

CHAPTER 251.

[S. B. 362.]

ADOPTION AND CUSTODY OF MINOR CHILDREN.

AN ACT relating to the welfare of minor children, their care, custody, control and relinquishment for adoption or other purposes; and amending sections 26.36.010 and 26.36.040, R.C.W.; and repealing section 26.36.050, R.C.W.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Section 26.36.010, R.C.W., as derived from section 1, chapter 162, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows: Amendment.

It shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, society, association, or corporation, except the parents, to assume the permanent care, custody, or control of any minor child unless authorized so to do by a written order of a superior court of the state. Unlawful to assume permanent care, etc., of minor without court order.

It shall be unlawful, without the written order of the superior court having first been obtained, for any parent or parents to in any wise relinquish or transfer to another person, partnership, society, association, or corporation, the permanent care, custody, or control of any minor child for adoption or any other purpose, and any such relinquishment or transfer shall be void: *Provided*, That waivers and relinquishments heretofore signed by the parent or parents of said children or child shall be given the same force and effect as would be given prior to the enactment of this law. Unlawful to relinquish permanent care, etc., of minor without court order.

Declared void.

Waivers and relinquishments prior to act, effect.

None of the court proceedings in conformity with this chapter shall be open to the public unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge. Proceedings not open to the public.

[Am. Rem. Supp. § 1700-1.]

SEC. 2. Section 26.36.040, R.C.W., as derived from section 2, chapter 162, Laws of 1939, is amended to read as follows: Amendment.

No maternity hospital, physician, midwife, or nurse, or any other person shall directly or indirectly

Physicians, etc., not to place infants in family homes prior to entry of order.

Exception.

dispose of infants by placing them in family homes for permanent care or for adoption, until after the order of relinquishment has been entered: *Provided*, That this shall not apply to spouses either of whom is the parent of such child where the family home wherein the child is placed is the home of the spouses.

Offer to dispose of children as inducement to patronize maternity home, etc., prohibited.

No person, as an inducement to a woman to go to any maternity hospital, maternity home or place of refuge for confinement care, shall in any way offer to dispose of any child or advertise that he will give children for adoption, or hold himself out directly or indirectly as being able to dispose of children.

[Am. Rem. Supp. § 1700-4.]

Repealing clause:

SEC. 3. Section 26.36.050, R.C.W., same being section 3, chapter 162, Laws of 1939, is hereby repealed.

[Rep. Rem. Supp. § 1700-5.]

Passed the Senate March 8, 1951.

Passed the House March 6, 1951.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 1951