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Report of Friend of the Court from January 1, 1928 to August 1, 1928

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

First: INVESTIGATION in accordance with the statutes and the Circuit Court rules of divorce cases in which there are minor children.

(a) To assist the court in determining whether or not there is a meritorious cause for a divorce.


(b) Who should be given the custody of the children.

(c) The amount of alimony to be paid for the children's support.

Number of divorces filed in which there are minor children	152
Number of children in these cases	280
Number of investigations made	138
Number of decrees granted	80
Number of couples who have adjusted their matrimonial differences and are living together	15
Number of cases denied by the court	6
Number of cases pending and under advisement	113
Number of cases under investigation	86
Number of cases heard in court relating to divorce, alimony, various petitions filed for custody of children and changes in former court decisions	246

Second: THE COLLECTION OF ALIMONY. A brief comparison of the amounts of alimony collected will be of interest. An average of \$1,044.25 per month was collected during 1921 (prior to the establishment of this office):

During 1922 . . \$ 1,720.41 per month	During 1925 . . 4,977.40 per month
During 1923 . . 2,067.74 per month	During 1926 . . 7,057.06 per month
During 1924 . . 3,432.91 per month	During 1927 . . 9,510.98 per month
During 1928 . . 10,826.22 per month	



Attachments issued	77
Orders to Show Cause issued	16
Men committed to Jail	15
Number of days men worked in Block Factory	1896
Money paid for support of the children of these men	\$3,808.12

The benefit of establishing a Block Plant for the employment of men delinquent in their alimony and the deduction from their earnings of a reasonable amount for the support of their children is far-reaching, as it not only provides for the support of the children who would necessarily become county charges, but usually results in a man, after serving a term, finding a means of caring for his dependents without being thus committed.

The steady increase in the collection of alimony has largely been due to the fine cooperation of Sheriff Schram, who has assigned to this office, Deputy Sheriffs Hubbel and Singleton, who have devoted all the time necessary to apprehending men delinquent in their payments.

Third: SUPERVISION. This division was established in January, 1925, and is the most constructive work of the department.

It is self-evident that the natural and proper place for a child is with its father and mother, and when the care of one parent is practically lost by divorce, the next best place is with the other parent. Because of the handicap of the child practically losing either its father or mother this office was created to help the custodian in rearing this child to good citizenship.

The boys and girls are visited frequently in their homes; an effort is made to affiliate them with Churches, Sunday Schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y. M. C. A., Camp Fire Girls, and other organizations of this type which are character-building, to keep them in school, provide medical and surgical care, and see that the alimony collected for their support is used for their benefit.

The following report shows the increase in work in this department:

Number of children under supervision during 1923	124
Number of children under supervision during 1924	224
Number of children under supervision during 1925	608
Number of children under supervision during 1926	800
Number of children under supervision during 1927	981
Number of children under supervision during 1928	1218
Number of children dismissed (16 years of age)	40
Number of children whose parents have remarried each other and reestablished their home	13
Number of children who died	2
Number of children in institutions	5
Number of children with father	111
Number of children with mother	980
Number of children with relatives	95
Number of children in boarding homes	40
Number of children boarding in institutions	4

If a child, after reaching the age of sixteen years, desires to continue in school, a petition is filed and the decree is amended to provide for the continuance of the payments until the child reaches the age of eighteen years.

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