

SCHEDULE

The records to be kept under the provisions of paragraph (2) of Regulation 5 shall be —

- (1) A register in which shall be entered the date of admission and the date of discharge of every child accommodated in the Home.
- (2) A record book in which shall be recorded events of importance connected with the Home.
- (3) A record of every fire practice or drill conducted in the Home, together with records of all fire precautions agreed upon after consultation with the Fire Service.
- (4) Records of the food provided for the children in the Home in sufficient detail to enable any person inspecting the record to judge whether the dietary was satisfactory.

Welfare Authorities' Homes

REGULATIONS, DATED 25TH JULY, 1952, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 92 OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950.

1952. No. 130

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by sub-section (4) of Section 92 of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following Regulations :—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Children and Young Persons (Welfare Authorities' Homes) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1952.

2. These Regulations shall come into force on 1st October, 1952.

3.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say :—

“ the Act ” means the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1950 ;

“ child ” means a person under the age of eighteen ;

“ Fire Service ” means in the area of the County Borough of Belfast the Belfast Fire Brigade and elsewhere in Northern Ireland the Northern Ireland Fire Authority ;

“ Home ” means a Children's Home provided or maintained by a welfare authority ;

“ the Ministry ” means the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

4. The welfare authority shall ensure that each Home in its charge is conducted in such a manner and on such principles as will further the well-being of the children.

5.—(1) The welfare authority shall arrange for each Home in its charge to be visited at least once in each month by a member of the welfare committee or by a member of the children's sub-committee appointed by the welfare committee. The person visiting the Home shall satisfy himself whether the Home is conducted in the interests of the well-being of the children and shall enter his name and the date of his visit in the record book referred to in the Schedule to these Regulations and shall report to the welfare committee or to the children's sub-committee upon his visit, and the report shall be entered in the minutes of the committee or sub-committee to which he reported.

(2) The Children's Officer shall inspect each Home in the area for which he is appointed at least once in each month and shall satisfy himself that the Home is conducted in the interests of the well-being of the children. He shall enter his name and the date of his visit in the record book referred to in the Schedule to these Regulations and shall report to the welfare committee or to the children's sub-committee upon his inspection, and the report shall be entered in the minutes of the committee or sub-committee to which he reported.

6.—(1) The welfare authority shall appoint a person to be in charge of the Home :—

Provided that any person in charge of the Home immediately before these Regulations come into force shall be deemed to have been appointed to be in charge of the Home under this paragraph.

(2) The person in charge of the Home shall compile the records referred to in the Schedule to these Regulations and shall keep them at all times available for inspection by any person visiting the Home under Regulation 5 of these Regulations or by any inspector appointed by the Ministry.

(3) The person in charge of the Home shall be responsible for the custody of the medical records of each child and shall keep them at all times available to the medical officer or to any person specifically authorised by the welfare authority to inspect them, or to any inspector appointed by the Ministry.

7. The welfare authority shall secure that so far as is practicable each child in the Home attends such religious services and receives such religious instructions as are appropriate to the religious persuasion to which he belongs.

8.—(1) The welfare authority shall appoint a medical officer for each Home in its charge.

(2) The duties of the medical officer shall include —

- (i) the general supervision of the health of the children (excluding their dental health) ;
- (ii) the general supervision of the hygienic condition of the premises ;
- (iii) attendance at the Home at regular intervals with sufficient frequency to ensure that he is closely acquainted with the health of the children ;
- (iv) the examination of the children at regular intervals ;
- (v) the provision of such medical attention as may be necessary, other than dental treatment ;
- (vi) the giving of advice to the person in charge of the Home on matters affecting the health of any of the children or the hygienic condition of the premises ;
- (vii) the supervision of the compilation of a medical record for each child in the Home containing particulars of the medical history of the child before admission, so far as it is known, of his physical and mental condition on admission, of his medical history while accommodated in the Home and of his condition on discharge from the Home.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in the preceding provisions of this Regulation, the welfare authority may appoint more than one medical officer and divide the preceding duties among them as it sees fit.

9. The welfare authority shall make suitable arrangements for the dental care of the children in the Home.

10.—(1) The welfare authority shall notify the Ministry forthwith —

- (i) of the death of any child in the Home and of the relevant circumstances ;
- (ii) of any accident in the Home resulting in serious injury to a child or a member of the staff ;
- (iii) if known to the welfare authority, of the death of any child who dies within two months of ceasing to be in the Home and of the relevant circumstances so far as they can by reasonable enquiry be ascertained ;
- (iv) of any outbreak among the children in the Home under five years of age of infective gastro-enteritis, and of any outbreak of infectious disease among any of the children which the medical officer regards as sufficiently serious to be so notified.

(2) Where a child dies in the Home or contracts an illness or sustains an accident which the medical officer considers to be serious, the welfare authority shall notify the circumstances forthwith to the parent or guardian of the child, and, if the child were placed in the Home by another welfare authority, to that welfare authority.

11.—(1) The welfare authority shall obtain the advice of the Fire Service before opening a new Home or making any structural alterations to an existing Home, and shall arrange for the periodic inspection of each Home in its charge by the Fire Service.

(2) The welfare authority shall ensure that periodic fire drills and practice are carried out in each Home in its charge, so that the staff, and so far as possible the children, are well versed in the procedure for saving life in case of fire.

(3) The welfare authority shall report to the Ministry forthwith any outbreaks of fire in any Home in its charge.

12.—(1) The person in charge of a Home shall ensure that generally order is maintained by his personal influence and understanding and that of his staff, and resort to corporal punishment shall be avoided as far as possible.

(2) Where correction is needed for minor acts of misbehaviour, the punishment shall take the form of forfeiture of rewards or privileges (including pocket money) or temporary loss of recreation ; provided that a light tap of the hand may occasionally be applied to the hand of a child with the object of indicating urgent disapproval rather than that of inflicting pain.

(3) Other forms of corporal punishment shall be subject to the following conditions :—

- (a) It shall be inflicted only on the hands or posterior with a light cane and shall not exceed six strokes in the case of a child over 10 years of age, and 2 strokes in the case of a child over 8 and under 10 years of age. No child under 8 years of age shall be so punished.
- (b) It shall not be administered by any person other than the person in charge of the Home or in his absence his duly authorised deputy.
- (c) a second member of staff shall invariably be present to witness the proceedings.
- (d) No caning shall be administered in the presence of another child.
- (e) Any child known to have a physical or mental disability shall not be subjected to corporal punishment without the sanction of the medical officer.

(4) Particulars of the administration of corporal punishment under paragraph (3) of this Regulation (giving the name and age of the child concerned, the offence and the number of strokes of the cane awarded him) shall be entered in the record book referred to in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(5) At the commencement of each quarter, the welfare authority shall furnish to the Ministry a return giving particulars of corporal punishment imposed during the preceding three months.

13. The approval of the Ministry shall be required to —
- (i) the construction, acquisition or appropriation of premises by a welfare authority for the purposes of a Home ;
 - (ii) the making of additions, diminutions or alterations to or of, or to or of the grounds of, buildings used by a welfare authority for the purposes of a Home, and the bringing of any land into use for the said purposes ;
 - (iii) the appointment, salaries, qualifications and training of staff in a Home.

14.—(1) The Ministry may give directions limiting the period during which any child may be accommodated in a Home.

(2) The Ministry may direct any child to be removed from a Home and to be placed in another Home or in a Voluntary Home or to be boarded out, or to be otherwise dealt with.

(3) The Ministry may require a welfare authority to furnish returns of the children in a Home in such form as the Ministry may from time to time direct.

15. Where in the opinion of the welfare authority it is desirable in the special circumstances of any situation that the provisions of one or more of the foregoing Regulations should not apply, a special arrangement may be made with the prior consent of the Ministry.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this twenty-fifth day of July, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-two in the presence of

(L.S.)

(Sgd.) *J. B. O'Neill*,
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE

The records to be kept under the provisions of paragraph (2) of Regulation 6 shall be —

1. A register in which shall be entered the date of admission and the date of discharge of every child accommodated in the Home.
2. A record book in which shall be recorded events of importance connected with the Home.
3. A record of every fire practice or drill conducted in the Home, together with records of all fire precautions agreed upon after consultation with the Fire Service.
4. Records of the food provided for the children in the Home in sufficient detail to enable any person inspecting the record to judge whether the dietary was satisfactory.