

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS

The meeting was called to order by Representative Robert H. Miller at
Chairperson

1:30 a.m./p.m. on March 15, 1988 in room 526S. of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Jenkins - E
Representatives Rolfs & Peterson

Committee staff present:

Mary Torrence, Revisor's Office
Mary Galligan, Research Department
Lynda Hutfles, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bob Barnum, SRS Commissioner
Audry McCaig, Humane Society

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller.

Representative Bryant made a motion, seconded by Representative Eckert, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 8, and 14. The motion carried.

Representative Walker made a motion, seconded by Representative Roper, to introduce bill requests by Representative Love, Freeman and Lowther. The motion carried.

The Chairman referred to the child care hearings held on the evening of March 3 and the gentleman who appeared about his son. This gentleman explained problems he was having with the way SRS was dealing with his son. The chairman asked Commissioner Barnum to prepare a response to these complaints. Due to confidentiality, the Commissioner cannot respond to the specific case, but is prepared to give an overview of the rights of families and to answer questions.

Commissioner Barnum distributed a "Parents Handbook" which is a general orientation given to families in the event a child is removed from their care.

The commissioner referred to Page 7 & 8 which deals with parental rights. A few of the rights listed included; planning for your child's well-being with the social worker; appraisal of major changes in the plans, phone calls and visits as worked out between parent and the social worker; information on the child's health, progress, behavior is available; parent's right to consent to surgery or serious medical care if needed.

There was discussion of the agreement between SRS and the parents and penalties involved for not signing the agreement. These agreements are signed after a child is remanded to SRS custody. There is no penalty for refusal to sign. There are approximately 5500 children in SRS custody at any one time during the year ranging from newborn to 21. See attachment A.

HB3082 - Kansas Code for Care of Children

Commissioner Barnum explained the bill which expands from 48 to 72 hours, the amount of time a child alleged to be a child in need of care could be placed in prehearing protective custody by law enforcement. See attachment B.

Hearings were concluded on HB3082.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS

room 526s, Statehouse, at 1:30 a.m./p.m. on March 15, 88, 1988

SB515 - Sterilization of certain dogs and cats.

Audry McCaig, Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc., gave testimony in support of the bill which deals with mandatory sterilization of certain dogs and cats. All animals in a pound, animal shelter or humane society should be sterilized. See attachment C.

Hearings were concluded on SB515.

SB467 - Crime of promoting obscenity

Representative Aylward made a motion, seconded by Representative Ramirez, to report SB467 favorably. The motion carried.

SB557 - Providing multi-disciplinary teams in investigation and recommendation of service for child in need of care

Representative Sprague asked the Chairman if discussion on this bill could be delayed as he was having amendments drawn up by staff.

SB515 - Sterilization of certain dogs and cats.

Representative Eckert made a motion, seconded by Representative Long, to report SB515 favorably and ask that it be placed on the consent calendar. The motion carried.

HB3082 - Kansas Code for Care of Children

Representative Sprague made a motion, seconded by Representative Walker, to report HB3082 adversely. The motion carried.

HB2765 - Investigation of abuse reports in certain facilities by agents of the Attorney General's office

There was discussion concerning the fact that all of the investigations of abuse at this time is done inhouse. A persons license could be revoked whether he was guilty or not. There is no outside determination.

Representative Sprague made a motion, seconded by Representative Roy, to introduce a substitute bill which narrows the incidence of reporting abuse cases to SRS institutions.

The motion carried.

There was discussion on the definition of "abuse" and what constitutes abuse.

Representative Sprague made a motion, seconded by Representative Roy, to report the substitute bill favorably. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

PARENT'S HANDBOOK

CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
YOUTH SERVICES

THIS HANDBOOK IS THE PRODUCT OF THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF NATURAL PARENTS, FOSTER PARENTS, SRS AREA STAFF AND STAFF OF THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT IS GRATEFUL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

Anita Brisco
Family Services Specialist Youth Services
Topeka, Kansas

Published 1980 by Kansas State Department of
Social and Rehabilitation Services.
Revised 1986 by the Division of Youth Services.



PARENT'S HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

THIS HANDBOOK HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR YOU.

"The Parent's Handbook" can help you, but it is only a starting point. If it does not answer all your questions, or if you do not understand any part of it, contact your SRS worker and talk about your concerns with him or her. For information about your legal rights, contact your lawyer.

You are reading this because your child is in foster care, or is going to be placed in foster care. This can be a confusing, difficult time for you. You will probably have some questions about foster care. This guide will answer some of them, and will help you understand how you can make placement a better experience for your child and you.

The most important message in this Handbook is that YOU ARE STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE. That is why it is very important that you stay involved with your child during placement, and show your concern and interest in your child's welfare.

Foster care can be a helpful experience for you and your child. It provides you with a chance to correct problems you have been having and to decide what is best for your child's future. You and the agency caring and planning for your child need to work together to make these things happen.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE STILL YOUR CHILD'S PARENT WHILE HE OR SHE IS IN FOSTER CARE. YOUR CHILD NEEDS YOU. YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO KNOW THAT YOU LOVE AND CARE ABOUT HIM OR HER EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NOT DIRECTLY PROVIDING CARE. YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH YOU.

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A. WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Children are placed in foster care when it is not possible for them to be cared for by their own families. Foster care is intended to be temporary. There are several different kinds of foster care:

1. In a short-term or emergency foster home or emergency shelter your child lives in a licensed facility in order to provide time for planning for the best placement.
2. In a family foster home your child lives in a licensed or approved home with foster parents and is cared for by them. Both the child and the foster parents are supervised by an SRS social worker.
3. In a group home or residential center, because of special needs, your child lives in a licensed private group home or residential center. Houseparents who provide care for children are hired by the group home or residential center.
4. In a state institution, because of special needs, a child lives in an SRS operated state institution where he or she receives evaluation and treatment. Cottage parents or child care workers are employed by SRS to provide care and treatment for the children.

B. HOW DOES MY CHILD COME INTO FOSTER CARE?

Children come into foster care by an order of a judge of the District Court after a hearing on a petition which has been filed in the court. A petition may say that the child is a Child in Need of Care. Before the petition is filed, the SRS office or a law enforcement office may have received a child abuse/neglect complaint. In these cases, SRS is required by law to make an investigation to determine if the report is valid; if services are needed, and if court action is required to protect the child. If court action is needed, a petition will be filed.

At the time the petition is filed, the judge may issue a Temporary Custody Order giving custody to SRS or a third party for foster placement. Later the judge will make a decision whether to have the child remain in foster care.

C. HOW CAN I PLAN FOR MY CHILD'S FUTURE?

The most helpful person you can talk to when your child is in foster care is your SRS social worker. The social worker has two main jobs: 1) to help your child to have a permanent home, and 2) to coordinate plans to make sure that your child is getting good care. This will mean helping you to correct the problems that made placement necessary so that your child can return home, or finding another permanent home if return to your family is not possible or desirable.

In order to serve you and your child, a team effort is needed to assure that your child is getting good care and to help you correct the problems that made placement necessary. The foster care team may include you and your

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child, your social worker, a family support worker, a representative of the court, your child's foster parents, and anyone else involved directly with the service plan. You will be able to participate in planning for your child's future. You can expect visitation with your child based upon the assessment of the team which will indicate when, where and how often. You will learn what changes need to be made so that your child can return home, or what permanent plan will be made for your child's future if returning home is not possible. This team will meet at least once every six months to discuss present placement, future planning, and make the decisions necessary to assure a permanent placement for your child.

Possible Permanent Plans.

1. Return Home

You and your social worker will start to talk right away about the reasons placement was necessary. Together, you will discuss what changes need to be made within your family and how to go about making these changes. When decisions are reached and agreed upon, these will become part of your service plan. The service plan will work only when you and your social worker work together cooperatively and keep in regular contact with one another. Your social worker will be able to help you by providing information, by counseling with you, and by referring you to other kinds of services you may need. In some areas of Kansas, there may be two social workers assigned--one for your child in foster care and another for you. Both workers will work closely together.

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When the needed changes are made, the recommendation for your child to return home is not made by your social worker alone. Included in making the recommendation are you, your child, foster parents, social worker, supervisor, the guardian ad litem (the lawyer appointed for your child) and others working with you and your child. SRS cannot return your child to your home without the court's permission. The final decision is made by the judge.

2. Adoption

You may decide that the only way your child can have a permanent, stable home is for you to plan for adoption.

a. Voluntary Relinquishment

You can voluntarily free your child for adoption by relinquishing your parental rights.

Relinquishment means giving up your parental rights. Relinquishment is a very serious matter. You should think about it carefully and discuss it with your social worker and with a lawyer. After you sign a Relinquishment and it is accepted, you are no longer your child's legal guardian. You no longer have parental rights and you are no longer responsible for your child's future. If you decide to voluntarily relinquish your child to SRS, the judge and SRS must approve.

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b. Termination of Parental Rights

If you do not or cannot carry out your parental responsibilities, you may lose your parental rights. Termination of parental rights means you lose all rights of care, custody, and control of your child as well as the right to any contact with your child, or to make any decisions in regard to your child's life. Your parental rights can only be terminated by an order of the judge of the district court.

If you relinquish your parental rights or if they are terminated, every effort is made to provide your child a permanent home, most often through adoption.

A child can only be adopted by a new family after you have either relinquished your parental rights, or your parental rights have been terminated by a court.



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D. WHAT ARE MY PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW AND REMEMBER YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE YOUR CHILD IS IN CARE. IF YOU TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, YOU CAN MAKE PLACEMENT A BETTER EXPERIENCE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD.

IF YOU DO NOT CARRY OUT YOUR PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS.

1. YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS

You have the right to plan with your social worker for your child's well-being.

You have the right to be told whenever a major change in the plan is being considered.

You have the right to know what changes are expected before your child is returned home.

Depending upon the plans worked out with your child's social worker, you may make phone calls and write letters to your child. You, your social worker, and the foster parents together will decide how often, when and where you should visit your child. Your cooperation is necessary. Visit only when and where visits have been planned. Do not make promises to your child which you cannot keep. The social worker or the judge has the right to limit or discontinue visiting if they decide that it will not be good for your child.

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You have the right to know who is directly caring for your child, such as counselors, houseparents, or foster parents.

You have the right to develop a visitation plan with your child's team. If you are dissatisfied with the plan, you have the right to ask for a court review.

You have the right to information on your child's health, social development, progress in school, behavior, and home life.

You have the right to consent to surgery or serious medical care if needed by your child. When you cannot be reached in an emergency, or you refuse to consent, SRS has the authority to give consent subject to review by the court.

You have the right to be notified as soon as possible of any medical emergency, and if any treatment is given without your consent. An emergency is a situation in which timing demands immediate action and means that action must be taken without waiting to get your consent.

You have the right to receive notice of and to attend any court action regarding your child or your parental rights.

You have the right to request a review court hearing if you think your rights are being denied.

2. YOUR PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As a parent you are responsible for the following:

Working with your social worker in planning what you must do while your child is in care and deciding what will be best for your child's future, and providing information about your child to the social worker.

Following through on recommendations and agreements made toward solving the problems which prevent your child from coming home.

Visiting your child at times and places agreed upon. Visits are for the benefit of you and your child. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN REGULAR VISITATION, CONTACT OR COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD OR WITH THE CUSTODIAN OF YOUR CHILD COULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS. If you cannot visit, you must discuss this with your worker promptly so other arrangements can be made.

Tell your social worker about major changes in your life, such as change of address, telephone number, job, income, marriage, or other living arrangements and changes affecting other members of your family.

Making and keeping appointments with your social worker. If you cannot keep an appointment or must cancel a visit, let your social worker know prior to the appointment or visit.

Paying toward the cost of your child's care which will be determined by a Child Support Enforcement worker based on your family size and total income.

Attending court hearings involving your child.

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SOME TIPS ON SUCCESSFUL VISITING

1. Your child will be helped most by your love and understanding.
2. Greet your child warmly and quietly.
3. It takes time to get used to you again so understand if your child is at first shy and quiet.
4. Give your child a chance to tell you about the things he or she wants to tell you.
5. Patience is the key if your child is not ready to talk to you.
6. Criticizing your child will not be helpful.
7. Criticizing the foster parents or the social worker when you are with your child is also not helpful.
8. Talk to your SRS social worker about any complaints or problems that relate to your visits, after the visit.
9. Making promises to your child which you cannot keep can create bad feelings between you and your child.
10. Make visits as planned. Notify your social worker ahead of time when you cannot visit so she/he can tell your child not to expect you this time.
11. Make your visit with your child as normal as possible. You need not bring gifts, candy, etc. on these visits. If you decide to bring treats, good judgment should be exercised in deciding "how much."

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YOU ARE STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE. THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN HAVING YOUR CHILD RETURNED TO YOUR HOME ARE 1) PLANNED, REGULAR VISITS WITH YOUR CHILD, AND 2) CLOSE COOPERATION WITH YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL WORKER!



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E. WHAT CAN I DO IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT?

1. Speak to your SRS Social Worker.

Whenever you have a complaint or a problem, the first person to talk to is your social worker. An open discussion will often settle the matter. If you and your social worker do not agree, request a conference with your worker's supervisor or the area agency's Chief of Social Services.

2. Ask for a Court Hearing

If the disagreement you are having with the agency is about your child's return home or the agency's refusal to let you visit, you may want to go to court to settle it. You may get a lawyer to help you if you wish. The judge may hear testimony from you, your child's attorney (the guardian ad litem), and the agency, and will make a decision based on what is thought to be in the best interest of your child. Both you and the agency must follow the judge's order.

3. Ask for an SRS Fair Hearing

You may ask your social worker for an SRS Fair Hearing. This hearing is not a court hearing, but is heard by an SRS Fair Hearing Officer. Your social worker can tell you how to request a Fair Hearing and provide you with the proper form. The Fair Hearing Officer will advise you if your issue is one for which an appeal through the SRS Fair Hearing process is appropriate. You may be represented by an attorney if you wish.

**F. WHAT ADDITIONAL COURT ACTIONS CAN TAKE PLACE
CONCERNING ME AND MY CHILD?**

You should ALWAYS go to court when you get a legal notice or a phone call saying that there will be a hearing about your child. It is your right and responsibility as a parent to be at the hearing. Failure to attend a hearing could be seen as an indication that you do not care about your child.

The District Court is set up so that you can come without a lawyer and still be heard. However, you can always bring a lawyer to court even when a lawyer is not required. A lawyer can explain things to you which are not clear and can make sure the judge understands what you think and what you want. If the court action involves a matter that you and the agency are not agreeing on, be SURE to bring a lawyer with you to the hearing, or ask the judge to appoint one to protect your rights.

1. Court Actions Concerned with the Plan for Your Child:
 - a. Temporary Custody Hearing:

If your child is placed in the custody of SRS without a hearing, there must be a temporary custody hearing within 48 hours not counting Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays. The purpose of this hearing is to decide whether or not there is good reason for your child to remain in custody until the adjudication hearing. If there is no temporary custody hearing, it is your right to insist on one.

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b. Adjudication-Disposition Hearing:

This hearing is held to determine if your child is a Child in Need of Care. This hearing will also determine whether your child will be returned to your custody, remain in the custody of SRS or be placed in the custody of someone else. A judge may decide to leave your child in your custody, but require supervision by an SRS social worker.

c. Review Hearing:

You have the right to ask the judge for a review hearing at any time. This may be done through your attorney or your child's social worker. This hearing is held to review the plan that has been made for your child. The judge will want to know what plans and preferences you have for yourself and your child. The judge will decide at this hearing whether your child should go home, stay in foster care, or if termination of parental rights should be considered.

2. Hearing to Terminate your Parental Rights:

YOU CAN LOSE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT IF YOU DO NOT CARRY OUT YOUR PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE YOUR CHILD IS IN PLACEMENT. This may happen if you do not keep in contact with your child and the agency planning for your child's future, or if you do not make the necessary changes so your child can return home.

A judge in a court hearing is the ONLY person who can end your parental rights to your child without your agreement. He or she can do this only after there is a court hearing about your failure to carry out your parental

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responsibilities. IF THE JUDGE TERMINATES YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD, THE CHILD IS NO LONGER YOURS. Unless you appeal the judge's decision, the agency will place your child for adoption or make other plans for your child without involving you.

3. Appeal Hearings:

You may file an appeal if you disagree with the decision of the judge. You will need the services of a lawyer in an appeal. Any appeal must be filed within 30 days of the decision you are appealing.

IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU GO TO THESE HEARINGS AND THAT YOU HAVE TALKED TO YOUR LAWYER.



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G. HOW CAN I GET A LAWYER?

In Kansas, there is no statewide free legal service. If at any stage of the proceedings you desire but cannot afford an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you. You may want to contact one of the following for advice on getting a lawyer.

1. The judge or local bar association.
2. The Legal Aid Society, if there is one in your area.
3. The child's attorney, called a Guardian Ad Litem.
4. The County Attorney or District Attorney.
5. Your social worker.
6. The probation officer.
7. Statewide Lawyer Referral Service of the Kansas Bar Association
City of Topeka - 233-4322
Other areas - 1-800-432-3593

PARENT'S HANDBOOK

SUMMARY

We hope that "The Parent's Handbook" has helped you understand foster care, what can happen, and what you can do. Placement can be a difficult time, but it can also be a very helpful time, a time when the problems that are keeping you and your child apart can be resolved. YOU can have the most important role in making this happen if you stay involved, work cooperatively with the agency, and show concern for your child's welfare. We believe that if you do all this, foster care will be a helpful experience for you and your child.



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DEFINITIONS

Appeal: Filing a petition in a higher court by an interested person in an attempt to have the decision of a lower court changed. Usually appeals are made and decided upon questions of law only. An appeal must be made within 30 days after the date of the lower court's order. You should consult an attorney. In some locations, a Legal Aid attorney can be consulted if you cannot afford an attorney of your choice.

Child in Need of Care: "Child in Need of Care" is a legal term which indicates that a child has been, is currently, or is at risk of being neglected, abused, or inadequately supervised. For the full legal definition of a "Child in Need of Care" see your attorney.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA): "A responsible adult other than an attorney guardian ad litem who is appointed by the court to represent the best interest of a child."

Custody: Custody grants rights of physical possession and control of the child until age 18, or as prescribed by the court order or parental agreement. These rights impose obligations as follows.

1. to provide food, shelter and clothing (subject to reimbursement by the parent(s) as part of parental responsibility),
2. to supervise, protect and keep a child free from harm; and to meet the health, education, social and emotional needs of a child.

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Custody & Guardianship. When a child is in SRS custody and parents' rights have not been terminated, parents lose some custody rights and responsibilities, but maintain guardianship rights. LOSS OF CUSTODY DOES NOT RELIEVE A PARENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WHEN PARENTAL RIGHTS ARE TERMINATED, PARENTS LOSE BOTH CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP RIGHTS WHICH MEANS ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CHILD IS LOST.

Educational Advocate: A person or agent appointed by the legal custodian who has authority to make educational decisions for the child if the parents of the child refuse or fail to make such decisions.

Fair Hearing: A hearing conducted by a Fair Hearing Officer. Any act or decision made by an employee of SRS may be appealed. The Fair Hearing Officer will listen to testimony, review evidence and determine whether the conduct, action, or decision conformed to law, regulation and policy.

Family Support Workers: are trained SRS staff who provide direct in-home services to families such as teaching parenting skills, behavior management skills, methods of housekeeping, home management, money management, meal planning and food preparation. They are not social workers. They come into your home to help you learn more effective ways of parenting.

Foster Care: Any type of residential care provided for a child other than by his/her own parents. This includes a relative's home, family foster care, group homes, residential centers, and state institutions.

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Guardianship: Guardianship grants the following rights to the legal guardian in regard to the child:

1. to consent to medical services or to surgery;
2. to consent to the marriage of a person who is under the legal age of majority (18);
3. to consent to military service by a person under the legal age of majority (18);
4. to consent to the adoption of a child;
5. to receive proper legal notice of any action instituted in behalf of or against a child or youth; and
6. to make educational decisions.

Reintegration Services: Services offered to bring the family back together as a whole unit by working on the problems that caused the separation of the child from the family.

Service Plan: The plan the social worker makes which includes the actions and services needed to reach the goal of a permanent placement. The plan will include the parents' participation in reaching an agreement as to which actions the parents and which actions the social worker will take to make it possible for the parents and child to be reunited.

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I have read the Parent's Handbook and understand all my responsibilities and my rights as they relate to me while my child is in out-of-home care.

Signature of Parent:

Date: _____

Signature of SRS Worker:

Date: _____

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

CHILD'S SOCIAL WORKER:

Name

Agency

Address

Phone

FAMILY'S SOCIAL WORKER:

Name

Agency

Address

Phone

AGENCY SUPERVISOR:

Name

JUVENILE COURT:

Judge's Name

Address

Phone

GUARDIAN AD LITEM:

Name

Phone

B

STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Statement Regarding H.B. 3082

1. Title

An act concerning the Kansas Code of Children, relating to periods of custody for children in need of care under certain circumstances; amending K.S.A. 38-1528 and 38-1542 and repealing the existing sections.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this bill is to expand, from 48 to 72 hours, the amount of time a child alleged to be a child in need of care could be placed in prehearing protective custody by law enforcement.

3. Background

This legislation was recommended by Wichita SRS Area Office staff. It is their opinion that the increased time a child would remain in an emergency shelter would permit staff sufficient time in which to locate a relative placement, or be able to get the children back home. This could eliminate, for the child, the need to move him/her into a foster care placement.

If the amount of time were expanded from 48 to 72 hours in some cases there would result a determination, prior to the holding of a court hearing, that the child could be returned home safely. This would result in some children being returned home sooner and prevent unnecessary court involvement. Also, with the additional time available, it may be possible to locate a relative placement when return home is not feasible. This additional time might also permit the agency to avoid subjecting the child to a series of temporary placements. Within 72 hours, efforts would be concentrated on establishing if the child could go home, or if the child will need foster care. Then at the end of 72 hours, the child goes directly home or to a more stable foster care living arrangement instead of a series of temporary emergency placements while attempts are being made to document the home situation. A number of placements can be harmful and disruptive to a child's development.

4. Effect of Passage

This amendment would extend the amount of time a child could be held in prehearing custody. It is believed though, that for some children, this extra time in prehearing custody might enable them to be returned directly home, avoiding court involvement and probable foster care placement.

5. Fiscal Impact

The increased emergency shelter costs for funding a placement 72 hours instead of 48 hours, would be off-set by SRS's ability to either find a

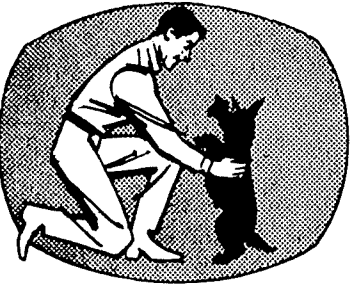
relative placement or return some of the children home without any additional foster care expenditures beyond the 72 hours. Therefore, fiscal impact is thought to be relatively neutral.

6. Recommendation

SRS recommends passage of this bill.

Submitted by

Winston Barton
Office of the Secretary
Social and Rehabilitation Services
(913) 296-3271



Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc.

OFFICE AND ANIMAL SHELTER
2625 Rochester Road
Topeka, Kansas 66617
Telephone 233-7325

Testimony by: Miss Audrey B. McCaig, Executive Director, Helping Hands Humane Society

Re: S.B. 515

Committee: House Federal and State Affairs

Date: March 15, 1988

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the time to appear before you today concerning S.B. 515, which deals with Mandatory Sterilization of Certain Dogs and Cats.

I am very much in favor of seeing S.B. 515 passed this Session because there are too many pounds, shelters and humane societies that do not require sterilization of their animals. They will sell them for \$3.00 or \$5.00 and forget about the fact that they are putting unsterilized animals out there that will be reproducing faster than we can put them to sleep.

In other words, they are defeating their purpose by doing this. All animals in a pound, animal shelter or humane society should be sterilized! We have done this for at least nineteen years, and it works.

I know that you know this does not apply to owned animals that are being held to be claimed by their owner.

Thank you for your support of this!

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey B. McCaig
Miss Audrey B. McCaig,
Executive Director