

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

- TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES, AND ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL UNITS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE
- RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND STATE POLICY AND LEGISLATION FOR THE PLACEMENT OF ABUSED, DEPENDENT, NEGLECTED, DELINQUENT, EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED, AND MENTALLY ILL CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, one of this Administration's most important priorities is to have a child reach his fullest potential in life and protect his health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Title 10, Chapter 9, Section 937(g) of the Delaware Code has been interpreted by the State Solicitor to prohibit the placement of delinquent children with abused, dependent and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, the intent and purpose of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families as stated in Title 29, Chapter 90, Section 9001(b) is: "to achieve the consolidation of services to children, youth and their families within the jurisdiction of a single agency in order to avoid fragmentation and duplication

of services and to increase accountability for the delivery and administration of these services; to plan, develop and administer a comprehensive and unified service delivery system to abused, neglected, dependent, delinquent and mentally ill or emotionally disturbed children and youth within a continuum of care, which shall include the involvement of their family, within the least restrictive environment possible."

WHEREAS, adherence to the State Solicitor's opinion would result in extensive changes in the Department's placement of both delinquent and non-delinquent youth and such changes may not always be in the best interest of the children; and

WHEREAS, the issue of placement of delinquents with abused, neglected and dependent children is complex and requires the input from many disciplines and agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL N. CASTLE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware do hereby order and declare as follows:

1. A statewide Task Force on the Placement of Children is hereby established.
2. The purpose of the Task Force is:
 - (a) To recommend state policies, regulations, and procedures for the appropriate placement of troubled children in such a

way as to protect the non-delinquent children and provide needed services to the delinquent children.

(b) Recommend required legislative changes.

(c) Recommend community resources to implement (a) and (b) above.

3. The Task Force shall make its final report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 1986.

4. The Task Force shall make an interim report and recommend any follow-up actions by September 15 to the Governor and General Assembly that provides guidance on the placement of abused, dependent, neglected, delinquent and emotionally disturbed children until final recommendations are adopted.

5. The Task Force shall examine the current placement and service delivery system, review Federal legislation, and review policies/legislation in other states in developing its recommendations.

6. The Task Force shall provide various opportunities for community input.

7. The Task Force shall be composed of 21 members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor to serve as Chairman.

8. The Task Force shall be staffed by the Director of the State Budget Office, the Director of the Office of State Planning and Coordination, the Counsel to the Governor and the Department of Services to Children, Youth and Their Families.

Approved this 11th day of July, 1986.


Governor

ATTEST:


Secretary of State

