

## CHAPTER 414

## POOR MOTHERS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

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**414.01 County aid for poor mothers.**—The county commissioners of the several counties of the state may provide in the annual budget of the General Revenue Fund an appropriation sufficient to meet the purposes of this law for the support of women of insufficient income, who have dependent upon them for food, raiment, and education, orphans, or half-orphan children under 16 years of age, including any woman whose husband is dead or is an inmate of some state institution, or whose marriage is dissolved, or whose husband has been prosecuted for desertion or nonsupport and has been adjudicated by the court where prosecuted to be wholly unable to support his wife and children, or whose husband is permanently incapacitated for work by reason of any mental or physical infirmity, and any woman who is the mother of a child if her own support and the support of the child depend wholly or partially upon her labor, shall be entitled to the assistance as provided for in this chapter for the support of herself and for her child.

**History.**—s. 1, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(1); s. 1, ch. 73-300.

**414.02 Allowance authorized.**—The allowance for the aid of such women shall not exceed \$25 a month when she has but one child under 16 years of age. If she has more than one child under the age of 16 years it shall not exceed \$25 for the first child, and \$8 a month for each of the other children.

**History.**—s. 2, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(2).

**414.03 Conditions of allowance.**—The county commissioners of their respective counties may levy a tax of not more than 1 mill on all taxable property of their respective counties for the purpose of supplying funds to carry this chapter into effect, and provide means for the same, provided the condition of allowance of said allotment shall be made by the county commissioners after due investigation of each case by and through such agency as the board of county commissioners shall deem advisable, and only upon the following conditions:

(1) The child for whose benefit the allowance is made, must be living with the mother of such child, or other relative within the second degree, or guardian approved by the proper authorities.

(2) The mother must, in the judgment of the county commissioners of such county, which body shall finally pass upon all applications for aid under this chapter, be a proper person morally, physically and mentally fitted for the bringing up of the child, and shall be in actual need of the aid provided by this chapter.

(3) Said allowance shall, in the judgment of the county commissioners, be necessary to save the child from neglect.

(4) No person shall receive the benefit of this chapter who shall not have been a resident of the state for at least 2 years and a resident of the county in which the allowance is given, for at least 1 year next before the making of the application for aid in such county.

**History.**—s. 3, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(3).

**414.04 When allowance shall cease.**—Whenever any child shall reach the age of 16 years, or the mother shall remarry, the allowance to the mother or the children shall cease; provided, however, that if it is made to appear to the board of county commissioners, after an investigation, that there exists some special reason that it is for the best interest of any child, as well as for society, to continue said allowance for a longer period of time, such allowance may be continued for such time as the justice of the case may demand. In all cases, however, when the mother remarries all allowances shall cease.

**History.**—s. 4, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(4).

**414.05 Orphans dependent on poor female relative; impoverished orphans.**—The provisions of this chapter shall also be extended for the benefit of orphan children who are dependent on some female relative unable to support them, or to any children under guardianship who are dependents or paupers and have no means of support.

**History.**—s. 5, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(5).

**414.06 How carried into effect.**—In order to carry the provisions of this chapter into effect, the board of county commissioners shall have direct supervision of the investigation of all cases and they may, in their discretion, use all county agencies for purposes of such investigation, and shall have the assistance of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and the Department of Education, in investigating all persons entitled to the provisions of this chapter in the gathering of data and the history, and making a report on each case, and to this end the necessary blanks will be provided, and the department shall provide uniform blanks to be printed and paid for by the counties to be used in gathering and recording the history of each case.

**History.**—s. 6, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(6); ss. 15, 19, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 327, ch. 77-147.

**414.07 History of each case.**—The history of each case, when investigated by the agency or agencies used by the board of county commissioners, shall be made up in duplicate, the original to be filed with the

board of county commissioners of the county, and one copy to be forwarded to and filed with the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

**History.**—s. 7, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(7); ss. 19, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 328, ch. 77-147.

**414.08 How families are to be investigated.**—The board of county commissioners of each county shall require the persons or agencies used for making the required investigation, to carefully and speedily investigate the condition of any and all poor mothers' children, orphan and half-orphan children, whose needs may be brought to their attention, and after having gathered the history of each case and recorded such history upon the blanks as hereinbefore required to be provided, to immediately place such report of such case before the board of county commissioners of such county for immediate action, and the said board of county commissioners shall examine such report and immediately take up such application and grant or reject such application, as the board of county commissioners in their judgment shall find the applicant entitled by this chapter.

**History.**—s. 8, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(8).

**414.09 Other persons may be appointed to carry law into effect.**—In making the investigations of cases, as required by this chapter, the board of county commissioners shall use, so far as possible, some employee of the county trained in such work, who shall not receive any additional compensation therefor, or in the absence of such employee the board of county commissioners shall appoint three capable women, residents of such county, who will be willing to accept such appointment and serve without compensation, to investigate and report such case or cases as may be submitted to them of poor mothers, orphans and half-orphan children entitled to the provisions of this chapter, and such persons so appointed shall individually or collectively make their

investigation of the case submitted to them as provided for in s. 414.08.

**History.**—s. 9, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(9).

**414.10 Where child may reside.**—The child to whom the allowance is made under this chapter must be living with the mother, or other female guardian of such child, unless special privilege of separation is authorized by the board of county commissioners, such separation to be granted where advantageous for the sake of the child's education or general welfare.

**History.**—s. 10, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(10).

**414.11 Required attendance at school.**—All children receiving aid under the provisions of this chapter, if of school age and physically and mentally qualified, shall be required to attend the schools of the county during the whole term or terms of such schools, and upon failure of such children to attend schools for the whole term or terms thereof, the aid herein provided for such mothers and children shall cease without notice. No aid shall be paid for those of school age except upon the monthly certificate of the principal or head of the school or schools attended by such children that they have regularly attended the schools during the month in question or have been duly excused by him.

**History.**—s. 12, ch. 13759, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 3727(12).

**414.12 County commissioners may designate county welfare board to carry law into effect.**—In those counties having county welfare boards, the board of county commissioners may designate such welfare board, and it shall be the duty of such board, to make the investigation of all cases, and to pass upon all applications for aid; to pay the benefits authorized by this chapter; and the board of county commissioners is authorized, from the appropriation and tax levy authorized by this chapter, to disburse same to such welfare board for administration.

**History.**—s. 1, ch. 22716, 1945.