

CLARKE HALL
AND MORRISON
ON
CHILDREN

NINTH
EDITION

JOSEPH CLARKE
AND MORRISON



BUTTERWORTHS
MORRISON'S EXT BOOKS

CLARKE HALL AND MORRISON
LAW RELATING TO

CHILDREN

AND

YOUNG PERSONS

NINTH EDITION

Consulting Editor

JOSEPH JACKSON

M.A., LL.B.(Cantab.), LL.M.(Lond.)

*of the Middle and the Inner Temple, One of Her Majesty's Counsel,
and of the South Eastern Circuit*

Editors

MARGARET BOOTH

LL.M.(Lond.)

*of the Middle and the Inner Temple, one of Her
Majesty's Counsel, and of the Western Circuit*

BRIAN HARRIS

LL.B.

*of Grays Inn, Barrister, Clerk to the
Poole Justices*

Foreword

by

SIR GEORGE BAKER

O.B.E.

President of the Family Division

LONDON

BUTTERWORTHS

1977

ENGLAND : BUTTERWORTH & CO. (PUBLISHERS) LTD.
LONDON : 88 KINGSWAY, WC2B 6AB

AUSTRALIA : BUTTERWORTH PTY. LTD.
SYDNEY : 586 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, CHATSWOOD, NSW 2067
Also at MELBOURNE, BRISBANE, ADELAIDE and PERTH

CANADA : BUTTERWORTH & CO. (CANADA) LTD.
TORONTO : 2265 MIDLAND AVENUE, SCARBOROUGH
M1P 4S1

NEW ZEALAND : BUTTERWORTHS OF NEW ZEALAND LTD.
WELLINGTON : 26-28 WARING TAYLOR STREET, I

SOUTH AFRICA : BUTTERWORTH & CO. (SOUTH AFRICA) (PTY.) LTD.
DURBAN : 152-154 GALE STREET

USA : BUTTERWORTH & CO. (PUBLISHERS) INC.
BOSTON : 19 CUMMINGS PARK, WOBURN, MASS. 01801

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BUTTERWORTH & CO. (PUBLISHERS) LTD.
1977

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ISBN 0 406 15807 X

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and we have
seen much
that would
not make
any man
open his
eyes
and search
the earth
for a better
place to live
than here.
We have
seen much
and we have
seen much.

CLARKE HALL AND MORRISON
ON
CHILDREN

First Edition 1934
Second Edition 1942
Third Edition 1947
Fourth Edition 1951
Fifth Edition 1956
Sixth Edition 1961
First reprint of Sixth Edition 1962
Second reprint of Sixth Edition 1965
Seventh Edition 1967
 Reprinted 1967
Eighth Edition 1972
Ninth Edition 1977

CHARLES HALL AND MORGAN
ON
CHILDREN

FOREWORD TO NINTH EDITION

At intervals of four to six years there has been a new Edition of Clarke Hall and Morrison on Children, since the Second in 1942. None will have been so warmly welcomed or as necessary as this, the Ninth.

I write this the more feelingly inasmuch as I have good reason to know how great have been the changes in principle and detail both in the Law and in procedures relating to children over the last five years. During this time the Family Division, having taken over the work, except for admiralty and contested probate, of the old Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division in October 1971, has been exercising all jurisdiction, other than criminal, in respect of children and, contemporaneously, there has been a welcome upsurge of public awareness of the responsibility and duties of the community to children, and of their rights rather than the so-called rights of fathers, mothers and relations over them.

This is reflected in the most useful notes in this Edition on Wardship, on the Official Solicitor and on the new concept of custodianship (hateful word, but nobody could think of a better one for the "new wheel to the coach"), as well as in the altered structure of the work, which I think makes much easier the discovery of the answer, if there is one, to a particular problem.

This compendious volume is not only a text book for legal practitioners and social workers, for whom it will remain invaluable, but also for all who are concerned in the care and welfare of the young. The basic requirements of such a book are that it should be comprehensive, accurate, up to date and the introductory notes not only readable but relevant. The wide and varied experience of the Editors and the consulting Editor, and their sympathetic professional involvement in the subject guarantee that this book will be so found.

GEORGE BAKER
President Family Division

PREFACE TO NINTH EDITION

THE law as to children is complex, so much so that even the specialist lawyer is bewildered by its interspersions and ramifications. It is hardly an auspicious start to find that the definition of the word "child" varies with the statutes, so that a child is a child in one statute but not a child in another. Indeed, there is legislative hesitation as to whether a child is properly to be termed a child, a minor or an infant. Nor is this the only terminology to be considered: there are also juveniles and young persons to be woven into the legal fabric. Apart from the interweaving of terminology, one has grey areas where it is difficult to perceive whether one is dealing with civil or criminal law.

Since the last edition of this work there has been a vast reconstruction of the law relating to children, in particular the Children Act 1975. In this edition we have endeavoured not only to take note of the new statutory provisions and the intervening case-law, but also to reconstruct the material into four divisions. Of course, there is inevitably some overlapping.

In order to facilitate understanding of the statutory provisions, we have provided introductions to each of the four divisions. These introductions set out in summary form the relevant law, so that a study of them will give a basic appreciation of the statutory provisions. The introduction to each division is followed by the relevant statutory provisions, and this has involved, in some cases, dividing statutes into their appropriate subjects. The statutes are annotated, and there are references to the important cases and to the effect of those decisions. It is hoped that those who do not have easy access to law reports will find the notes of cases helpful, while those who wish to examine in detail the relevant decisions will have the necessary references.

The four divisions are:

1. The child and the local authority.
2. The juvenile court.
3. The child in family proceedings.
4. Adoption.

"The child and the local authority" is placed first in accordance with parliament's wish that children's problems be resolved where possible by voluntary aid rather than by judicial intervention. The importance of the juvenile court is recognised by devoting a separate section to it. There is a comprehensive statement of the family law relating to children. The codifying Adoption Act 1976 is included and annotated even though it is unlikely to be brought into force for some time.

In addition to the introductions and the statutory provisions and annotations, the relevant circulars are printed in a separate division so as to aid reference to them. They have been reconsidered and updated. It is hoped that they provide a comprehensive cover to the Ministerial guidance that they represent, and we are grateful to the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Security for their generous assistance in this sphere. We also acknowledge the help given to us by the Official Solicitor in the prepara-

tion of the material relating to his role in connection with children and in particular with their separate representation in the courts.

The book is intended to be of service to social workers and lawyers alike. They may well consider, with us, that a consolidation of the law relating to children (whatever that term is to mean) is long overdue. This task will be, to say the least, the more difficult when so many statutory provisions relating to children have been enacted without their coming into force at the time of enactment or within a reasonably short period thereafter, a comment that is not confined to the Children Act 1975. Some statutory provisions are amended over and over again: an example, at random, shows that section 88 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 is amended by no less than six subsequent statutes: that is perhaps a happier fate than section 19 of the same Act which has never been brought into operation and is to be repealed as from a day to be appointed under the Employment of Children Act 1973, section 1.

Nor is it easy to ascertain what is in force and what is not. An examination of the Children Act 1975 shows that there are some seventeen detailed pages of what are called "minor and consequential amendments". There are eight further pages of repeals that are not put into any category of importance, and the Act itself is replete with substitutions, insertions and amendments relating to earlier statutes. It is not surprising that in its course through Parliament the Bill suffered the fate of being enacted without at least one of its amendments being included in the Queen's printer's version. The omission has not yet been rectified, but, even so, the Children Act 1975 has already been amended.

Many others have pointed out that, in a sphere where perhaps above all others the law should be reasonably clear to all, it is full of technicalities and subtleties. In the debate in the House of Lords on the Children Bill 1975, Lord Hailsham (referring to provisions as yet not implemented) put the matter aptly:

"I quarrel with the nomenclature which is claimed to be . . . a 'new status'. What is wrong with, and how does 'custodianship' differ from guardianship? The noble and learned lord (the Lord Chancellor) did not explain: the blurb in support of the Bill does not explain: and nobody seems to know. The committee recommended . . . virtually the same proposals, but were content to regard them as an extension of guardianship. There are already too many technical terms connected with this infinitely human topic: custody, care and control, guardianship, fostering, in care, adoption and now there is to be 'custodianship', which is not a very agreeable word anyway. I recognise the different nature of the others, but why a new wheel to the coach here?"

This edition is acknowledged by the editors to be a work in transition. Clearly the law relating to children cannot be left in its present state, with its proliferation of categories and with so much that is enacted not yet in force.

Moreover, guidance from the courts is emerging but not without different views being expressed. It should be noted that the Court of Appeal decision referred to at page 171 has now been overruled by the House of Lords: *D. v. N.S.P.C.C.*, [1977] 2 W.L.R. 201. See also *S (a minor) v. Bedfordshire County Council* (1977), *Times*, February 10, Div. Ct. (no care order for boy kept from comprehensive school: see pp. 297-298).

To the best of our knowledge, information and belief the law is stated as at 1st February 1977.

JOSEPH JACKSON
MARGARET BOOTH
BRIAN HARRIS

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

WHEN Sir William Clarke Hall did me the honour of inviting me to collaborate with him in the preparation of this book it was his intention that it should cover the whole of the law relating to children and young persons. Subsequently, however, we came to the conclusion that the better course would be to annotate the Children Act, 1908, and the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932 (this was before the Consolidation Act of 1933), and such other statutes or portions of statutes as affected the work of magistrates, with the exception of the Adoption of Children Act and the Guardianship of Infants Acts, which he and his son, Mr. Justin Clarke Hall, had treated fully in their recent book, "The Law of Adoption." *

Sir William was able to furnish me with a considerable share of his work on this book, but unfortunately his death deprived me of any opportunity of going through it with him. I have attempted to revise it and bring it up to date, much of it having been written some time ago. Thus it happens that whereas I have considered all that he wrote, he had no opportunity of reading my contribution, and for any mistakes or defects in the book I alone must be held responsible.

Acknowledgement is due to Mr. Justin Clarke Hall, barrister-at-law, for much valuable help given to his father in connection with the portion of the work which he had undertaken.

I have also to thank Mr. Albert Lieck, chief clerk of the Bow Street Police Court, for much assistance, and Mr. C. J. Collinge, of the same court, who has prepared the tables of cases and statutes and the index.

It was Sir William's wish, and not less mine, that he should write a preface, setting forth fully his conception of the juvenile court, its work and its mission. Inasmuch as I do not feel able to take his place for that purpose, the book must be so much the poorer. This I know: Sir William, whose devotion to work for children and whose respect for the child have not been surpassed, rejoiced at the increasing recognition, both by the public and by the legislature, of the importance of the juvenile court. As a text for his preface he would, I think, have taken words from sect. 44 (1) of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, which enshrine in a statute a principle upon which he himself had always acted :

" Every court in dealing with a child or young person who is brought before it, either as being in need of care or protection or as an offender or otherwise, shall have regard to the welfare of the child or young person."

A. C. L. M.

LONDON,
October 31, 1933.

* Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., London.

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