

## No. 235

**STATE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS—PAYMENT FOR CARE OF PERSONS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS**

**Held:** Care of inmates of the state vocational schools for girls who are transferred to other reformatory institutions is to be paid for directly by the county from which such inmate is sent or admitted.

September 9, 1941.

Mrs. Harriet Adams, Superintendent  
State Vocational School for Girls  
Helena, Montana

Dear Mrs. Adams:

You have asked the opinion of this office as to the proper manner of making payment to such institutions as the Florence Crittenden Home for care of pregnant girls transferred to such institutions during confinement and until mother and baby may be placed. Your problem arises out of the fact your school has heretofore been billed for such care, but your funds do not provide for the same; and Chapter 14 of the Laws of 1941 requires all moneys which your school might receive shall go into the state general fund—making it impossible, apparently, for you to be the collecting agency for such other institutions.

Under the law female persons are admitted to reformatory institutions, such as the Florence Crittenden Home, under the authority of Chapter 120 of the Penal Code of the Revised Codes of Montana of 1935. Section 12551 of that Chapter provides for compensating such institutions and requires such compensation shall be "allowed and paid as other claims against the county are paid." This contemplates payment directly by the county to the institution.

It is my opinion that, when girls committed to the State Vocational School for Girls are transferred to be cared for by other reformatory institutions, or institutions devoted to the purpose of reclaiming or reforming women, the care of such girls is to be paid for directly by the county from which they are sent or admitted.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. BONNER  
Attorney General