



HAZEL DEMOND
Asst. Friend of Court

ANNA REESE
Friend of the Court

REMEMBER KENT
Probation Officer

Friend of the Court

Report of Friend of the Court from January 1 to August 1, 1926.



THE work of this department may be divided into three divisions :

First: The investigation in accordance with the statute and the Circuit Court rules of all divorce cases in which there are minor children to aid the Court in determining the custody of the children, the amount of alimony to be paid and also to determine whether or not there is a meritorious cause for divorce.

The following is a statistical report of the work done from January 1st, 1926 to August 1st, 1926, under this division :

- 129 New divorce applications filed.
- 245 Children in the above cases.
- 93 Investigations made.
- 82 Decrees granted.
- 205 Cases heard in Court relating to divorce, alimony and various petitions regarding the custody of children.

Second: The collection of alimony and the following figures speak for themselves :

- 15 Men committed to the County Jail.
- 135 Attachments issued.
- 15 Orders to Show Cause issued.

There was \$52,046.55 alimony collected from January 1st, 1926 to August 1st, 1926, which is an average of \$7,435.22 per month. A brief comparison of this amount with the amount collected in preceding years will be of interest:

The year 1921 was \$1,044.25 per month. (The year prior to the
The year 1922 was \$1,720.41 per month. establishing of this Dept.)
The year 1923 was \$2,067.74 per month.
The year 1924 was \$3,432.91 per month.
The year 1925 was \$4,977.40 per month.

There is in our opinion for improvement in this branch of the work if this department can be provided with a Deputy Sheriff who can devote his entire time to the apprehending of men who are delinquent in their payments of alimony. We have been very materially assisted during the last year by Deputy Sheriff Hubbell who has been assigned to this work by Sheriff Schram as much as circumstances would permit, but not as much as the work of the department requires. There are 62 men who are not paying alimony and whose whereabouts we are unable to ascertain. These men owe \$50,753.90 and should be paying \$456.00 per week. In many cases the County is paying for the support of their children. This is a condition which we think should receive attention by the Board of Supervisors.

Third: This division was established only January 1st, 1925, and is, in our opinion, the most constructive work of the department. It relates to the supervision of children in 396 divorced families. We now have under supervision 768 children under the age of sixteen years. The Assistant Friend of the Court has devoted her entire time to the supervision of these children, visiting them in their homes where possible and where they have moved from the County supervising them through other agencies. The effort has been to see that the alimony collected is properly used for their benefit; to keep them in schools; to provide them with medical and surgical care, to affiliate them with churches, Sunday schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other organizations of like character with the view of preventing these children from falling into the same difficulties as their parents. The following is a report of the work done along this line: 15 children unable to locate; 26 children have reached the age of 16 years; 4 children died; 2 children adopted out; 55 children out of the State; 65 children in Michigan not under personal supervision; 477 children under personal supervision; 171 children in alimony cases. (These children are of families divorced before this office was established and who have recently come to this office for assistance in collecting alimony.) 865 calls made from 1-1-26 to 8-126; 5 given medical and surgical care; 6 given mental examinations and care; 5 given hospitalization; 9 referred to nurses for care.

The above is a brief summary of this department and if space permitted could be greatly amplified and some very interesting facts set forth.

ANNA REESE.