

CHAPTER 230

THE JUVENILE COURTS ACT

Arrangement of Sections
Section

1. Short title.
2. Establishment of juvenile courts.
3. Trial by juvenile courts.
4. Exclusion of the public from juvenile courts.
5. Rules of procedure.

JUVENILE COURTS

(20th December, 1948.)

5/1948.
32/1956.

1. This Act may be cited as the Juvenile Courts Act. **Short title.**

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act the Governor-General may by order provide for—
 - (a) the establishment of one or more juvenile courts in the magisterial districts of Antigua and Barbuda;
 - (b) juvenile courts to be held elsewhere than in the buildings used as Magistrate's Courts;
 - (c) fixing the time when juvenile courts shall be held; and
 - (d) every juvenile court to be constituted of a Magistrate and such other persons to be called assessors as may be nominated by the Governor-General:

Provided that nothing in the order shall prevent a Magistrate sitting alone in any case where he considers that it would be impracticable for the court to be constituted in manner aforesaid, or that it would be inexpedient in the interests of justice to adjourn the business of the court.

Trial by juvenile courts.
Cap. 255.

3. When a young person or child within the meaning of the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act is charged with any offence punishable on summary conviction, the Magistrate shall, unless the child or young person is charged jointly with any other person not being a child or young person, for the purpose of hearing the charge, sit in the juvenile court established in his district under the provisions of this Act and, notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary, the procedure to be followed on the hearing of such charge shall be in accordance with rules to be made under section 5.

Exclusion of the public from juvenile courts.

4. (1) In a juvenile court no person other than the members and officers of the court and the parties to the case, their solicitors and counsel, and other persons directly concerned in the case, shall, except by leave of the court, be allowed to attend.

(2) For the purposes of this section any person appointed by the Governor-General as a Probation Officer shall be deemed an officer of the court.

Rules of procedure.

5. The Governor-General may make rules regulating the procedure to be followed in juvenile courts.
