjournment would be inexpedient in the interests of justice, he may sit with one adviser or he may sit alone.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3A) The functions of the panel of advisers referred to in subsection (3) shall be to inform and advise the Youth Court with respect to —

- (a) any matter or consideration which may affect the treatment of any child or young person; or

- (b) any order that may be made in respect of any child or young person brought before the Youth Court.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) Except as modified or extended by this Act, the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68) shall apply to a Youth Court as if that Court were a District Court.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Jurisdiction of Youth Court

33.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no child or young person shall be charged with or tried for any offence by a court of summary jurisdiction except a Youth Court.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) Where a child or young person is charged with any offence triable only by the High Court, he shall be tried by the High Court unless —

- (a) the Public Prosecutor applies to the Youth Court to try such offence; and

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

- (b) the legal representative of the child or young person concerned consents to the offence being tried by the Youth Court.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) Where a charge is made jointly against a child or young person and a person who has attained the age of 16 years, the charge shall be heard by a court of appropriate jurisdiction other than a Youth Court.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) Where, in the course of any proceedings before any court of appropriate jurisdiction other than a Youth Court, it appears that the person to whom the proceedings relate is a child or young person, the

court may, notwithstanding subsection (1), proceed with the hearing and determination of the proceedings if it thinks fit.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(5) A Youth Court shall have jurisdiction to try all offences which, but for subsections (1) and (2), would be triable only by a Magistrate's Court, a District Court or the High Court.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(6) A person who has attained the age of 16 years on the date of commencement of the hearing of the charge shall not be tried for any offence by a Youth Court.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(7) Where in the course of any trial before a Youth Court the child or young person to whom the trial relates attains the age of 16 years, nothing in subsection (6) shall prevent the Youth Court, if it thinks fit, from proceeding with the trial and dealing with the child or young person in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(8) In this section, "legal representative", in relation to a child or young person who is charged with an offence, includes any person assisting the child or young person in his defence to the charge.

[20/2001]

Place of sitting and persons who may be present

34.—(1) A Youth Court shall sit as often as may be necessary for the purpose of exercising any jurisdiction conferred on it by this or any other Act.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) A Youth Court shall sit either in a different building or room from that in which sittings of courts other than Youth Courts are held, or on different days from those on which sittings of the other courts are held, and no person shall be present at any sitting of a Youth Court except —

(a) members and officers of the Court;

- (b) parties to the case before the Court, their solicitors and counsel and witnesses and other persons directly concerned in that case;
- (c) bona fide representatives of newspapers or news agencies; and
- (d) such other persons as the Court may specially authorise to be present.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Restriction on publication of information relating to proceedings involving children and young persons

35.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall —

- (a) publish or broadcast any information relating to any proceedings in any court or on appeal from any court that reveals the name, address or school or that includes any particulars that are calculated to lead to the identification of any child or young person concerned in the proceedings, either as being the person against or in respect of whom the proceedings are taken or as being a witness therein; or
- (b) publish or broadcast any picture as being or including a picture of any child or young person so concerned in any such proceedings.

[20/2001]

(2) The court or the Minister may, if satisfied that it is in the interests of justice so to do, by order dispense with the requirements of subsection (1) to such extent as may be specified in the order.

[20/2001]

(3) If any information or picture is published or broadcast in contravention of subsection (1), the following persons:

- (a) in the case of the publication of any information or picture as part of a newspaper or periodical publication, any proprietor, editor, publisher or distributor thereof;
- (b) in the case of the publication of any information or picture otherwise than as part of a newspaper or periodical publication, the person who publishes or distributes it; or

- (c) in the case of the broadcast of any information or picture, any person who transmits or provides the programme in which the information or picture is broadcast and any person having functions in relation to the programme corresponding to those of the editor of a newspaper or periodical publication,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

[20/2001]

(4) Subsection (1) shall be in addition to, and not in derogation from, the provisions of any other written law with respect to the publication of information relating to judicial proceedings.

[20/2001]

(5) In this section —

“broadcast” means sounds or visual images broadcast by wireless telegraphy or by means of a high frequency distribution system over wire or other paths provided by a material substance and intended for general reception;

“publish”, in relation to any information or picture, means to bring the information or picture to the notice of the public or a section of the public by any means.

[20/2001]

Removal of disqualification or disability on conviction

36. A conviction or finding of guilt of a child or young person shall be disregarded for the purposes of any Act under which any disqualification or disability is imposed upon convicted persons.

Restrictions on punishment of children and young persons

37.—(1) A child shall not be sentenced or ordered to be imprisoned for any offence or be committed to prison in default of payment of a fine or costs.

(2) A young person shall not be ordered to be imprisoned for any offence, or be committed to prison in default of a fine, damages or costs, unless the court certifies that he is of so unruly a character that

he cannot be detained in a place of detention or a juvenile rehabilitation centre.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law, no child or young person shall be sentenced by any court other than the High Court to corporal punishment.

Punishment of certain grave crimes

38.—(1) Where a child or young person is convicted of murder, or of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, or of attempted murder, or of voluntarily causing grievous hurt, and the court is of opinion that none of the other methods by which the case may legally be dealt with is suitable, the court may sentence the offender to be detained for such period as may be specified in the sentence.

(2) Where a sentence has been passed under subsection (1), the child or young person shall, during that period, notwithstanding anything in the other provisions of this Act, be liable to be detained in such place and on such conditions as the Minister may direct.

(3) A person detained in pursuance of the directions of the Minister under this section shall, while so detained, be deemed to be in legal custody.

(4) Any person so detained may, at any time, be released by the Minister on licence.

(5) A licence referred to in subsection (4) may be in such form and contain such conditions as the Minister may direct and may at any time be revoked or varied by the Minister.

(6) Where a licence has been revoked, the person to whom the licence relates shall return to such place as the Minister may direct, and if he fails to do so he may be apprehended without warrant and taken to that place.

Power to order parent or guardian to pay fine, etc., instead of child or young person

39.—(1) Where a child or young person is charged before a Youth Court with any offence for the commission of which a fine may be imposed and damages or costs or both may be awarded, and the Court

is of the opinion that the case would be best met by the imposition of all or any of those penalties whether with or without any other punishment, the Court may, in such case, and shall, if the offender is a child, order that the fine imposed and damages or costs awarded be paid by the parent or guardian of the child or young person, unless the Court is satisfied that the parent or guardian cannot be found or that he has not conduced to the commission of the offence by neglecting to exercise due care of the child or young person.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) Where a child or young person is charged with any offence, a Youth Court may order his parent or guardian to give security for his good behaviour.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) Where a Youth Court thinks that a charge against a child or young person is proved, the Court may make an order on the parent or guardian under this section for the payment of damages or costs or requiring him to give security for the good behaviour of the child or young person, without proceeding to record a finding of guilt against the child or young person.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) An order under this section may be made against a parent or guardian who, having been required to attend, has failed to do so, but, subject to subsection (1), no such order shall be made without giving the parent or guardian an opportunity to be heard.

(5) Any sum imposed and ordered to be paid by the parent or guardian under this section, or on forfeiture of any such security, may be recovered from him in the manner provided by the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68) in like manner as if the order had been made on the conviction of the parent or guardian of the offence with which the child or young person was charged.

Power of other courts to remit juvenile offenders to Youth Court

40.—(1) Any court by or before which a child or young person is found guilty of an offence may, if it thinks fit, remit the case to a Youth Court.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) Where any such case is so remitted, the offender shall be brought before a Youth Court accordingly, and the Youth Court may deal with him in any way in which it might have dealt with him if he had been tried and found guilty by the Youth Court.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) No appeal shall lie against an order of remission made under subsection (1) but nothing in this subsection shall affect any right of appeal against the verdict or finding on which such an order is founded.

(4) A person aggrieved by the order of the Youth Court to which the case is remitted may appeal therefrom to the High Court as if he has been tried by, and had pleaded guilty before, the Youth Court.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(5) A court by which an order remitting a case to a Youth Court is made under this section —

- (a) may give such directions as appear to be necessary with respect to the custody of the offender or for his release on bail until he can be brought before a Youth Court; and
- (b) shall cause to be transmitted to the Youth Court to which the case has been remitted a certificate setting out the nature of the offence and stating that the case has been remitted for the purpose of being dealt with under this section.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Words “conviction” and “sentence” not to be used

41.—(1) The words “conviction” and “sentence” shall cease to be used in relation to children and young persons dealt with by a Youth Court.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) Any reference in any written law to a person convicted, a conviction or a sentence shall, in the case of a child or young person, be construed as including a reference to a person found guilty of an offence, a finding of guilt or an order made upon such a finding, as the case may be.

Procedure in Youth Court

42.—(1) Where a child or young person is brought before a Youth Court for any offence, it shall be the duty of the Court as soon as possible to explain to him in simple language suitable to his age and understanding the substance of the alleged offence.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) After explaining the substance of the alleged offence, the Youth Court shall ask the child or young person whether he admits the facts constituting the offence.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) If the child or young person does not admit the facts constituting the offence, the Youth Court shall then hear the evidence of the witnesses in support thereof.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) At the close of the evidence in chief of each witness, the witness may be cross-examined by or on behalf of the child or young person.

(5) The Youth Court shall, except in any case where the child or young person is legally represented, allow his parents or guardian or, in their absence, any relative or other responsible person to assist him in conducting his defence.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(6) If in any case where the child or young person is not legally represented or assisted in his defence as provided for in subsection (5), the child or young person, instead of asking questions by way of cross-examination, makes assertions, the Youth Court shall then put to the witness such questions as it thinks necessary on behalf of the child or young person and may, for this purpose, question the child or young person in order to bring out or clear up any point arising out of those questions.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(7) If it appears to the Youth Court that a prima facie case is made out, the Court shall explain to the child or young person the substance of the evidence against him and, in particular, any points therein which specially tell against him or require explanation and the child or young person shall be allowed to give evidence upon oath or

affirmation or to make a statement if he so desires and the evidence of any witness for the defence shall be heard.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(8) If the child or young person admits the offence or the Youth Court is satisfied that it is proved, he and his parent or guardian, if present, shall then be asked if they desire to say anything in extenuation or mitigation of the penalty or otherwise.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(9) Before deciding how to deal with him, the Youth Court may obtain such information as to his family background, general conduct, home surroundings, school record, medical history and state of development, as may enable it to deal with the case in the best interests of the child or young person, and may put to him any question arising out of such information.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(10) The information referred to in subsection (9) may include any written report of a probation officer, an approved welfare officer, a registered medical practitioner or any other person whom the Youth Court thinks fit to provide a report on the child, and may be received and considered by the Court without being read aloud.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(11) For the purpose of subsection (9), the Youth Court may —

- (a) require either or both the child or young person and the parent or guardian thereof to furnish such information or render such assistance to the Youth Court as the Court thinks necessary;
- (b) require either or both the child or young person and the parent or guardian thereof to undergo such medical, psychological or other assessment as the Youth Court thinks necessary; and
- (c) from time to time release the child or young person on bail or remand him in a place of detention in order to facilitate the carrying out of any requirement of the Youth Court under paragraph (a) or (b).

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(12) The costs of and incidental to any assessment under subsection (11)(b) shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the child or young person, unless the Youth Court directs otherwise.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(13) Where the Youth Court has received and considered a written report of a probation officer, an approved welfare officer, a registered medical practitioner or any other person whom the Court thinks fit to provide a report on the child or young person —

- (a) the child or young person shall be told the substance of any part of the report bearing on his character or conduct which the Court considers to be material to the manner in which he should be dealt with;
- (b) the parent or guardian, if present, shall be told the substance of any part of the report which the Court considers to be material to the manner in which the child or young person should be dealt with and which has reference to his character or conduct, or the character, conduct, home surroundings, or health of the child or young person; and
- (c) if the child or young person or his parent or guardian having been told the substance of any part of any such report desires to produce evidence with reference thereto, the Court, if it thinks the evidence material, shall adjourn the proceedings for the production of further evidence and shall, if necessary, require the attendance at the adjourned hearing of the person who made the report.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(14) If in any case the Youth Court considers it necessary in the interests of the child or young person, the Court may require the parent or guardian of the child or young person, as the case may be, to withdraw from the Court.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Presumption as to age

43.—(1) Where, in a charge for an offence triable under this Act, it is alleged that the person by whom the offence was committed was

below or had attained any specified age, and he appears to the court to have been at the date of the commission of the alleged offence below or to have attained the specified age, as the case may be, he shall for the purposes of this Act be presumed at that date to have been below or to have attained that age, as the case may be, and any order made therein shall not be invalidated by any subsequent proof that the age has been incorrectly stated.

(2) Where the court or a police officer dealing with any person by whom an offence is alleged to have been committed is in doubt as to the exact age of that person, the certificate of a registered medical practitioner who has assessed that person, stating to the effect that, in his opinion, that person has or has not attained a specified age, may be given in evidence.

[20/2001]

Powers of Youth Court on proof of offence

44.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where a Youth Court is satisfied that an offence has been proved, or where the child or young person (referred to in this section as the offender) admits the facts constituting the offence, the Court shall, in addition to any other powers exercisable by virtue of this Act or any other written law for the time being in force, have power —

- (a) to discharge the offender;
- (b) to discharge the offender upon his entering into a bond to be of good behaviour and to comply with such order as may be imposed;
- (c) to commit the offender to the care of a relative or other fit person for a period to be specified by the Court;
- (d) to order his parent or guardian to execute a bond to exercise proper care and guardianship and to abide by such order as the Court may make in relation to the welfare, maintenance and rehabilitation of the offender;
- (e) to make a probation order requiring the offender to be under the supervision of a probation officer or a volunteer probation officer for a period of not less than 6 months and not more than 3 years;

- (f) to make an order, in accordance with the prescribed requirements, requiring the offender to perform community service, not exceeding 240 hours in aggregate, of such nature and at such time and place and subject to such conditions as may be specified by the Court;
- (g) to order the offender to be detained in a place of detention for a period not exceeding 6 months;
- (h) to order the offender to be detained in a place of detention or an approved institution over such number of weekends, not exceeding 26, as the Court thinks fit;
- (i) to order the offender to be sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre for a period of not more than 3 years;
- (j) to order the offender to pay a fine, damages or costs;
- (k) to deal with the offender, or order the offender to be brought before a District Court to be dealt with, under section 305 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 if the offender —
 - (i) has attained the age of 16 years; or
 - (ii) having attained the age of 14 years but being below the age of 16 years, has previously been dealt with by a court in connection with another offence and had, in respect of that other offence, been ordered under paragraph (i) to be sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre established under section 64,

and the Youth Court is satisfied that it is expedient with a view to his reformation that he should undergo a period of training in a reformatory training centre.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the Youth Court shall have power —

- (a) to make the orders referred to in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) singly, or combine, in such manner as it thinks just and expedient in the circumstances —
- (i) any 2 or more of the orders referred to in subsection (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (j);
 - (ii) any order under subsection (1)(g) with any one or more of the orders referred to in subsection (1)(d), (e) and (j);
 - (iii) any order under subsection (1)(h) with any one or more of the orders referred to in subsection (1)(c), (d), (e), (f) and (j); or
 - (iv) any order under subsection (1)(i) with any one or more of the orders referred to in subsection (1)(d) and (j); and
- (b) without prejudice to paragraph (a)(ii) or (iii), to make an order under subsection (1)(h) to run consecutively to an order under subsection (1)(g).

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) Where the Youth Court makes an order under subsection (1)(g) for the detention of an offender in a place of detention in combination with a probation order under subsection (1)(e), the period of the offender's detention shall not exceed 3 months.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) [*Deleted by Act 3/2011 wef 20/07/2011*]

(5) If an offender, without reasonable excuse, contravenes any order made by the Youth Court under subsection (1) (referred to hereinafter as the original order) or any condition thereof, the Youth Court may make such order as is necessary for the offender to be produced before it and thereafter, deal with the offender by —

- (a) making any order that the Court is empowered to make under subsection (1);
- (b) varying the original order or any condition thereof; or

- (c) directing the offender to comply with the original order or any condition thereof to the extent that the original order or condition thereof has not been complied with.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(6) Where an offender, while being detained in a place of detention or a juvenile rehabilitation centre pursuant to an order under subsection (1)(g) or (i), is found guilty of another offence by the Youth Court, the Court may, instead of making a fresh order against the offender under subsection (1)(g) or (i), extend the period of detention that is being served by the offender.

[20/2001]

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(7) Where a Youth Court is satisfied, on the representations of the manager of a place of detention, a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety, that a person ordered to be detained in the place of detention, juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety is of so unruly a character that he cannot be so detained, the Court may —

- (a) order the person to be transferred to and detained in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or in another juvenile rehabilitation centre, as the case may be, which the Court considers more suitable for him and to be detained there for the whole or any part of the unexpired period of detention; or
- (b) deal with the person, or order the person to be brought before a District Court to be dealt with, under section 305 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 if the person —
- (i) has attained the age of 16 years; or
- (ii) having attained the age of 14 years but being below the age of 16 years, has previously been dealt with by a court in connection with another offence and had, in respect of that other offence, been ordered under subsection (1)(i) to be sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre,

and the Youth Court is satisfied that it is expedient with a view to his reformation that he should undergo a period of training in a reformatory training centre.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Power to convene juvenile case conference to deal with child or young person guilty of offence

45.—(1) Without prejudice to section 44, the Youth Court may, for the purpose of dealing with a child or young person who has been found guilty of committing an offence (referred to in this section as the offender), convene a juvenile case conference in accordance with the prescribed requirements and a juvenile case conference so convened may deal with the offender by —

- (a) reprimanding the offender;
- (b) administering a formal caution to the offender in the prescribed manner against further committing any offence;
- (c) requiring the offender to pay compensation to the victim of the offence in such manner and of such amount as may be determined by the juvenile case conference;
- (d) requiring the offender, in accordance with the prescribed requirements, to perform community service, not exceeding 240 hours in the aggregate, of such nature and at such time and place and subject to such conditions as may be specified by the juvenile case conference;
- (e) requiring the offender to apologise to the victim of the offence in such manner as may be specified by the juvenile case conference; or
- (f) requiring the offender to do such other act as the juvenile case conference thinks appropriate in the circumstances.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) In exercising its powers under this section, the juvenile case conference shall —

- (a) comply with the prescribed procedure; and
- (b) have regard to the orders which may be made by the Youth Court under section 44 for dealing with a person who has been found guilty by the Court of a comparable offence.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) If the offender fails —

- (a) to attend at the time and place appointed for a juvenile case conference; or
- (b) to comply with any requirement of the juvenile case conference,

the juvenile case conference shall report the matter to the Youth Court and the Court shall thereupon make such order as is necessary for the offender to be produced before the Court and thereafter deal with the offender as the Court thinks fit in accordance with section 44.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) A person who attends a juvenile case conference (not being the offender, the parent or guardian of the offender or any other member of the offender's family) shall not divulge any personal information obtained at the conference relating to any of those persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(5) Any person who contravenes subsection (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[44A

[20/2001]

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Additional orders which may be made by Youth Court in relation to child or young person found guilty of offence

46.—(1) Where a child or young person has been dealt with in connection with an offence by a court or by a juvenile case conference, the Youth Court may, on its own motion or on the application of the Director or a protector, make an additional order requiring either or both the child or young person and the parent or guardian thereof to undergo such counselling, psychotherapy or other programme or to partake in such activity as the Court thinks necessary for the purpose of —

- (a) resolving any relationship problems between the child or young person and the parent or guardian thereof;
- (b) rehabilitating or assisting in the rehabilitation of the child or young person;
- (c) enabling the parent or guardian of the child or young person to manage the child or young person; or
- (d) enhancing, promoting or protecting the physical, social and emotional well-being and safety of the child or young person.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) In making an order referred to in subsection (1), the Youth Court may require the parent or guardian of the child or young person to enter into a bond to comply with such order.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) Where the parent or guardian of any child or young person contravenes with any order made by the Youth Court under subsection (1), he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[44B

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Maximum age limit for detention in place of detention, juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety

47. Subject to section 77 —

- (a) no person shall be detained in a place of detention after he has attained the age of 18 years; and
- (b) no person shall be detained in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety after he has attained the age of 19 years.

[45

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Appeals

48. Any child or young person or his parent or guardian who is dissatisfied with any judgment or order of a Youth Court may appeal to the High Court against the judgment or order in accordance with the provision of any law in force for the time being regulating appeals to the High Court from a District Court.

[46

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Children and Young Persons in need of Care and Protection

Voluntary care agreements

48A. Where the Director is of the view that a voluntary care agreement will promote the welfare of a child or young person and it is practicable to enter into such voluntary care agreement with the parent or guardian of the child or young person, the Director may enter into such voluntary care agreement subject to such conditions and requirements as may be prescribed.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Procedure

48B.—(1) Subject to section 48C, all applications to a Youth Court under section 49 or 50 shall be made and heard in the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure as applications for summonses are made and heard under the provisions of the Criminal

Procedure Code 2010 (Act 15 of 2010) and an application under section 49 or 50 shall be deemed to be a complaint for the purposes of that Code.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, proceedings under section 49 or 50 shall not be treated as criminal proceedings.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Service of summons

48C.—(1) Every summons issued by a court in connection with any proceedings under section 49 or 50 may be served on the person concerned —

- (a) by delivering it to him;
- (b) by delivering it to any adult person who is a member of the family residing at his last known place of residence; or
- (c) by forwarding it by registered post in a cover addressed to him at his last known place of residence or business or at any address furnished by him.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Any summons sent by registered post to any person in accordance with subsection (1) shall be deemed to be duly served on the person to whom the summons is addressed at the time when the summons would in the ordinary course of post be delivered.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) In proving service by registered post, it shall be sufficient to prove that the cover containing the summons was properly addressed, stamped and posted by registered post.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Powers of Youth Court in respect of children and young persons in need of care or protection

49.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section and on the application made by the Director or a protector, if a Youth Court is satisfied that any person brought before it is a child or young person in need of care or protection, the Court may —

- (a) order the parent or guardian of the child or young person to enter into a bond to exercise proper care and guardianship of the child or young person for such period as may be specified by the Court;
- (b) order the child or young person to be committed to the care of a fit person for such period as may be specified by the Court;
- (c) order the child or young person to be committed to a place of safety or a place of temporary care and protection for such period as may be specified by the Court; or
- (d) without making any other order or in addition to an order under paragraph (a), (b) or (c), make an order placing the child or young person under the supervision of a protector, an approved welfare officer or any other person appointed for that purpose by the Court, for such period as may be specified by the Court.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) A Youth Court may, in making any order under subsection (1), impose such conditions or give such directions as it thinks fit for the purpose of ensuring the safety and well-being of the child or young person in respect of whom such order is made, and every person upon whom such conditions are imposed or to whom such directions are given shall comply with such conditions or directions.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) No order under subsection (1) shall be made without giving the parent or guardian of the child or young person an opportunity to attend and be heard.

[20/2001]

(3A) Where the Youth Court considers the presence of a child or young person or his parent or guardian to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the proceedings, the Court may compel the attendance of the child or young person or his parent or guardian by summons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3B) The Youth Court may dispense with the attendance of a child or young person in Court if it considers that the prejudicial effects, if any, of dispensing with his attendance is outweighed by any harm or injury to or any other detrimental effect on the welfare of the child or young person that will or may be caused to him by his attendance in Court.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), an order under subsection (1) may be made if the parent or guardian of the child or young person, having been required to attend, has failed to do so or cannot be found within a reasonable time.

[20/2001]

(5) In determining what order to be made under subsection (1), the Youth Court shall treat the welfare of the child or young person as the paramount consideration and shall endeavour to obtain such information as to the family background, general conduct, home environment, school record, medical history and state of development of the child or young person as may enable the Court to deal with the case in the best interests of the child or young person.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(6) For the purpose of subsection (5), the Youth Court may —

- (a) require any person who, in the opinion of the Court, is able to furnish any information regarding the child or young person to furnish to the Court such information as the Court may specify;
- (b) require the parent or guardian of the child or young person to render such assistance to the Court as the Court thinks necessary;
- (c) order the child or young person to be sent for an assessment by a registered medical practitioner or an approved welfare officer;

- (d) require the parent or guardian of the child or young person to undergo such medical, psychiatric, psychological or other assessment as the Court thinks necessary; and
- (e) from time to time adjourn the case for such period as it thinks necessary and make in respect of the child or young person, as an interim order having effect only during the period of adjournment, any order which it could have made under subsection (1).

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(7) Where the Youth Court requires any child or young person or the parent or guardian thereof to undergo any assessment under subsection (6)(c) or (d) —

- (a) the person carrying out the assessment shall provide a written report to the Court and a protector stating the results of his assessment, and such report may be received and considered by the Court without being read aloud; and
- (b) the costs of and incidental to any such assessment shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the child or young person, unless the Court directs otherwise.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(8) If the Youth Court is not satisfied that the child or young person brought before it is in need of protection, the Court may order that the child or young person be returned to the care and custody of his parent or guardian.

[20/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(9) The Youth Court may, at any time before the expiry of an order made under subsection (1) and on the application of the Director or a protector, vary or discharge the order if the Court is satisfied that it

would be in the best interests of the person in respect of whom the order was made.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(10) For the avoidance of doubt, where an order to be varied or discharged under subsection (9) is an order made under subsection (1)(b), (c) or (d) and involves a person who is above the age of 16 years (but below the age of 19 years) at the time the order is to be varied or discharged, the Youth Court shall not vary the period for which the person is to be detained, committed to care or placed under supervision, as the case may be.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(11) If the parent or guardian of the child or young person fails to enter into the bond within the time specified in the order made under subsection (1)(a) or breaches any condition of the bond, the parent or guardian shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[48

Children and Young Persons beyond Parental Control

Power of parent or guardian to bring child or young person before Youth Court

50.—(1) Where the parent or guardian of a child or young person proves to a Youth Court that he is unable to control the child or young person, the Court, may on the application made by the parent or guardian and if satisfied —

(a) that it is expedient so to deal with the child or young person; and

(b) that the parent or guardian understands the results which will follow from, and consents to, the making of the order,

may order the child or young person —

(i) to be placed on supervision under the supervision of an approved welfare officer or of some other person appointed

for the purpose by the Court for a period not exceeding 3 years; or

- (ii) to be sent to a place of safety for a period not exceeding 3 years.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(1A) Where the Youth Court requires further information to be provided as to the family background, general conduct, home environment, school record, medical history and state of development of the child or young person, the Court may order that the child or young person be kept in custody at such place as may be determined by a protector pending the receipt of such information by the Court.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) The provisions of section 49(5), (6) and (7) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, in respect of an order made by the Youth Court under subsection (1) as they apply in respect of an order made by the Youth Court under section 49(1).

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) The Youth Court may, on the application of the Director, a protector or the parent or guardian of any child or young person in respect of whom an order under subsection (1) has been made, vary or discharge the order if the Court is satisfied that it is in the best interests of the child or young person to do so.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, where an order to be varied or discharged under subsection (3) is an order made under subsection (1)(i) or (ii) and involves a person who is above the age of 16 years (but below the age of 19 years) at the time the order is to be varied or discharged, the Youth Court shall not vary the period for

which the person is to be placed on supervision or detained in a place of safety, as the case may be.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[49

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Additional powers of Youth Court

Additional orders which may be made by Youth Court in relation to child or young person in need of care and protection or beyond parental control

51.—(1) Where a child or young person has been dealt with under section 49 or 50, the Youth Court may, on its own motion or on the application of the Director or a protector, make an additional order requiring either or both the child or young person concerned and the parent or guardian thereof to undergo such mediation, counselling, psychotherapy or other assessment and treatment or to partake in such activity as the Court thinks necessary for the purpose of —

- (a) resolving any relationship problems between the child or young person and the parent or guardian thereof;
- (b) rehabilitating or assisting in the rehabilitation of the child or young person;
- (c) enabling the parent or guardian of the child or young person to manage the child or young person; or
- (d) enhancing, promoting or protecting the physical, social and emotional well-being and safety of the child or young person.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(2) In making an order referred to in subsection (1), the Youth Court may require the parent or guardian of the child or young person concerned to enter into a bond to comply with such order.

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) Where the parent or guardian of any child or young person fails to comply with any order or requirement of the Youth Court under

subsection (1) or (2), he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[20/2001]

[49A

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Failure to comply with requirements of supervision order

52. If it appears on information to the Youth Court that a child or young person against whom a supervision order made under section 50 is in force has failed to comply with any of the requirements of the supervision order, the Court may make a fresh order against the child or young person under that section.

[50

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

PART IIIA

LICENSING OF HOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Homes for children and young persons to be licensed

52A.—(1) No person shall operate a home for children and young persons except under the authority of and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence issued by the Director.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Any —

(a) person who operates a home for children and young persons without a licence issued by the Director under subsection (1);
or

(b) licensee who breaches any term or condition of the licence in respect of a licensed home for children and young persons,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Application for licence

52B.—(1) An application for the issuance or renewal of a licence shall be made to the Director in such form as may be prescribed.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) A licensee who wishes to renew his licence must make an application for the renewal of his licence at least 6 months before the expiry of his licence.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) On receipt of an application, the Director may, in his discretion —

- (a) issue or renew a licence subject to such terms and conditions as he may think fit to impose; or
- (b) refuse to issue or renew the licence.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(4) The Director may refuse to issue or renew a licence if —

- (a) the Director is not satisfied that —
 - (i) the applicant is a fit or proper person to hold or continue to hold a licence in respect of a home for children and young persons; or
 - (ii) where the applicant is a body corporate, any member of the board of directors, the committee, board of trustees or other governing body of the body corporate is a fit and proper person;
- (b) the premises are unfit to be used as a home for children and young persons by reason of the situation, construction, accommodation, staffing, cleanliness or equipment or any other condition of the premises of the proposed home;
- (c) the premises to be used as a home for children and young persons do not comply with the prescribed requirements;
- (d) the home for children and young persons would not be under the continuous personal management and supervision of a person of sufficient qualifications and experience to ensure the satisfactory operation of the home; or

(e) it is not in the public interest to issue or renew the licence.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(5) In deciding for the purposes of this section whether a person is a fit and proper person, the Director may consider any of the following matters as indicating that the person may not be a fit and proper person:

(a) that the person associates with a criminal in a way that indicates involvement in an unlawful activity;

(b) that in dealings in which the person has been involved, the person or officer —

(i) has shown dishonesty or lack of integrity; or

(ii) has used harassing tactics;

(c) that the person is or was suffering from a mental disorder; or

(d) that the person is an undischarged bankrupt or has entered into a composition with his debtors.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(6) Subsection (5) shall not be construed so as to limit the circumstances in which a person or an officer of a business entity may be considered by the Director not to be a fit and proper person.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(7) Where the Director refuses to issue a licence, he shall state in writing the reasons for his refusal.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Fee for and duration of licence

52C.—(1) On the issue or renewal of a licence, the licensee shall pay a fee of such amount as may be prescribed.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Unless earlier revoked, a licence shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of its issue or such shorter period as may be specified in the licence in any particular case.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Display of licence

52D.—(1) Every licensee shall cause his or its licence to be permanently displayed in a conspicuous place in the home for children

and young persons to which the licence relates where the licence can readily be seen by all persons having access to that home for children and young persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Any licensee who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$100 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Transfer of licence

52E.—(1) On an application in writing signed by the licensee of any licensed home for children and young persons and by the person to whom the licensee desires to transfer the licence (referred to in this section as the transferee), the Director may, if he thinks fit, either by way of endorsement on the licence or otherwise in writing, transfer the licence to the transferee, and thereupon the transferee shall become the licensee of the home for children and young persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) The Director may refuse to approve the transfer of a licence on any of the grounds on which —

- (a) he could have refused to issue a licence to the transferee under section 52B; or
- (b) he could have revoked the licence under section 52L.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Inspection of homes for children and young persons

52F.—(1) The Director and any officer authorised by him may —

- (a) at any time, enter and inspect —
 - (i) any licensed home for children and young persons; or
 - (ii) any premises which he has reason to suspect are used for the purposes of a home for children and young persons without a licence;
- (b) require any person taking part in the operation or management of a licensed home for children and young persons to —

- (i) produce any record, document or other article relating to the management of that home for children and young persons or to any other activity in respect of the home for children and young persons; and
 - (ii) furnish any other information relating to such management or activity;
- (c) remove for further examination any record, document or other article which he has reason to suspect is evidence of the commission of an offence under this Act, or is evidence of a ground for —
- (i) the suspension or revocation of the licence of a person in respect of a home for children and young persons; or
 - (ii) where the home for children and young persons is a juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety, the cancellation of the certificate of appointment of the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety; and
- (d) do such other things as are necessary for the inspection of a licensed home for children and young persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Any person who prevents or obstructs the Director or any officer authorised by him in the execution of his powers, or refuses to produce any record, document, article or other information upon being required to do so under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) In this section, a reference to a record, document, article or information includes any record, document, article or information which exists in any form or medium.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Review Board

52G.—(1) The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint such persons as he may think fit to be the members of the Review Board.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) The members of the Review Board shall hold office for such period as may be specified in the notification referred to in subsection (1).

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) The functions of the Review Board shall be to —

- (a) review the living conditions in and the standard of care and supervision provided by any licensed home for children and young persons to the children and young persons residing therein;
- (b) review all cases of children and young persons admitted to a licensed home for children and young persons with a view to ensuring that a proper care plan is in place for such children and young persons; and
- (c) advise the Director on —
 - (i) whether any child or young person who has been placed in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety, may be released on licence from the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety at any time before the completion of his full period of detention; and
 - (ii) the conditions subject to which such child or young person should be released.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(4) Every member of the Review Board appointed under subsection (1) may enter at any time any licensed home for children and young persons and make such inquiries or examination therein as appear to him necessary and shall also make such reports as may be required by the Minister.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(5) Any person who refuses admittance to any such member of the Review Board appointed under subsection (1) or offers any hindrance or obstruction to such member after his identity is reasonably established shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(6) For the purpose of this section, a proper care plan must meet such requirements as may be specified by the Director.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Director may direct remedial measures

52H.—(1) The Director may, in respect of any licensed home for children and young persons, by notice in writing, give such directions as he thinks necessary to ensure that —

- (a) it is operated and managed satisfactorily;
- (b) the welfare of the children and young persons residing in the home is properly safeguarded and promoted; and
- (c) the provisions of this Act are complied with.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, a direction under subsection (1) may include a direction requiring the licensee of a licensed home for children and young persons to suspend any staff of the home from his duties.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) A notice under subsection (1) shall —

- (a) be served upon the licensee of the home for children and young persons; and
- (b) specify the period of time within which a direction shall be complied with.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Duty to furnish information

52I.—(1) The Director may, from time to time, by notice in writing, require the licensee of a home for children and young persons to furnish such information as the Director may require relating to —

- (a) the staff and residents;
- (b) the condition or treatment of any resident;
- (c) the premises of the home, the accommodation provided at the home and the environment at the home; and

- (d) any matter relevant to the administration or enforcement of this Act.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

- (2) A licensee who on receipt of any notice under subsection (1) —

- (a) refuses or fails to furnish any information required by the Director; or

- (b) gives any false or misleading information,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Director may order closure of home for children and young persons

- 52J.**—(1) If the Director has reason to believe that —

- (a) the premises of a licensed home for children and young persons are unfit or unsafe for use as such; or

- (b) the safety or welfare of the children and young persons residing in the home is being endangered,

he may, by order in writing, direct the immediate closure of the home for children and young persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

- (2) The Director may make an order under subsection (1) notwithstanding that the licence in respect of the home for children and young persons has not been cancelled, revoked or suspended.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

- (3) An order under this section shall be served on the licensee of the home for children and young persons and shall take effect from the date of the service thereof.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

- (4) It shall be sufficient service of an order under this section if —

- (a) it is delivered personally to the licensee;

- (b) it is sent by registered post to the last known residential or business address of the licensee; or

- (c) a copy of the order is posted in a conspicuous place on or in the premises of the home for children and young persons to which the order relates.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(5) Any person who fails to comply with an order served on him under this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Cancellation of licence at request of licensee

52K.—(1) The licensee of any licensed home for children and young persons may, upon giving 6 months' prior notice of his intention to do so, apply for the cancellation of the licence issued in respect of the licensed home for children and young persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) The executor or administrator of a deceased licensee, may, upon giving one month's prior notice in writing of his intention to do so, apply for the cancellation of the licence issued in respect of the licensed home for children and young persons.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) Where a notice has been given under subsection (1) or (2) and has not been withdrawn, the licence shall be deemed to be cancelled upon the expiry of the notice period referred to in that subsection.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Revocation and suspension of licence

52L.—(1) The Director may revoke or suspend a licence to use any premises as a home for children and young persons —

- (a) on any of the grounds on which he could have refused to issue a licence under section 52B;
- (b) if the licensee fails to comply with any direction given by the Director under section 52H;
- (c) if the premises has ceased to be used as a home for children and young persons;

- (d) if in the opinion of the Director —
- (i) the standard of care available to or provided to any resident in the home is unsatisfactory;
 - (ii) any resident has been ill-treated or neglected in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering to him or has been kept in an environment that is injurious to his mental or physical health;
 - (iii) the premises of the home are in such a condition, or the home is managed or conducted in such a manner, that the revocation of the licence is required in the interests of the residents or in the public interest;
- (e) if a licensee is convicted of any offence under this Act; or
- (f) if a licensee has contravened or failed to comply with any of the provisions of this Act or any condition specified in the licence issued to him.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Before revoking or suspending a licence, the Director shall give notice to the licensee of the ground or grounds on which he proposes to revoke or suspend the licence and shall give the licensee an opportunity to show cause as to why the licence should not be revoked or suspended.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) A licensee who wishes to show cause against the revocation or suspension of the licence shall submit his reasons in writing to the Director within 14 days after the date of the notice given by the Director under subsection (2), failing which the Director may nonetheless proceed to revoke or suspend the licence, as the case may be.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(4) The Director shall give written notice to the licensee of the Director's decision to revoke or suspend a licence.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Effect of cancellation, revocation or suspension of licence

52M.—(1) Where the licence of a home for children and young persons is cancelled under section 52K, or revoked or suspended

under section 52L, the home shall cease to be used as such with effect from the date on which the licence is cancelled, revoked or suspended, as the case may be.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, subsection (1) shall have effect notwithstanding any appeal by the licensee to the Minister under section 52O.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Discharge or transfer of children and young persons

52N. When the licence of a home for children and young persons is cancelled, revoked or suspended, or the Director has ordered its immediate closure under section 52J, the children and young persons residing therein shall by order of the Minister, either be discharged or transferred to another licensed home for children and young persons specified in the order.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Appeal

52O. Any person aggrieved by any decision of the Director under section 52B or 52L may, within 21 days after the date of the written notice of the decision, appeal to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Exemption

52P.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), this Part shall not apply to —

(a) any home for children and young persons which is operated by the Government;

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(b) any child care centre licensed under the Child Care Centres Act (Cap. 37A);

(c) any school which is registered under the Education Act (Cap. 87);

(d) any home for children and young persons which is, and is operated exclusively as, an approved institution under the Probation of Offenders Act (Cap. 252);

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(e) any place where a child or young person is being cared for by a parent, family member or foster parent; and

(f) such other home for children and young persons as may be prescribed.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Sections 52F and 52G shall apply to a home for children and young persons under the management or control of the Government.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Regulations for this Part

52Q.—(1) The Minister may make regulations for the purposes of this Part and, in particular, for the management of licensed homes for children and young persons and for the maintenance of order and discipline of the staff and of the persons residing in such homes.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Minister may make regulations providing for all or any of the following matters:

(a) the forms, fees and registers for the purposes of this Act;

(b) the operation, management and supervision of a licensed home for children and young persons;

(c) the duties and responsibilities of licensees of licensed homes for children and young persons;

(d) the standard of care and supervision of children and young persons residing in a licensed home for children and young persons;

(e) the control and supervision of activities in a licensed home for children and young persons;

(f) the keeping of records;

(g) the reports and information to be supplied to the Director in respect of a licensed home for children and young persons;

(h) the prescribing of anything which may be prescribed under this Part.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) The Director may, by notice in writing to the licensee of a licensed home for children and young person, vary or waive wholly, partly or conditionally the requirements of any regulation in respect of that home for children and young persons and may amend or withdraw any such notice.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

PART IV

REMAND HOMES

Custody of children and young persons not released on bail

53.—(1) The Minister may provide or appoint such remand homes as may be required for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Whenever any person apparently below the age of 16 years has been arrested and is not released on bail, any police officer shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other written law, cause that person to be remanded in a remand home until he can be brought before a court unless the officer certifies —

- (a) that it is impracticable to do so;
- (b) that he is of so unruly a character that he cannot be safely so remanded; or
- (c) that by reason of his state of health or of his mental or bodily condition it is inadvisable to so remand him.

(3) The certificate shall be produced to the court before which the person is brought.

[51]

Remand of or committal to custody in remand home

54.—(1) A court on remanding a child or young person who is not released on bail shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other written law, instead of remanding him in custody in a prison, remand him in custody in a remand home named in the order of

remand for the period for which he is remanded or until he is from that place delivered in due course of law.

(2) A court committing for trial a child or young person who is not released on bail shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other written law, instead of committing him to prison, commit him to a remand home, to be remanded there for the period for which he is committed or until he is delivered from that place in due course of law.

(2A) Where an order made by the Youth Court in respect of a child or young person under section 44(1) has been contravened, the Youth Court may, notwithstanding that the person is above the age of 16 years (but below the age of 19 years) at the time of the contravention, order that the person be remanded in a remand home pending any further order by the Court on how he is to be dealt with.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any person whilst being subject to the jurisdiction of the Youth Court who has attained the age of 16 years but is below the age of 19 years may be remanded at a remand home.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), in the case of a young person it shall not be obligatory on the court to remand him in or commit him to a remand home under those subsections if the court certifies that it is impracticable to do so, or that he is of so unruly a character that he cannot be safely so remanded or committed, and in that case the court may remand the young person to custody in, or may commit him to, a prison.

(5) An order of remand or committal under this section may be varied or, in the case of a young person who proves to be of so unruly a character that he cannot be safely remanded in a remand home, revoked by any court; and if it is revoked the young person may be remanded in custody in, or committed to, a prison.

(6) The order or judgment in pursuance of which a child or young person is committed to custody in a remand home shall be delivered with the child or young person to the person in charge of the remand

home and shall be sufficient authority for his remand in that place in accordance with the tenor thereof.

(7) A child or young person while so remanded, and while being conveyed to and from the remand home, shall be deemed to be in lawful custody, and if he escapes may be apprehended without warrant and brought back to the remand home in which he was remanded.

[52

PART V

PLACES OF DETENTION

Provision of places of detention

55.—(1) The Minister may provide or appoint such places of detention as may be required for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The order or judgment in pursuance of which a child or young person is committed to custody in a place of detention shall be delivered with the child or young person to the person in charge of the place of detention and shall be sufficient authority for his detention in that place in accordance with the tenor thereof.

(3) A child or young person while so detained and while being conveyed to and from the place of detention shall be deemed to be in lawful custody, and if he escapes may be apprehended without warrant and brought back to the place of detention in which he was detained.

(4) When any person is, under the provisions of this Act, committed by an order or judgment of a court to a place of detention, the order or judgment shall not be invalidated by any subsequent proof that the person is not a child or young person; but in that case it shall be lawful for the court before which such proof is brought to order the production of the person before it for inquiry and, if it thinks fit, to revoke the order of committal; and the order shall thereupon be cancelled.

[53

PART VI

JUVENILE REHABILITATION CENTRES
AND PLACES OF SAFETY

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Minister may appoint juvenile rehabilitation centres and places of safety

56.—(1) The manager of any institution intended for the reception, care and rehabilitation of persons to be sent there under this Act may apply to the Minister to appoint the institution as a juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) The Minister may, after directing the Director to make such inquiries as he thinks fit, so appoint the institution and issue a certificate of appointment and approval to the manager thereof, and such certificate shall be published in the *Gazette*.

(3) Any institution appointed under subsection (2) shall, while that certificate remains in force, be an appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety for the purposes of this Act.

[54

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Manager may make regulations with approval of Minister

57. The manager of an appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations for the regulation and management of the institution under his charge.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[55

Manager shall send monthly report to Director

58. The manager of an appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety shall send a monthly report to the Director containing

such particulars as may be required by the regulations for the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety.

[56

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Minister may cancel certificate

59.—(1) A report on the condition of any appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety shall be made to the Minister by the Director if the Director is dissatisfied with the condition of the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(2) The Minister may, upon consideration of this report, cancel his certificate and, upon notice in writing of such cancellation having been given to the manager thereof, the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety shall cease to be an appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety from such time as is specified in the notice, and such cancellation shall be notified in the *Gazette*.

[57

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Manager or his executor or administrator may cancel certificate

60.—(1) The manager of any appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety may, upon giving 6 months' previous notice, and the executors and administrators of a deceased manager may, upon giving one month's previous notice in writing of his or their intention to do so, apply for the cancellation of the certificate given to the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety.

[20/2001]

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Where a notice has been given under subsection (1) and has not been withdrawn, the certificate shall be deemed on the expiration of the notice to be cancelled, and such cancellation shall be published in the *Gazette*.

[58

Duties of managers

61. The manager of an appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety shall carry out all duties necessary for the reception, care and rehabilitation of any child or young person sent to him under this Act for the period which the child or young person is liable to be detained or until the certificate is cancelled.

[59]

Effect of cancellation of certificate

62. Whenever the certificate of an appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety is cancelled under section 59, no child or young person shall be received into the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety, under any of the provisions of this Act, after notice in writing of such cancellation is given to the manager of the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety.

[60]

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]***Discharge or transfer of juveniles**

63.—(1) When the certificate of an appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety is cancelled, the persons resident therein shall be, by order of the Minister, either discharged or transferred to some other appointed juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety or to a juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety established under section 64.

[3/2011 20/07/2011]

(2) The whole period of detention for which any person was sent to such juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety shall not be increased by the transfer.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[61]

Minister may establish juvenile rehabilitation centres and places of safety

64.—(1) The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, establish such juvenile rehabilitation centres and places of safety as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Every such order shall specify the premises in which the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety to which it refers is to be established and shall state whether the same is to be used for male or female persons, or both.

[62

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Control and management of juvenile rehabilitation centres and places of safety established under section 64

65.—(1) Juvenile rehabilitation centres and places of safety established by the Minister under section 64 shall be under the control and management of —

- (a) the Director; or
- (b) a governing board consisting of such persons as may be appointed by the Minister.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(2) In controlling and managing any juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety established under section 64, the Director or a governing board appointed under subsection (1)(b) shall have the powers, functions and duties conferred or imposed on the manager of a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety by this Act.

[63

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Director may make regulations for juvenile rehabilitation centres and places of safety

66. The Director may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations for the management of juvenile rehabilitation centres or places of safety established under the provisions of this Act and for the

maintenance of order and discipline of the staff and the persons detained therein.

[64

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

67. *[Repealed by Act 3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]*

PART VII

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PERSONS BEING DETAINED IN JUVENILE REHABILITATION CENTRES, PLACES OF SAFETY, REMAND HOMES AND PLACES OF DETENTION

Duties and powers of manager of juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention in respect of persons detained therein

68.—(1) Without prejudice to section 61, the manager of a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention shall have the following duties in respect of persons who are detained therein under this Act:

- (a) to prevent the escape of such persons from lawful custody;
- (b) to prevent, detect and report on, the commission or attempted commission by such persons of any other unlawful acts;
- (c) to ensure good order and discipline on the part of such persons;
- (d) to attend to the well-being of such persons; and
- (e) to carry out in respect of such persons such other duties as may be prescribed.

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]*

(2) For the purpose of discharging his duties under subsection (1), the manager of a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention may —

- (a) give to any person being detained in the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention any order that the manager believes on reasonable grounds to be necessary —

- (i) for the security or good order in the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention;
 - (ii) for the welfare or safe custody of that person or the other persons being detained in the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention; or
 - (iii) for ensuring that that person or any other person being detained in the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention does not commit any offence or any breach of discipline;
- (b) require any person being detained in the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention to provide any information or answer any question that may be relevant to any duty being performed by the manager;
- (c) search any person being detained in the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention and any article in the possession of such person;
- (d) use such force as is reasonable and necessary —
- (i) to compel a person being detained in the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention to obey any order or requirement given or made by the manager under this section; or
 - (ii) to restrain any such person who is attempting or preparing to commit or is committing any offence or any breach of discipline; and
- (e) exercise such other powers as may be conferred on him by this Act.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(3) In this section, the reference to the manager of a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention includes any person assisting the manager of the juvenile

rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention in the management thereof.

[66

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]*

Minister may discharge or transfer any person from one juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety or place of detention to another

69.—(1) The Minister may at any time, notwithstanding any order made by any court, order any person to be discharged from any juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety or place of detention or to be transferred from one juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety or place of detention to another.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) The whole period of detention for which any person was sent to such juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety or place of detention shall not be increased by the transfer.

[67

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]*

Illness of child or young person detained

70.—(1) In the case of the serious illness of any child or young person who is detained in a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention under the provisions of this Act, in which there is no suitable facilities for the child or young person, the manager of such juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention may, on the certificate of a registered medical practitioner, make an order for his admittance to an approved hospital.

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]*

(2) So long as any child or young person who has been removed to an approved hospital under subsection (1) remains therein, the registered medical practitioner thereof shall, at the end of every month, transmit to the manager of the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention where the child or

young person was detained a certificate signed by him that it is in his opinion necessary that he should remain in the approved hospital.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(3) In this section, “approved hospital” includes any hospital which the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, declare to be a hospital for the purposes of this section.

[68

Return from approved hospital to juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention

71.—(1) So soon as, in the opinion of the registered medical practitioner in charge in any approved hospital, it is no longer necessary that any child or young person who has been removed to the approved hospital should remain therein, he shall transmit to the manager of the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention where the child or young person was detained a certificate stating that the necessity has ceased.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Upon the transmission of the certificate, the manager shall immediately cause the child or young person to be brought back to the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention if he is still liable to be detained therein.

[69

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Duty to inform manager

72. Where a child or young person detained in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety is admitted to an approved hospital, it shall be the duty of a registered medical practitioner or any officer of the approved hospital to inform the manager of the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety, if he has reason to believe that the child or young person may escape.

[70

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Special custody in hospital

73.—(1) Where in any case, from the gravity of the offence for which any child or young person may be in custody or for any other reason, the manager of the place where the child or young person is detained considers it to be desirable to take special measures for the security of the child or young person while under treatment in an approved hospital, it shall be lawful for the manager to give the child or young person into the charge of at least one fit and proper person who shall always be with the child or young person day and night.

(2) The person referred to in subsection (1) shall be vested with full power and authority to do all things necessary to prevent the child or young person from escaping, and shall be answerable for his safe custody until such time as he is handed over to the manager on his discharge from the approved hospital or until such time as his period of detention expires, whichever is earlier.

[71
[20/2001]

Power of Director or protector to give consent to medical examination or medical treatment to child or young person in need thereof

74. Where a child or young person who has been committed to the care of a fit person or who is being detained in a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, an approved institution, a remand home, a place of detention, a place of temporary care and protection or any other place being used for the reception and care of children or young persons is in need of any medical examination or medical treatment (including any surgical procedure) and —

- (a) the consent of the parent or guardian of the child or young person to such medical examination or medical treatment cannot be obtained despite all reasonable efforts; and
- (b) any delay in carrying out the medical examination or medical treatment would cause the child or young person unnecessary suffering or endanger his health,

the Director or a protector may give consent to the carrying out of such medical examination or medical treatment and any consent so given

shall, for all intents and purposes, be sufficient consent and authorisation for the carrying out of the medical examination or medical treatment.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[71A
[20/2001]

Saving of powers of High Court

75. Nothing contained in this Act shall be held to lessen or affect the powers of the Judges of the High Court to direct persons confined in Singapore to be brought before the Court by an Order for Review of Detention.

[42/2005 wef 01/01/2006]

[72

Review of cases of persons ordered to be detained in juvenile rehabilitation centres or places of safety

76.—(1) The manager of any juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety shall review all cases of children or young persons committed to the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety under section 44 or 50 and may, after such review, recommend to the Director that any child or young person shall be released on licence.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) The Director, on the advice of the Review Board and notwithstanding any order made by any court, shall have power to order the release on licence of any person who has been detained in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety, at any time before the completion of his full period of detention and on such conditions as may be stated by the Director in the order, including a condition that he shall be under the supervision of such person as may be specified in the order.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) The Director may at any time modify or cancel any of the conditions.

(4) *[Deleted by Act 3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]*

(5) *[Deleted by Act 3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]*

(6) If a person released from a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety on licence by order of the Director fails to comply with any condition of his licence, the Director may order the return of that person to the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety from which he was released, to be detained there for the unexpired portion of his original period of detention or such shorter period as the Director thinks fit.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(7) Where a person has returned to the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety under subsection (6), the Director may, on the advice of the Review Board, order the release on licence of that person if he has served a minimum period of 6 months under detention after his return.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(8) If any person while under licence or after his recall is sentenced to imprisonment, any period for which he is imprisoned under that sentence shall count as part of the period for which he is liable to detention in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety under his original detention order.

[73

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Escape from juvenile rehabilitation centres or places of safety

77.—(1) Every person detained under this Act in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety shall serve the full period of his detention as ordered by the court and shall be deemed to be in lawful custody until he is lawfully discharged therefrom.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(2) If any person who is being detained under this Act in a juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety escapes from the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety before the expiry of his period of detention —

- (a) he may be apprehended without warrant by a police officer or an approved welfare officer and brought back to the juvenile

rehabilitation centre or place of safety by the police officer or approved welfare officer, as the case may be; and

- (b) the period of his detention in the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety shall be extended by the period (as computed by the manager of the juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety) for which he was at large.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(3) Notwithstanding anything stated in this section, no person shall be detained in any juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety after he attains the age of 19 years and 6 months.

[74

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Penalties for assisting or inducing persons to escape and for harbouring or concealing escaped persons

78. Any person who —

- (a) knowingly assists, directly or indirectly, any person legally detained in any juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety or place of detention or committed to the care or custody of a person or detained in any approved hospital to escape therefrom;
- (b) induces any such person so to escape; or
- (c) knowing that any such person ordered to be detained or committed has escaped from any such juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety or place of detention or from the care or custody of a person or from an approved hospital, harbours or conceals or assists in harbouring or concealing that person, or causes or induces him not to return to such school, home, person, place of detention or approved hospital,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[75

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Prohibition against conveying certain articles to persons being detained in juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention

79. Any person who without lawful authority —

- (a) conveys, supplies or causes to be conveyed or supplied to any person being detained in a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention; or
- (b) hides or places in a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention for the use of any person being detained therein,

any letter or document, or any intoxicating liquor, tobacco, drug, opiate, money, clothing, provisions, toiletry or any other article shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[75A

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

Evidence of orders of Minister

80. A copy under the hand of the Director shall be evidence of any order, authority or direction given by the Minister under the provisions of this Act.

[76

Presumption

81. The production of the warrant or other document, in pursuance of which a child or young person is directed to be sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention or committed to the care or custody of a person or directed to be sent to an approved hospital, with a statement endorsed thereon or annexed thereto purporting to be signed by the manager of the juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, place of detention, remand home or approved hospital or by the person to whose care or custody the child or young person is committed, as the case may be, to the effect that the child or young person named therein was duly —

- (a) received into and is at the date of the signing thereof detained in such juvenile rehabilitation centre, place of safety, remand home or place of detention; or
- (b) taken into his care or custody and is at the date of signing thereof still in his care or custody, or has been otherwise dealt with according to law,

shall in all proceedings relating to that child or young person be prima facie evidence of the identity and of the lawful detention or disposal of the child or young person named in that warrant or document.

[77

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]*

Evidence

82. A copy of the regulations of a juvenile rehabilitation centre, a place of safety, a remand home or a place of detention appointed or established under the provisions of this Act or of an approved hospital, purporting to be signed by the Director shall be evidence of such regulations in all legal proceedings.

[78

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]*

PART VIII

EXPENSES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions by parents or guardians

83. Where an order has been made by a Youth Court under any of the provisions of this Act committing a child or young person to the care of a fit person, or sending the child or young person to a place of temporary care and protection, place of detention, juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety, it shall be the duty of a parent or guardian or other person having the custody of the child or

young person to make contributions in respect of the maintenance of the child or young person.

[79

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]*

Contribution order

84.—(1) When an order has been made by a Youth Court committing a child or young person to the care of a fit person or sending the child or young person to a place of temporary care and protection, a place of detention, a hostel, a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety, the Court which makes the order may, at the same time or subsequently, make an order (referred to in this section as a contribution order) on the parent or guardian or person having the custody of the child or young person requiring him to contribute such weekly or monthly sum as the Court, having regard to the means of the parent, guardian or person having the custody of the child or young person, thinks fit.

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]*

(2) An order made under subsection (1) may be made against a parent or guardian or person having the custody of the child or young person, who, having been required to attend, has failed to do so.

(3) Subject to subsection (2), no such order shall be made without giving the parent or guardian or person having the custody of the child or young person an opportunity to be heard.

(4) A contribution order shall remain in force —

(a) in the case of a child or young person committed to the care of a fit person, so long as the order for his committal is in force; and

(b) in the case of a child or young person ordered to be sent to a place of temporary care and protection, place of detention, juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety, until he ceases to be under the care of the person in charge for the time being of such place of temporary care and protection, place of detention, juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(5) No contribution shall be payable under a contribution order in respect of any period during which a person ordered to be sent to a place of temporary care and protection, place of detention, juvenile rehabilitation centre or place of safety is released on licence from a juvenile rehabilitation centre or a place of safety or placed under the supervision of an approved welfare officer.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

[20/2001]

(6) A contribution order made under this section —

(a) may be varied, revoked or suspended by the Youth Court; and
[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

(b) shall not be so varied as to increase any contribution payable thereunder without giving the person making the contribution an opportunity to be heard.

(7) If any person wilfully neglects to comply with a contribution order made under this section, the Youth Court may, for every breach of the order, by warrant, direct the amount due to be levied in the manner by law provided for levying fines imposed by a Magistrate's Court, or may sentence the person to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month for each month's contribution remaining unpaid.

[80

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

PART IX

MISCELLANEOUS

Powers of Youth Court conferred on other courts

85. Except as otherwise provided, nothing in this Act shall affect the powers of a Magistrate's Court, a District Court or the High Court, and all the powers which may be exercised under this Act by a Youth Court may, in like manner, be exercised by a Magistrate's Court, a District Court or the High Court.

[83

[20/2001]

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/10/2014]

Protection from personal liability

86. No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie personally against the Director or any protector, police officer, approved welfare officer, probation officer or member of the Review Board or a governing board or any other person acting under the direction of the Director or a protector for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in the enforcement or purported enforcement of this Act.

[84

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]***Information relating to children and young persons in need of care or protection**

87.—(1) Any person who knows or has reason to suspect that a child or young person is in need of care or protection may make a notification to the Director or a police officer of the facts and circumstances on which his knowledge or suspicion is based.

[20/2001]

(2) Where the Director or a police officer not below the rank of sergeant receives any notification under subsection (1), the Director or police officer may, without prejudice to any other power conferred on him by this Act, transmit any information contained in the notification to —

(a) a protector or any other person assisting the Director in the administration or enforcement of this Act; and

(b) any other person or class of persons specified by the Director, in order that the protector or person may take such action as may be necessary in accordance with this Act to ensure that the child or young person concerned receives the care or protection that he needs.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) A person who makes a notification under subsection (1) —

(a) shall not, by virtue of doing so, be held in any proceedings before any court or tribunal or in any other respect to have breached any code of professional etiquette or ethics, or to have departed from any accepted form of professional conduct; and

- (b) insofar as he has acted in good faith, shall incur no civil or criminal liability in respect of the notification or the provision of any information contained in the notification.

[20/2001]

(4) Any person appearing as a witness in any proceedings in any court or tribunal or before a person authorised by law to hear evidence shall not be compelled —

- (a) to disclose the identity of any person who has made a notification under subsection (1), or any information likely to lead to the disclosure of the identity of such a person; or
- (b) to produce any report or document which identifies, or is likely to identify, any person who has made a notification under subsection (1).

[84A

[20/2001]

Confidentiality of information relating to children and young persons

87A.—(1) Any person to whom any information relating to a child or young person has been disclosed to him by the Director in the performance of any duty or the exercise of any power by the person shall not disclose such information to another person unless such disclosure has been authorised by the Director.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Offences by bodies corporate, etc.

87B.—(1) Where an offence under this Act committed by a body corporate is proved —

- (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer; or
- (b) to be attributable to any act or default on his part,

the officer as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(3) Where an offence under this Act committed by a partnership is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner; or

(b) to be attributable to any act or default on his part,

the partner as well as the partnership shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(4) Where an offence under this Act committed by a limited liability partnership is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a partner or manager of the limited liability partnership, the partner or manager (as the case may be) as well as the partnership shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(5) Where an offence under this Act committed by an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body; or

(b) to be attributable to any act or default on the part of such an officer or a member,

the officer or member as well as the unincorporated association shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(6) In this section —

“body corporate” and “partnership” exclude a limited liability partnership within the meaning of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act (Cap. 163A);

“officer” —

- (a) in relation to a body corporate, means any director, member of the committee of management, chief executive officer, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity; and
- (b) in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, or any person holding a position analogous to that of the president, secretary or member of the committee and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

(7) The Minister may make rules to provide for the application of any provision of this section, with such modifications as the Minister considers appropriate, to any body corporate, limited liability partnership or unincorporated association formed or recognised under the law of a territory outside Singapore.

[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]

Regulations

88.—(1) The Minister may make regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Act and for any matter which is required under this Act to be prescribed.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) or any other provision of this Act, the Minister may make regulations for all or any of the following matters:

- (a) the care, maintenance and education of children and young persons committed to the care, custody or control of any

person under the provisions of this Act and the duties of persons to whose care, custody or control the children and young persons have been committed;

- (b) the care, detention, temporary absence, maintenance, education, and conduct and discipline of children and young persons in juvenile rehabilitation centres, places of safety, remand homes, places of detention and places of temporary care and protection;
- (c) the constitution, functions and procedures of a governing board and the Review Board;
- (d) the inspection of juvenile rehabilitation centres, places of safety, remand homes, places of detention and places of temporary care and protection and returns to be furnished by persons in charge of such places;
- (e) the management of juvenile rehabilitation centres, places of safety, remand homes, places of detention and places of temporary care and protection;
- (f) the considerations, conditions and requirements subject to which a voluntary care agreement may be made;
- (g) the effect of a voluntary care agreement and the validity period of such voluntary care agreement;
- (h) the implementation, variation and termination of a voluntary care agreement.

[85

*[3/2011 wef 20/07/2011]**[20/2001]*

Family Justice Rules

89.—(1) The Family Justice Rules Committee constituted under section 46(1) of the Family Justice Act 2014 may make Family Justice Rules —

- (a) to regulate and prescribe the procedure and practice to be followed in the Youth Courts; and

(b) to provide for any matter relating to any such procedure or practice.

(2) The Family Justice Rules may, instead of providing for any matter, refer to any provision made or to be made about that matter by practice directions issued for the time being by the registrar of the Family Justice Courts.

(3) All Family Justice Rules made under this section shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

[Act 27 of 2014 wef 01/01/2015]

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT
(CHAPTER 38)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Children and Young Persons Act. It is not part of the Act.

1. Act 1 of 1993 — Children and Young Persons Act 1993

Date of First Reading : 16 November 1992
(Bill No. 38/1992 published on
17 November 1992)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 18 January 1993

Date of commencement : 21 March 1993

2. 1994 Revised Edition — Children and Young Persons Act

Date of operation : 15 March 1994

3. Act 20 of 2001 — Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 2001

Date of First Reading : 22 February 2001
(Bill No. 12/2001 published on
23 February 2001)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 20 April 2001

Date of commencement : 1 October 2001

4. 2001 Revised Edition — Children and Young Persons Act

Date of operation : 31 December 2001

5. Act 42 of 2005 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Act 2005

Date of First Reading : 17 October 2005
(Bill No. 30/2005 published on
18 October 2005)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 21 November 2005

Date of commencement : 1 January 2006
(Item (3) of Fourth Schedule)

6. Act 22 of 2007 — Dentists (Amendment) Act 2007

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading : 27 February 2007
(Bill No. 9/2007 published on
27 February 2007)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 12 April 2007

Date of commencement : 1 January 2008

7. Act 51 of 2007 — Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2007

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading : 17 September 2007
(Bill No. 38/2007 published on
18 September 2007)

Date of Second Reading : 22 October 2007

Date of Third Reading : 23 October 2007

Date of commencement : 1 February 2008

8. Act 15 of 2010 — Criminal Procedure Code 2010

Date of First Reading : 26 April 2010
(Bill No. 11/2010 published on
26 April 2010)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 19 May 2010

Date of commencement : 2 January 2011

9. Act 3 of 2011 — Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act 2011

Date of First Reading : 22 November 2010
(Bill No. 35/2010 published on
22 November 2010)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 11 January 2011

Date of commencement : 20 July 2011

10. Act 2 of 2012 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2012

Date of First Reading : 21 November 2011
(Bill No. 22/2011 published on
21 November 2011)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 18 January 2012

Date of commencement : 1 March 2012
(except sections 26 and 29)

11. Act 27 of 2014 — Family Justice Act 2014

(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading : 8 July 2014
(Bill No. 21/2014 published on
8 July 2014)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 4 August 2014

Date of commencement : 1 October 2014

12. Act 27 of 2014 — Family Justice Act 2014

(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading : 8 July 2014
(Bill No. 21/2014 published on
8 July 2014)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 4 August 2014

Date of commencement : 1 January 2015

COMPARATIVE TABLE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT
(CHAPTER 38)

The following provisions in the 1994 Revised Edition of the Children and Young Persons Act have been renumbered by the Law Revision Commissioners in this 2001 Revised Edition.

This Comparative Table is provided for the convenience of users. It is not part of the Children and Young Persons Act.

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