

ACT 172

H.B. NO. 250

A Bill for an Act Relating to Family Courts.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 571-74, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 571-74 Rules and standards; investigation and questioning; fingerprinting and photographing. The judges of the family courts shall make such rules and set up such standards of investigation and questioning as they consider necessary to guide and control the police, within their respective jurisdictions, in the handling of cases involving minors coming within the provisions of this chapter. The rules and standards may include limitations and restrictions concerning the fingerprinting and photographing of any child in police custody, provided that when any child commits an act which, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, such rules and standards shall not apply. The rules shall be enforceable as orders of the court.”

SECTION 2. Section 571-84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 571-84 Records. The court shall maintain records of all cases brought before it. In proceedings under section 571-11, and in paternity proceedings under chapter 579, the following records shall be withheld from public inspection: the court docket, petitions, complaints, motions, and other papers filed in any case; transcripts of testimony taken by the court; and findings, judgments, orders, decrees, and other papers other than social records filed in proceedings before the court. The records other than social records shall be open to inspection by the parties and their attorneys, by an institution or agency to which custody of a minor has been transferred, by an individual who has been appointed guardian; with consent of the judge, by persons having legitimate interest in the proceedings from the standpoint of the welfare of the minor; and, pursuant to order of the court or the rules of the court, by persons conducting pertinent research studies, and by persons, institutions, and agencies having a legitimate interest in the protection, welfare, or treatment of the minor.

Reports of social and clinical studies or examinations made pursuant to this chapter shall be withheld from public inspection, except that information from such reports may be furnished, in a manner determined by the judge, to persons and governmental and private agencies and institutions conducting pertinent research studies or having a legitimate interest in the protection, welfare, and treatment of the minor.

No information obtained or social records prepared in the discharge of official duty by an employee of the court shall be disclosed directly or indirectly to anyone other than the judge or others entitled under this chapter to receive such information, unless and until otherwise ordered by the judge.

Except for the immediate use in a criminal case, any photographs or fingerprints taken of any child shall not be used or circulated for any other purpose and shall be subject to all rules and standards provided for in section 571-74.

The records of any police department, and of any juvenile crime prevention bureau thereof, relating to any proceedings authorized under section 571-11 shall be confidential and shall be open to inspection only by persons whose official duties are concerned with the provisions of this chapter, except as otherwise ordered by the court. Any such police records concerning traffic accidents in which a child or minor coming within section 571-11(1) is involved shall, after the termination of any proceedings under section 571-11(1) arising out of any such accident, or in any event after six months from the date of the accident, be available for inspection by the parties directly concerned in the accident, or their duly licensed attorneys acting under written authority signed by either party. Any person who may sue because of death resulting from any such accident shall be deemed a party concerned.

Evidence given in proceedings under section 571-11(1) or (2) shall not in any civil, criminal, or other cause be lawful or proper evidence against the child or minor therein involved for any purpose whatever, except in subsequent proceedings involving the same child under section 571-11(1) or (2).

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes may exclude the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 4, 1977.)

*Edited accordingly.