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Circular No. 8 – Records Relating To Youth

The following records provide information about juveniles that have entered into the State of Michigan's governmental system by being available for adoption or having a problem adjusting to society. For access to Adoption Records, you must contact Nanette Salyer, Department of Human Services, at 517-335-6075. For access to Reformatory Records, you must contact Margaret Olesnavage, Bureau of Juvenile Justice, at 517-335-1438.

Confidential Adoption Records

Michigan Children's Institute (Restricted index in vault area.)

RG 65-11 Register of children, 1874-1938. Offers date of reception, number and name of individual, county of residence, nativity, facts regarding parents and whether child was an orphan or deserted. Arranged chronologically and numerically by individual case (series 3).

Report of state agents dated 1885-1895. Includes narrative statements resulting from agent's investigation of the physical condition and social adjustment of children indentured, restored to parents, or independent. Lists county of placement, name of child and guardian, and comments on progress of child since leaving school. Arranged chronologically (series 4).

Report of children dated 1889-1922. Offers reception or registry number, name of individual, by whom reported, number of months in school, and comments. Arranged chronologically (series 5).

Registry of children restored to parents and declared self-supporting, 1885-1959. Offers reception or registry number, name of child, name of his or her parents, as well as address. Arranged chronologically (series 7).

Register of children adopted and returned to counties, 1879-1947. Offers reception number, name of child and guardian, plus address. Arranged chronologically (series 8).

Register of children indentured, 1874-1931. Offers date, reception and indenture number, name of individual indentured, name of guardian, and post office address. Arranged chronologically (series 9).

Register of children indentured in counties, 1884-1942. Offers date, reception and indenture number, name of individual child, name of guardian, township or village and post office address. Arranged alphabetically by name of county, then chronologically (series 10).



Confidential Adoption Records (Cont.)

Social Services

RG 69-128 History of children, 1874-1925. Offers date of admission, name of child, age, county of residence, names of parents and residence, plus orphan status. Arranged numerically by number of child (series 1).

Reformatory Records

Girls' Training School (Restricted index in vault area.)

RG 58-6 Letters to superintendent from girls indentured for service in private homes and other interested people, ca. 1881-1892. Includes petitions for release, letters from girls reporting work and social conditions in homes, problems, and progress of reform. Arranged alphabetically by subject's name (series 14).

Record of girls received at Crosswell Cottage, 1882-1918. Includes identification number, name, place of residence, and reasons for commitment. Arranged chronologically (series 43).

Record of girls received in the Michigan Reform School for Girls, 1881-1883. Case histories of first 120 girls received at the school. Includes name, identification number, date received, charge and sentence plus personal history. Arranged chronologically (series 44).

Boys' Training School (Restricted index in vault area.)

RG 61-16 Statistical record book of the school, 1856-1880. Offers names of inmate, number, age, nationality, education, religion, moral condition, and employment. Arranged chronologically by date of commitment (series 1).

General record of inmates, 1886-1893. Offers name of inmate, expiration date of term, date and conditions of release, offense, plus county and post office address. Arranged alphabetically by name of inmate (series 2).

Record of discharged inmates of the school, 1860-1897. Offers name, date of discharge, time in school, grades, and condition of discharge. Arranged chronologically (series 3).

RG 73-28 History of boys, 1856-1920. Offers number and name of inhabitant, date committed and received, birthplace, age, physical description, place of residence, and names of parents. Includes church affiliations and scholarship records. Arranged numerically by ID number (series 1).

General record of inmates, ca. 1893-1946 (series 2). See RG 61-16, series 2, above for description.

Boys' Training School (cont.) (Restricted index in vault area.)

- RG 73-52 Case histories of inhabitants, 1926-1934. The records are index cards summarizing the case history of boys whose terms of commitment expired between 1926 and 1934. The records list each boy's name, former residence, birth date, religion, physical description, IQ score, and any criminal offenses committed by the boy. Arranged alphabetically by last name (series 1).
- RG 75-50 Case Files of boys, 1944-1965. Includes court records, medical records, case histories, and correspondence. Arranged numerically by case number (series 1).