

Tough, new juvenile laws have a cost

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Last year the Michigan Legislature passed a flurry of youth crime laws. This year the state and counties will have to pay the bill.

"The state will reimburse Oakland County for this program," Probate Court administrator Barbara Consiglio told a board of commissioners' panel last week.

The first bill — \$57,000 a year — will be for administering the Juvenile Crime Victims' Rights Act. It will pay for a clerk, a typist, postage, telephones and computer services.

Nearly every Observer & Eccentric area representative was listed as a cosponsor.

Consiglio's office is tabulating the costs of 22 pieces of legislation altering the way probate courts handle juvenile matters.

"THERE IS GREAT concern for juvenile crime," said state Rep. Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, as the House of Representatives debated one of his bills last year, "but mostly it's in the form of increased penalties and repression."

Bullard cited the bill allowing the juvenile court to extend its jurisdiction over some young offenders to age 21.

One bill will prohibit non-attorney referees from handling certain kinds of juvenile cases. "The jobs referees are doing should be done by probate judges," said Bullard. "We can't go with the justice-of-the-peace type system by somebody in a buckskin coat who doesn't have a grounding in the courts."

THE TIP OF the costly iceberg is the victims' rights program, which takes effect June 1.

The victim — "a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, financial or emotional harm as a result of the commission of an offense" — must be sent a letter and copy of a "victim's rights notice."

The victim is given the telephone number of the prosecutor's office in case of a threat from the juvenile de-

A 2-person unit to notify juvenile crime victims of their rights may be the tip of the iceberg in new court costs.

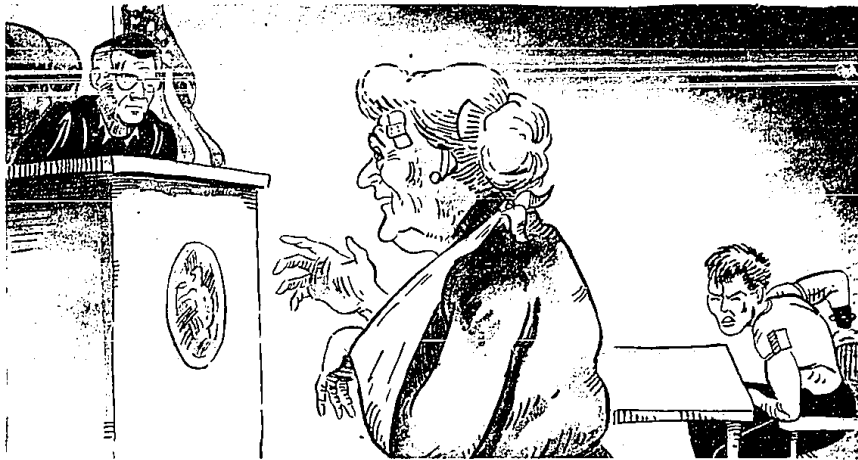
endant, along with pamphlets on how the system operates and how to obtain financial assistance.

At court hearings, and to the extent practical, the victim has a right to use "a waiting area separate from the defendant, the defendant's relatives and defense witnesses."

THE VICTIM is sent a checklist of which rights he/she wants to exercise. Among the rights:

- To receive notice of all scheduled court hearings, changes in the schedule and to attend them.
- To consult with the prosecuting attorney on plea negotiations, waiver to an adult court, dismissal or other disposition short of trial.
- To receive notice of offenses of which the juvenile is found guilty.
- To be notified if the juvenile is acquitted or the charge dismissed.
- To give an oral or written statement to a court officer preparing a pre-sentence report.
- To receive notice of the time and place of the sentencing and to make an oral victim impact statement at the sentencing.
- To receive notice of the status of any appeal the juvenile may file and the result of that appeal.
- To receive notice when the court's jurisdiction over a juvenile is ended.
- To receive notice of the transfer of the juvenile from secure to non-secure detention, and a notice of the juvenile's escape.
- To obtain a certified copy of the court's finding of guilt to use in suing the juvenile's custodial parent in district court.

IT SEEMS likely as though every 10 minutes brings a new direction, a new rule, a re-revised rule, a new public act. . . . Consiglio said.



MARVIN TEEPLES/Artwork

The victim of a juvenile crime has the right to make an oral statement at sentencing. If asked, the court must provide a

statement of the youth's guilt that the victim can use in suing the delinquent's parents.

As of Jan. 1, she said, the court rules were expanded from 14 to 39, and the substance of many was altered.

Other changes due during the year:

- Juvenile courts are now required to report dispositional outcomes to the Michigan State Police on some serious offenses.
- Juvenile courts must obtain fingerprints of juveniles charged in more serious cases.
- Where juvenile courts extend their jurisdiction to age 21, the court will face increased caseload considerations, institutional costs and bench time for additional hearings, she said.
- Juvenile court hearings are open to the public unless closed on the con-

statement of the youth's guilt that the victim can use in suing the delinquent's parents.

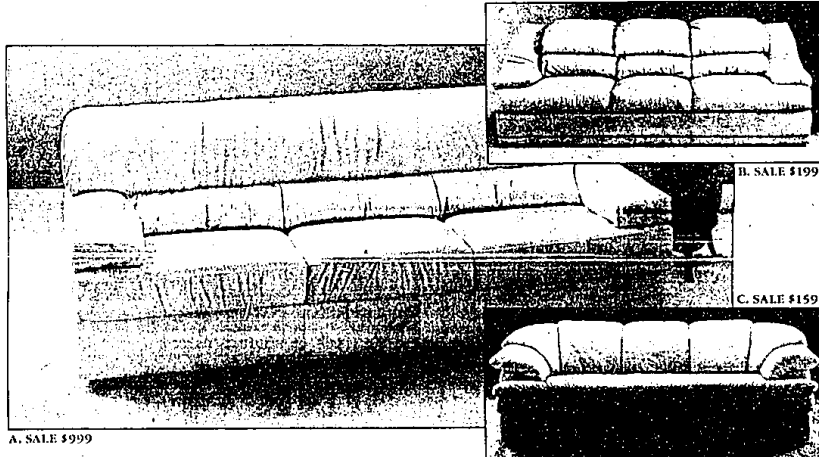
As of Jan. 1, she said, the court rules were expanded from 14 to 39, and the substance of many was altered.

Other changes due during the year:

- Juvenile courts are now required to report dispositional outcomes to the Michigan State Police on some serious offenses.
- Juvenile courts must obtain fingerprints of juveniles charged in more serious cases.
- Where juvenile courts extend their jurisdiction to age 21, the court will face increased caseload considerations, institutional costs and bench time for additional hearings, she said.
- Juvenile court hearings are open to the public unless closed on the con-

SEMI-ANNUAL HOME SALE

SAVE 20% TO 30% ON ALL LEATHER FURNITURE*



A. SALE \$999

B. SALE \$1999

C. SALE \$1599

SALE \$999

A. 100% top grain leather sofa imported from Italy, with comfortable lumbar back support styling. In many colors. Reg. \$1299. 20"*. Matching ottoman and chair also on sale.

SALE \$1999

B. Emerson bundle-back sofa with 8 way hand-cut spring construction for lasting comfort. Covered in luxurious, pile grey leather. Reg. \$2499. 12"*. Also save on matching ottoman and lounge chair.

SALE \$1599

C. Sleek Italian designed 89" sofa in 100% top grain leather in every color. Reg. \$1999. 20"*

Today's leather furniture has a style all its own. Technological improvements have made leather more pliable, giving it sitting capabilities not unlike fabric. It can be draped, placed and gathered in new ways, giving the piece a special elegance. It also has a new soft satiny look and feel, and takes dyes that couldn't have been used in earlier years. That's why you're suddenly seeing a palette of subtle pale neutrals and vivid colors, as well as the traditional handsome dark shades. Leather's new beauty, flexibility and feel team irresistibly with all the age-old advantages like breathability, durability and ease of care.

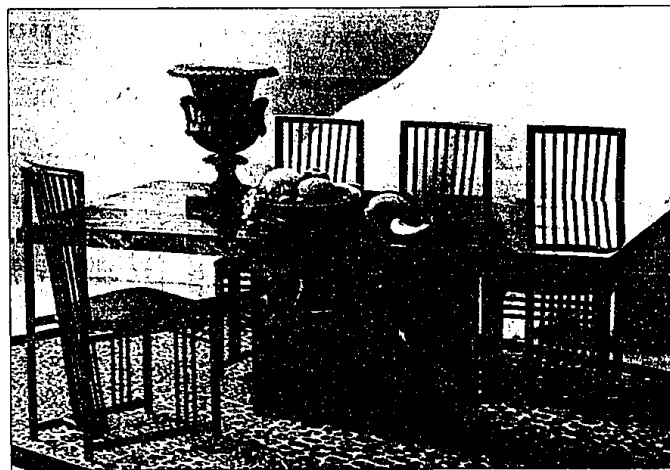


TABLE SALE \$1299 CHAIR SALE \$249



A LA CARTE DINING FURNITURE

SAVE 10% TO 30%

Dining furniture can be combined in exciting and unique new ways that fit your tastes and floor plan. New sophistication is evident in the materials, construction and styling of the chairs and tables in our A La Carte Collection.

SALE \$1299

Figure black marble dining table is imported from Italy. Each table is distinctively unique with acres of iron and copper adding subtle coloration to the gleaming surface. 28 1/2" x 41 1/2" long. Reg. \$1699. 10"*

SALE \$249

Metropolitan chair by Fllo is made of mahogany, and imported from Italy. Reg. \$354. 21"*. Sale ends March 1.

*Everyday Low Price guarantee not included.
**Based on number of units in set. Hudson's reserves the right.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Richard Agninan, president of Suburban Communications Corp., presented Mary Klemic with a cash award and clock after she was named Observer & Eccentric Journalist of the Year.

O&E copy editor wins staff honor

Mary Klemic, a copy editor, has been named Journalist of the Year at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Klemic was honored at the newspaper's sixth annual program designed to highlight the accomplishments of staff members. She was presented with a cash award and clock by Suburban Communications Corp. president Richard Agninan. SCC is the parent company of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Klemic was selected for her meticulous editing and layout skills and her approach to teamwork on the copy desk.

Copy editors read and edit stories for the 12 O&E editions. They also design and layout pages and write headlines for many pages.

Klemic, 32, has a bachelor's degree

From Wayne State University where she majored in English and mass communications. She has worked at the O&E for six years. Before taking a position on the copy desk two years ago, Klemic worked as a reporter in Livonia, Farmington, Redford Township and Westland. Her work also has appeared in the Creative Living section.

In addition to the awards ceremony, more than 70 O&E staff members also heard Philip H. Fower, chairman of the board of SCC, talk about the role of a community journalist.

Michigan Supreme Court Justice James Brickley discussed libel law and the effect that recent court decisions have had on news coverage in Michigan.

Peace group meets March 1

The Center for Peace and Conflict studies will hear Rev. Duane W.H. Arnold on "Ethics in International Relations" at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, in the Troy Public Library,

150 W. Big Beaver. Arnold is Episcopal chaplain at Wayne State University. General admission is \$6; students, \$2.

hudson's

Furniture and home coverings are at these Hudson's stores: Northeast 2160 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48033 • Eastland 58225 Warren Road, Warren, MI 48090 • Westland 3000 West Warren Road, Westland, MI 48106 • Oakland 447-3222 • Southland 447-3222 • Southfield Plaza 652-3222 • Southfield Village 722-3222