

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile Courts are a development of modern days. Their establishment has been based on the legal concept that the juvenile offender is the erring ward of the State, rather than a criminal foe of the social order. Community appreciation of Juvenile Court work has been based on the realization of several principles which are admirably stated by Edward F. Waite, District Judge of the Juvenile Court, Minneapolis, in his paper on "The Origin and Development of the Minnesota Juvenile Court", as follows:

1. The value of the child to the community;
2. The relative moral irresponsibility of juveniles;
3. The advantage of reformation over punishment as a social motive in dealing with offenders;
4. The effect of heredity and environment on character;
5. Community responsibility for conditions resulting in inherited and environmental handicaps.

Since the establishment of the first Juvenile Court in Chicago in 1899, Juvenile Courts have been set up in many of the large cities in Canada and the United States.