

CHARTER OF THE JUVENILE POLICY BOARD

Section 1. Policy and Purpose.

(a) It is the intent of the North Dakota judicial system to establish a mechanism for the development of administrative policies and procedures which will define the mission of juvenile court services consistent with the Juvenile Court Act, N.D.C.C. chs. 27-20.2, 27- 20.3, and 27-20.4, and ch. 27-20.1 on guardianship of a child; to provide the administrative mechanism and authority to ensure the implementation of the policies; and to ensure the full involvement of judges and personnel of the North Dakota judicial system in the development of juvenile court policies and procedures.

(b) The administrative policies approved by the board and adopted by the supreme court govern the actions of the juvenile courts and personnel of the juvenile courts in North Dakota.

Section 2. Membership.

(a) The board will consist of three district judges appointed by the North Dakota judges' association, one district judge and one judicial referee appointed by the administrative council, one district judge or supreme court justice appointed by the chief justice, one juvenile court officer appointed by the chief justice, and one juvenile director appointed by the chief justice.

(b) Terms of the members will be staggered in such a manner to ensure that at least two members shall be up for election or appointment annually. The chief justice may appoint members to fill vacancies which occur for an unexpired term.

(c) The membership will reflect the geographic and population diversities of the state and no more than two judges may be from any one judicial district.

Section 3. Duties.

(a) The board may recommend to the supreme court policies relating to the operation of the juvenile court:

(1) The policies must be consistent with state law and court rules.

(2) The operation of the juvenile court is defined to include:

(A) intake;

(B) diversion;

(C) probation;

(D) placement;

(E) workload standards;

(F) training standards;

(G) child welfare;

(H) guardianship.

(3) Any matter relating to pleadings, practice, or procedure including Appellate Procedure, Rules of Evidence, Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rules of Civil Procedure, or special rules of procedure for the conduct of formal juvenile court hearings will be forwarded to the joint procedure committee, for its consideration, approval and recommendation to the supreme court.

42 (b) The board may issue operating procedures and guidelines to be followed by the
43 juvenile courts in implementing state law or administrative policies which will be
44 forwarded to the supreme court for consideration.

45 (c) Prior to the end of the first fiscal year of each biennium, the board will review
46 data compiled by the juvenile court coordinator. After the review, the board will provide
47 recommendations for the delivery of services, identify program needs, recommend
48 cooperative agreements with other state, local or private agencies, and may recommend
49 specific budget items to be included in the judicial system budget request.

50 Section 4. Staffing.

51 The director of juvenile and family services will have the responsibility and
52 authority to ensure implementation of policies as approved by the supreme court and
53 procedures approved by the board. The director will work with the juvenile courts on a
54 statewide basis and on an individual basis to ensure implementation. The director will
55 make recommendations and reports to the policy board, or the supreme court in matters
56 relating to budget, staffing, personnel, programs, performance and other related matters.

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