

provide for a program of treatment, training, and rehabilitation consistent with the child's best interests and the protection of the public interest;

(5) To conserve and strengthen the child's family ties and to separate a child from his parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interest of public safety;

(6) If necessary to remove a child from his home, to secure for him custody, care, and discipline as nearly as possible equivalent to that which should have been given by his parents; and

(7) To provide judicial procedures for carrying out the provisions of this subtitle.

(b) This subtitle shall be liberally construed to effectuate these purposes.

3-812.

(e) (1) The court shall conduct all hearings in an informal manner.

(2) In any proceeding in which a child is alleged to be in need of supervision or assistance or to have committed a delinquent act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, the court may exclude the general public from a hearing, and admit only THE VICTIM AND those persons having a direct interest in the proceeding and their representatives.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, in a case in which a child is alleged to have committed a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, the court shall conduct in open court any hearing or other proceeding at which the child has a right to appear.

(4) For good cause shown, the court may exclude the general public from a hearing or other proceeding in a case in which a child is alleged to have committed a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult and admit only the victim and those persons having a direct interest in the proceeding and their representatives.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (6) of this subsection, the court shall announce, in open court, adjudications and dispositions in cases where a child is alleged to have committed a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult.

(6) For good cause shown, the court may exclude the general public from a proceeding at which an adjudication or disposition is announced and admit only the victim and those persons having a direct interest in the proceeding and their representatives.

3-817.

(a) The court may waive the exclusive jurisdiction conferred by § 3-804 OF THIS SUBTITLE with respect to a petition alleging delinquency by:

(1) A child who is 15 years old or older; or