

Inmates of Reform School, Age at Which Females May Be Discharged Therefrom. Directors of Reform School, Recommendations of as to Discharge.

Section 9808 of the Revised Codes of Montana provides that each boy or girl committed to the Reform School shall remain there until he or she arrives at the age of 21 years, unless paroled or legally discharged; and that it shall be lawful for the board, upon recommendation of the director of the Reform School, to discharge therefrom any girl who has arrived at the age of 18 years if, while an inmate, she has deported and conducted herself in such manner as to make it reasonably probable that she has reformed and is a proper person to be discharged.

Helena, Montana, Jan. 25, 1909.

Mr. H. W. George, Director, Montana State Reform School, Miles City, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst., requesting an opinion as to the age when girls committed to the Reform School should be discharged. You state that some parties contend that they can be kept only until eighteen years old. Section 9808 of the Revised Codes of Montana seems to be very clear upon this question. It provides that each boy or girl committed to the Reform School shall remain there until he or she arrives at the age of twenty-one years unless paroled or legally discharged. Then it provides further that it shall be lawful for the board upon the recommendation of the Director of said school to discharge therefrom any girl who has arrived at the age of eighteen years if it be made to appear that while an inmate she deported and conducted herself in such a manner as to make it reasonably probable that she has reformed and is a proper person to be discharged. Under this section, a girl cannot be discharged until she is twenty-one, unless she has been regularly paroled or legally discharged, or the board has authorized her

release upon the recommendation of the Director when she reached the age of eighteen.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT J. GALEN,

Attorney General.