

# The Crippled Children's Law

*(together with a word from you)*

Will Save the Life of Some Child



*Was once badly crippled;  
is now well and strong.*

Ninety per cent of such children in Oregon  
may be saved to useful lives if the Crippled  
Children's Law is fully applied.

## Do You Know What a Word from You Can Do?

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Do you know of a crippled child or a sick child suffering from the inability of the family to pay for costly medical or surgical treatment?

Do you know that the State has provided for such cases—will pay all the necessary expenses of the cure—the only thing the state cannot provide is the part you can easily contribute?

Do you know that a word from you to your county judge may make all the difference for some human being between a life of deformity and suffering and one of normal, happy usefulness?

The county judge has all the powers necessary—the only thing he lacks is the knowledge that the need exists—this you may be able to supply.

Every reputable physician in the state is not only willing but eager to advise with you in a case of this kind without charge.

There are people in Portland who stand ready to keep in touch with the children during their period of treatment. Write to **Mrs.** P. L. Campbell, Eugene, Oregon, who will tell you exactly what can be done.

The following summary of the law was prepared by L. L. Ray, district attorney for Lane county. If you know of any child who might be entitled to treatment under its provisions, won't you report it at once to the proper authorities? Only this kind of cooperation on the part of every citizen will enable the law to, accomplish its purpose.

# Salient Features of the Crippled Children's Law

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By L. L. RAY

1.

The title to Chapter 145 of the General Laws of Oregon for 1917, which is known as the Crippled Children's Law, expresses the purposes of the act in the following words:

"To provide medical and surgical treatment for sick and deformed, indigent children, under the supervision of the medical department of the University of Oregon; and providing the manner and method of defraying the necessary expenses thereof."

2.

Any probation officer, school teacher, or school officer, relief officer or physician may file a written complaint with the County Judge, alleging that the child named therein is under sixteen years of age, and is afflicted with some deformity or suffering from some malady that can probably be remedied; and that the parents of other persons legally chargeable with the support of such child are unable to provide the means for surgical and medical treatment and hospital care for such child.

3.

Upon the filing of the complaint the County Judge will appoint a physician to personally examine the child with respect to its deformity or malady and to file a detailed report of his finding.

1.

If the physician reports that the same can probably be remedied the Court will fix a time for a hearing in the matter

and cause notice of the same to be served upon the parents or other persons standing in that relationship.

5.

If the allegations of the complaint and the physician's report are found to be true, the Judge will then enter an order directing that the child shall be taken or sent to the cot, bed, ward or hospital under the direction of the medical school of the University of Oregon for free surgical and medical treatment and hospital care, and that said child shall be provided with proper and sufficient clothing.

6.

The medical school may decline to receive and treat such child if, upon examination, it is found that treatment would not be advisable.

7.

No compensation is allowed the physician or surgeon who treats such child; other necessary hospital and transportation expenses are paid by the county.

8.

No child may be treated for any ailment other than that named in the order of the Court; and it is expressly forbidden that any child shall be used for the purposes of experimentation.

9.

Upon written request of the parents, filed at the time of the hearing, the child may be sent to some other reliable hospital and medical school provided such institution agrees to accept such child under the same conditions as imposed upon the medical school of the University of Oregon.

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Blanks upon which the investigating physician will make his report may be obtained from the County Judge. The other necessary blank forms may be obtained from the County Clerk, or if he does not have them on hand the District Attorney will prepare the necessary papers and act as your advisor.

## Those to Whom the Law Applies

The question of what children are entitled to medical assistance under this law is fully answered in the following statement from Attorney General George M. Brown :

"I *have* examined the statute popularly known as the 'Crippled Children's Law,' being Chapter 145, General Laws of 1917, and so far as I can ascertain it applies to all children under sixteen years of age who are afflicted with some deformity- or suffering from some malady that can probably be remedied, and the parents or other persons legally chargeable with the support of such child are unable to provide means for the surgical and medical treatment and hospital care of such child. (*See Sec. 1.*)-

"The provisions of the statute are clearly within the police power of the state, providing for the health and rights of its citizens, and I am of the opinion that if the provisions are enforceable all persons therein named are subject to its provisions.

"I do not find, however, any provision for the parents or guardians of children paying a part of the expenses. It apparently applies only where such parents or guardians are unable to pay such expenses, and in that case the expenses are all chargeable to the county."

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## Glimpses of What it Means

The boy whose picture appears on the title page is a typical example of what may be done in hundreds of cases. Here is part of a letter received recently from *his* mother:

"Clair was taken with infantile paralysis when he was between three and four years old. He was ten when he was taken to the hospital at Portland.

"He *is* getting along fine; can go anywhere. He has grown so much you would hardly know him. His little foot doesn't seem to grow; it was so far behind the other one that there is quite a difference, but it isn't very noticeable.

"It is *surely* wonderful what can be done these days. Some of the people can hardly believe it yet, he is so different."

## Willie F

The story of this boy and of the children following comes from Dr. Kenneth A. J. MacKenzie, dean of the University of Oregon medical school in Portland :

"Willie was brought to the hospital about eight months ago, suffering from incipient tuberculosis of the hip joint, with every sign of an active process. He was put to bed at once in the hospital with an extension, and kept in bed about five months. He was permitted to get up on his feet, and the effected limb placed in a plaster cast; then he was allowed to walk with crutches and the sound limb protected by a special pad with a felt sole to prevent the affected limb touching the ground. For the last two months this cast has been removed, and the process was found to be controlled, and the hip joint, formerly stiff, now movable in every direction.

"Two other cases of like character have been recently treated, in which the hip joint was stiffened by tuberculosis, the leg being in a position of extreme deformity. The deformity was corrected completely, and the children are now walking under surveillance with most promising results.

"At least twelve children with club feet, frail joints, some of them unable to walk at all, have been restored so that their locomotion is corrected to a surprising degree, many of them being completely restored."

## What Results May We Expect?

Results from similar laws in other states show that more than ninety per cent of the children treated become self-supporting in gainful occupations, and that nearly all are relieved from pain during the remainder of their lives.

Is the changing of these probable dependents to normal, useful and self-supporting citizens worth while/ If you think it is, will you help to make the law effective by reporting the cases of any children who you think might be cared for under this crippled children's law to your County Judge, But don't stop when you have reported the case; follow it through to make sure that the child gets all the help to which it is entitled.

To initiate proceedings for relief in any case you may know of, fill out the attached blank, swear to it before a notary and submit the paper to your County Judge, who then becomes responsible for carrying the matter further. It will help, however, if you will keep in touch with him to aid him in expediting the matter.

**701-1 ff Oartuntll Cunt**

In the Matter of .....  
a Child Suffering From a Deformity or PETITION  
Malady Which Can Probably be Remedied.

TO THE COURT OR JUDGE:

**alleges that**

..... is a child under sixteen (16) years of  
age and is afflicted with some deformity or suffering from some  
malady which can probably be remedied by surgical and medical  
treatment and hospital care in the Medical School of the State  
University of Oregon, and that the person having the legal custody  
of said child is ..... and  
is the ..... (parent of guardian) of said child,  
and that the person or persons legally chargeable with the support  
of said child are unable to provide means for his surgical and  
medical treatment and hospital care.

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that some physician be  
appointed who shall personally examine said child with respect  
to his malady or deformity and report his findings, and that such  
other and further orders be made and entered as may be proper  
in the premises.

(Signed) .....

STATE OF OREGON,  
County of ..... }

..... being first duly sworn on oath  
states that he is the petitioner herein and is .....

..... ; that he has heard read  
the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof and that  
the statements and allegations therein contained are true as he  
verily believes.

.....

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this .....  
day of ....., 191 ...

.....

(SEALS Notary Public for Oregon.  
My Commission Expires.....

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