

**STANDARDS GOVERNING THE USE OF
JUVENILE COURT MASTERS**

I. In making the determination of whether to appoint a master for Juvenile Court, the judge shall be guided by the following principles:

- A. The Juvenile Court Judge shall assume the primary responsibility for handling and deciding matters relating to delinquent and dependent children.

Masters should only supplement the essential work of the Juvenile Court Judges; they are not a substitute for Juvenile Court Judges.

- B. Masters should not be used to reduce substantially the time which the Juvenile Court Judges devote to juvenile matters.
- C. If the Juvenile Court Judges within a county are unable to give sufficient time and attention to all juvenile matters coming before the Court, Masters should be appointed to assist the Judges.

II. It is an acceptable use of Juvenile Court Masters to assign them to hold detention hearings for juveniles who are not active with any Juvenile Court Judge.

III. The use of Masters is acceptable with reservation in the following situations:

- A. Detention hearings for juveniles whose cases are active with a Juvenile Court Judge;
- B. Shelter hearings;
- C. Adjudication and disposition hearings for delinquent children in which no commitment or placement is anticipated;
- D. Adjudication and disposition hearings for dependent children in which no removal or placement is anticipated; and
- E. Disposition review hearings for children in placement.

IV. The use of Masters in Juvenile Court is *not* acceptable in the following situations:

- A. Adjudication hearings for delinquent and dependent children in which commitment, placement or removal is anticipated;
- B. Disposition hearings for delinquent and dependent children in which commitment, placement or removal is anticipated;
- C. Hearings to consider release from placement; and
- D. Hearings on a request to transfer an offense to the Criminal Court.