
JUVENILE OFFENDERS LAW CAP 157

This is a consolidated version of this legislation i.e. it incorporates all amendments made since the legislation was enacted as set out in the table below. It has been produced by the SBAA as an aid to transparency and easier access to SBA law. However, it is not the official version of SBA legislation and, although every effort has been made to check the document, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The official version of legislation is published in the SBA Gazette.

Legislation incorporated in this Consolidation	Ordinance	Date in Force
Juvenile Offenders Law	CAP.157	
Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Ordinance 1962	3/1962	19/02/1962
Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Ordinance 1962	2/1969	03/02/1969
Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Ordinance 2023 The Administrator's delegation of authority (PI 30/1965) to the Chief Officer to appoint Juvenile Court Assessors under section 4A of the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance is revoked. All appointments of Juvenile Court Assessors under section 4A of the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, not previously revoked, are revoked.	07/2023	31/12/2023

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J U V E N I L E O F F E N D E R S L A W
C A P . 1 5 7

A Law to consolidate and amend the law relating to Juvenile Offenders

BE it enacted by the Administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia as follow:—

Short Title

1. This Law may be cited as the Juvenile Offenders Law.

Interpretation

2. In this Law—

“approved residence” means any school, institution or residence other than a reform school, declared by the Governor under the provisions of this Law to be an approved residence;

“child” means a person under the age of fourteen years;

“guardian” includes any person who, in the opinion of the Court have cognizance of any case in relation to a child or young person or in which a child or young person is concerned, has for the time being the charge or control over, such child or young person;

~~“Juvenile Court” means any member of a District Court when sitting to hear charges against children or young persons other than charges against a child or young person jointly with an adult;~~

“Juvenile Court” means the Judge’s Court when sitting to hear charges against children or young persons other than charges against a child or young person jointly with an adult”; (a)

“reform school” means a place declared by the Governor under the provisions of this Law to be a reform school;

~~“young person” means a person who is fourteen years of age or upwards and under the age of sixteen years; (b)~~

“young person” means a natural person who has reached the age of fourteen or more, but is under the age of eighteen;

“probation officer” means a probation officer appointed under the provisions of the Probation of Offenders Law (c).

Declaration of reform school and approved residence

3.—(1) The Governor may declare any place in the Colony to be a reform school for the purposes of this Law and of any Regulations made thereunder.

(2) The Governor may declare any school, institution or residence, other than a reform school to be an approved residence for the purposes of this Law and of any regulations made thereunder.

Appointment of probation and deputy probation officers

- 4.—**(1) The Governor may appoint fit and proper persons to be probation officers.

(a) Definition inserted by Ordinance 3/1962 - came into force on 19 February 1962

(b) Definition repealed and replaced by Ordinance 07/2023 – came into force on 31 December 2023

(c) Law No. 2 of 49/57

(2) The Governor may, from time to time, appoint deputy probation officers to act in addition to, or in the absence or during illness or incapacity of, probation officers.

Assessors may advise Judge in trials of juveniles (a) (b)

~~4A.—(1) The Administrator shall appoint by notice in the Gazette, any number of persons (at least two of whom shall be women) as Juvenile Court Assessors (hereinafter referred to in this section as “the assessors”)~~

~~(2) Two assessors (at least one of whom shall be a woman) (at least one of whom, unless the Judge in exceptional or unavoidable circumstances otherwise directs, shall be a woman) (e) nominated for the purpose in writing by the Administrator shall sit with the Judge at every sitting of a Juvenile Court to hear charges against a child or young person and shall perform the following functions—~~

~~(a) at any stage of the proceedings the assessors may put questions to the accused and to witnesses through the Court, and such questions shall for all purposes be deemed to be questions put by the Court; and~~

~~(b) in the event of a plea of not guilty by the accused at any time before judgement, and in all cases at any time before sentence, the assessors may tender advice to the Court on any matter arising out of the proceedings, other than on a matter which the Court holds to be a question of law.~~

~~(3) Any advice tendered to the Court by the assessors in pursuance of paragraph (b) of the preceding sub-section may, at the discretion of the Court, be tendered in open Court or privately, and the Judge may, at his discretion, announce or record the substance of such advice, but shall be under no obligation to do so.~~

~~(4) A Juvenile Court shall be under no obligation to accept advice tendered to it by assessors in accordance with this section or to state reasons for not accepting such advice.~~

~~(5) Nothing in this section shall apply in any case the accused is charged with murder premeditated murder or homicide (d) or where the Juvenile Court is composed of three Judges.~~

~~(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Judge may, at any time in special circumstances by certificate or pronouncement in Court dispense with the aid or continued aid of either or both assessors. (e)~~

Juvenile Court

5.—(1) A Juvenile Court shall sit in a different building or room from that in which the ordinary sittings of the District Court are held, or on different days or at different times from such sittings.

(2) Where in the course of any proceedings in a Juvenile Court it appears to the Court that the person charged or to whom the proceedings relate is of the age of ~~sixteen~~ *eighteen (f)* years or upwards, or where in the course of any proceedings in any Court other than a Juvenile Court it appears that the person charged or to whom the proceedings relate is under the age of ~~sixteen~~ *eighteen* years, nothing in this Law shall be construed as preventing the Court, if it thinks it undesirable to adjourn the case, from proceeding with the hearing and determination of the case.

(3) Provision shall, so far as is practicable, be made for preventing persons apparently under the age of ~~sixteen~~ *eighteen* years whilst being conveyed to or from Court, or whilst waiting before or after their attendance in Court, from association with adults charged with or convicted of any offence other than an offence with which the person apparently under the age of ~~sixteen~~ *eighteen* years is jointly charged or convicted.

(a) Section 4A inserted by Ordinance 3/1962 - came into force on 19 February 1962

(b) Section 4A repealed by Ordinance 07/2023 – came into force on 31 December 2023

(c) Text deleted and new text inserted by Ordinance 2/1969 – came into force on 03 February 1969

(d) Text deleted and new text inserted by Ordinance 2/1969 – came into force on 03 February 1969

(e) Subsection (6) inserted by Ordinance 2/1969 – came into force on 03 February 1969

(f) Age amended wherever it appears in section 5 by Ordinance 07/2023 – came into force on 31 December 2023

(4) In a Juvenile Court no person other than the members and officers of the Court and the parties to the case, their advocates and other persons directly concerned in the case, shall, except by leave of the Court, be allowed to attend;

Provided also, that no person shall publish the name, address, school, photograph, or anything likely to lead to the identification of the child or young person before the Juvenile Court, save with the permission of the Court or in so far as required by the provisions of this Law, and any person who acts in contravention of the provisions of this proviso shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Bail by police officer of children and young persons arrested

6.—(1) Where a person apparently under the age of ~~sixteen~~ *eighteen* (a) years is apprehended with or without warrant and cannot be brought forthwith before a Court, any police officer not below the rank of sergeant or the police officer in charge of the police station to whom such person is brought shall inquire into the case, and may release him on a recognizance, with or without sureties, being entered into by him or his parent or guardian or other person acceptable to such police officer in such amount as will, in the opinion of such officer, secure the attendance of such person upon the hearing of the charge, and shall so release him unless—

- (a) the charge is one of homicide or other grave crime;
- (b) it is necessary in his interest to remove him from association with any undesirable person; or
- (c) the police officer has reason to believe that his release would defeat the ends of justice.

(2) Where such person is not released on a recognizance under the provisions of subsection (1), the police officer to whom such person is brought shall cause him to be detained in a police station until he has been brought before a Court.

Remand by Court

7.—(1) A Court on remanding or committing for trial a child or young person who is not released on bail, shall, where practicable instead of committing him to prison commit him to custody in a police station to be there detained for the period for which he is remanded or until he is thence delivered in due course of law.

(2) A commitment under this section may be varied or, in the case of a young person who proves to be of so unruly a character that he cannot be suitably detained in such custody, or to be so depraved a character that he is not a fit person to be so detained, revoked by any Court acting in or for the place in or for which the Court which made the order acted, and if it is revoked the young person may be committed to prison.

Association with adults during detention in custody

8. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Police to make arrangements for preventing, so far as is practicable, a child or young person while being detained in custody in a police station from associating with an adult, other than a relative, charged with an offence.

Notice to probation officer by police officer or person bringing child or young person before Court

9. Where a child or young person is to be brought before any Court the police officer or person bringing the child or young person before the Court shall forthwith notify the day and hour when, and the nature of the charge or other grounds on which the child or young person is to be brought

(a) Age amended by Ordinance 07/2023 – came into force on 31 December 2023

before the Court, to the probation officer or one of the probation officers for the District in which the Court will sit.

Procedure in Juvenile Court

10.—(1) Where a child or young person is brought before a Juvenile Court for any offence it shall be the duty of the Court as soon as possible to explain to him in simple language the substance of the alleged offence.

(2) Where a child or young person is brought before a Juvenile Court for any offence other than homicide the case shall be summarily disposed of in such Court, and it shall not be necessary to ask the child or young person or the parent of such child or young person whether he consents that the child or young person shall be so dealt with in the Juvenile Court.

(3) After explaining the substance of the alleged offence the Court shall ask the child or young person whether he admits the offence.

(4) If the child or young person does not admit the offence the Court shall then hear the evidence of the witnesses in support thereof. At the close of the evidence in chief of each such witness the child or young person shall be asked if he wishes to put any questions to the witness.

If a child or young person instead of asking questions wishes to make a statement he shall be allowed to do so. It shall be the duty of the Court to put to the witnesses such questions as appear to be necessary. The Court may put to the child or young person such questions as may be necessary to explain anything in the statement of the child or young person.

(5) If it appears to the Court that a *prima facie* case is made out, the evidence of any witnesses for the defence shall be heard and the child or young person shall be allowed to make a statement or to give evidence on oath in which latter case he will be liable to cross-examination.

(6) If the child or young person admits the offence or the Court is satisfied that it is proved, he shall then be asked if he desires to say anything in extenuation or mitigation of the penalty or otherwise. In order to enable it to deal with the case in the best interests of the child or young person, the Court may obtain such information as to his general conduct, home surroundings, school record, and medical history, as it may deem necessary, and may put to him any question arising out of such information. For the purpose of obtaining such information or for special medical examination or observation the Court may from time to time remand the child or young person on bail or in custody.

(7) If the child or young person admits the offence or the Court is satisfied that it is proved, and the Court decides that a remand is necessary for the purposes of inquiry or observation, the Court shall record that the charge is proved and that the child or young person has been remanded. The Court before which a child or young person so remanded is brought may without further proof of the commission of the offence make any order in respect of the child or young person which could have been made by the Court which so remanded the child or young person.

Power of the Court to require attendance of parent or guardian

11. Where a child or young person is charged with any offence the Court may, in its discretion, require the attendance of his parent or guardian and may make such orders as are necessary for the purpose.

Methods of dealing with juvenile offenders

12.—(1) Where a child or young person charged with any offence is tried by any Court and the Court is satisfied of his guilt the Court shall take into consideration the manner in which, under the provisions of this or any other Law^(a) or otherwise enabling the Court to deal with the case, the case should be dealt with, namely whether—

(a) 3(a) of 49/54

- (a) by dismissing the charge;
- (b) by dealing with the case under the various provisions of the Probation of Offenders Law (a);
- (c) by committing the offender to the care of a relative or other fit person;
- (d) by sending the offender to a reform school;
- ~~(e) where the offender is a child by ordering him to be whipped; (b)~~
- (f) by ordering the offender to pay a fine, damages or costs to which he is liable; or
- (g) where the offender is a young person sentence him to imprisonment for the term for which he is liable.

(2) No child shall in any case be sentenced to imprisonment and no young person shall be sentenced to imprisonment if he can be suitably dealt with in any other way as set out in paragraph (b), (c), (d) or (f) of subsection 1 of this section.

(3) No appeal as to sentence shall lie where a child is sentenced to a whipping only (c). (d)

(4) Where an order under this section is made by a Court, the order shall, for the purposes of re-vesting or restoring stolen property and of enabling the Court to make orders as to the restitution or delivery of property to the owner and as to the payment of money upon, or in connection with, such restitution or delivery, have the like effect as a conviction.

Duration of reformatory orders

13.—(1) Where a Court orders a child to be sent to a reform school, the order shall be an authority for his detention in a reform school for a period not exceeding four years from the date of the order and, if at the expiration of that period he is under the age of fifteen years, for his further detention until he attains that age.

(2) Where a Court orders a young person to be sent to a reform school, the order shall be an authority for his detention in a reform school—

- (a) if at the date of the order he has not attained the age of fifteen years, for a period not exceeding four years from the date of the order; and
- (b) if at the date of the order he has attained the age of fifteen years, until he attains the age of nineteen years.

Children liable to be committed to care of relative, etc.

14.—(1) Any police officer or person authorised by the Governor in that behalf may bring before a Court any person apparently under the age of fourteen years who—

- (a) is found begging or receiving alms (whether or not there is any pretence of singing, playing, performing, offering anything for sale or otherwise), or is found in any street, premises, or place for the purpose of so begging or receiving alms; or
- (b) is found wandering having no home or settled place of abode, or visible means of subsistence, or is found wandering having no parent or guardian, or a parent or guardian who does not exercise proper guardianship; or
- (c) not being an orphan is found destitute, if his parent or surviving parent, or in the case of an illegitimate child, his mother, are or is undergoing imprisonment; or
- (d) is under the care of a parent or guardian who is not exercising proper care and guardianship whereby the child is either falling into bad associations or is exposed to moral danger; or

(a) Cap. 162

(b) paragraph (e) repealed by Ordinance 3/1962 - came into force on 19 February 1962

(c) 3(b) of 49/54

(d) Subsection (3) repealed by Ordinance 3/1962 - came into force on 19 February 1962

- (e) is lodging or residing in a house or the part of a house used by any prostitute for the purposes of prostitution, or is otherwise living in circumstances calculated to cause, encourage or favour the seduction or prostitution of the child,

and the Court before which a person is brought as coming within one of those descriptions, is satisfied on inquiry of that fact, may order the child to be taken out of the custody, charge, or care of any person, and to be committed to the care of a relative of the child or some other fit person or institution named by the Court (such relative or other person or institution being willing to undertake such care), until the child attains the age of ~~sixteen~~ *eighteen* (a) years, or for any shorter period, and may, in addition to such order or without making any other order, make an order that the child be placed under the supervision of a probation officer or some other person appointed for the purpose, for a specified period until the child attains the age of ~~sixteen~~ *eighteen* years, or for any other shorter period, and the Court may of its own motion, or on the application of any person, from time to time, by order renew, vary or revoke any such order.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be in writing, and any such order may be made by the Court in the absence of the child; and the consent of any person or institution to undertake the care of the child in pursuance of any such order shall be proved in such a manner as the Court may think sufficient to bind that person or institution.

(3) Any person or institution to whose care a child is committed under this section shall, whilst the order is in force, have the same right of control over the child as a parent and the child shall continue in the care of such person or institution, notwithstanding that he is claimed by his parent or any other person, and if any person—

- (a) knowingly assists or induces, directly or indirectly, a child to escape from the person or institution to whose care he is so committed; or
- (b) knowingly harbours, conceals or prevents from returning to such person or institution, a child who has so escaped, or knowingly assists in so doing,

he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both.

(4) The Governor may at any time in his discretion discharge a child from the care of any person or institution to whose care he is committed in pursuance of this section, either absolutely or on such conditions as the Governor approves.

Power of Court to order maintenance of children or young persons

15.—(1) Any Court having power to make an order committing a child or young person to a reform school or to an institution or to the care of a fit person may, if it appears to the Court that the parents or other person liable to maintain the child or young person possesses means to contribute in whole or in part to his maintenance, make an order on such parent or other person to contribute to the maintenance of such child or young person during the period of detention such sum as may appear to the Court that such parent or other person is reasonably able to contribute and the Court may from time to time vary such order.

(2) Any such order may be made on the complaint or application of the authority in charge of the reform school or of the institution or of the person to whose care the child or young person is for the time being committed and either at the time when the order for the committal of the child is made or subsequently and the sum contributed by the parent or such other person shall be paid to such authority, institution or person making the complaint or application and shall be applied for the maintenance of the child or young person.

(3) Any sum payable under such order shall be deemed to be a sum due by the parent or other person named in the order to the authority in charge of the reform school or of the institution or to the person named in the order and shall be recovered in all respects in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of any Law in force regarding execution of judgments as though the amount thereof had been received in a civil action in the Court in which the order was made.

(a) Age amended wherever it appears in Section 14 by Ordinance 07/2023 – came into force on 31 December 2023

Power to order parent, etc. to pay fine, etc. instead of juvenile offender

16.—(1) Where a child or young person is charged before any Court with any offence for the commission of which a fine, damages or costs may be imposed, and the Court is of opinion that the case would be best met by the imposition of a fine, damages or costs, whether with or without any other punishment, the Court may in any case, and shall if the offender is a child, order that the fine, damages or costs awarded be paid by the parent or guardian of the child or young person instead of by the child or young person, unless the Court is satisfied that the parent or guardian cannot be found or that he has not conducted to the commission of the offence by neglecting to exercise due care of the child or young person.

(2) In the case of a child or young person charged with any offence, the Court may order his parent or guardian to give security for the good behaviour of such child or young person.

(3) Any order under this section may be made against a parent or guardian who, having been required to attend, has failed to do so, but, save as aforesaid, no such order shall be made without giving the parent or guardian an opportunity of being heard.

(4) Any sum ordered to be paid by a parent or guardian under this section, or on forfeiture of any such security as aforesaid, may be recovered from him in like manner as if the order had been made on the conviction of the parent or guardian of the offence with which the child or young person was charged.

(5) A parent or guardian may appeal against an order under this section to the Supreme Court in accordance with the provisions of any Law in force for the time being regulating appeals to such Court from a District Court, as if the parent or guardian against whom the order was made had been convicted by a Court and the order had been a sentence passed on his conviction.

Presumption and determination of age

17. Where a person, whether charged with an offence or not, is brought before any Court otherwise than for the purpose of giving evidence, and it appears to the Court that he is a child or young person, the Court shall make due inquiry as to the age of that person, and for that purpose shall take such evidence as may be forthcoming at the hearing of the case, but an order or judgement of the Court shall not be invalidated by any subsequent proof that the age of that person has not been correctly stated to the Court, and the age presumed or declared by the Court to be the person so brought before it shall, for the purposes of this Law, be deemed to be the true age of that person, and, where it appears to the Court that the person so brought before it is of the age of ~~sixteen~~ **eighteen** (a) years or upwards, that person shall for the purposes of this Law be deemed not to be a child or young person.

Power to Governor to order removal of persons attaining the age of 16 to a place of detention.

18. Where it is made to appear to the Governor by the person in charge of a reform school, that, with regard to any person therein who has attained the age of ~~sixteen~~ **eighteen** (b)—

- (a) it is undesirable that he should continue associating with persons of a younger age; or
- (b) on account of lack of accommodation in the reform school, it is desirable that he should not remain in the reform school,

the Governor may order that such person shall be removed to any place of detention approved by him for a period which, together with the period during which he has already been detained in the reform school, shall not exceed the period for which he was liable to be detained in a reform school under the provisions of section 13 of this Law.

(a) Age amended by Ordinance 07/2023 – came into force on 31 December 2023

(b) Age amended by Ordinance 07/2023 – came into force on 31 December 2023

Power to Juvenile Court to commit inmate of reform school to prison

19. Where it is made to appear to a Court by the person in charge of a reform school that an inmate of such school, not being a child, has proved to be of so unruly or depraved a character as to make him unfit to be an inmate of the same, the Court may commit such inmate to prison for a period which, together with the period during which he has already been detained in the reform school, shall not exceed the maximum period for which he was liable to be detained in a reform school under the provisions of section 13 of this Law.

Suspension of operation of detention order

20. The operation of an order for detention in a reform school may be suspended by the Court pending completion of arrangements for the reception of the child or young person into a reform school, or for good and sufficient reasons. In such a case the Court may remand him in custody as provided for under section 7 of this Law or may order him to be committed to the care of some fit and proper person willing to undertake such custody, or may release him on bail.

Association with adult prisoners

21. A young person sentenced to imprisonment or committed to prison shall not, as far as is practicable, be allowed to associate with adult prisoners.

Regulations

22. The Governor in Council may make Regulations with respect to any of the purposes—

- (a) for the management and maintenance of good order and discipline in reform schools and approved residences and for enabling any person or authority in charge of a reform school or approved residence to issue such orders and directions as to such person or authority may seem fit for the maintenance or good order and discipline in such school or residence;
- (b) for enabling such authority as may be specified, at any time during the period of detention of a child or young person in a reform school, to permit such child or person by licence in writing to live in an approved residence or with his parents or with such other person who is willing to receive and take charge of him, subject to such conditions, to be specified in the licence (including in particular a condition that the child or young person affected shall be under the supervision of a probation officer) as such authority may think fit and to revoke any such licence at any time:

Provided always that, without the consent of the Governor, a licence shall not be granted during the first twelve months of the period of detention;

- (c) for the investigation, including the taking of evidence on oath if necessary, by such authority as may be specified, or any breach or contravention of the Regulations or of any order or direction issued by the appropriate authority for the maintenance of good order and discipline in reform schools and approved residences, and for the punishment which may be imposed for any such breach or contravention;
- (d) generally for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Law.

Forms

23. The Governor may, with the advice and assistance of the Chief Justice, prescribe forms to be used in any matter or proceeding had or taken before any Court in relation to any child or young person.

Right of parent, etc. to administer punishment

24. Nothing in this Law contained shall be construed to take away or affect the right of any parent, teacher or other person having the lawful control or charge of a child or young person to administer punishment to such child or young person.

Saving

25.

- (a) Any place declared to be a reformatory under the Laws hereby repealed* shall be deemed to be a reform school declared as such under the provisions of this Law;
- (b) Any order made by any Court under the Laws hereby repealed* in relation to any child or young person, which is in force when this Law comes into operation, shall be deemed to have been made under the provisions of this Law.

** The Juvenile Offender Laws, 1935 and 1945, were repealed by this Law.*