

## CHAPTER 242

## WANTON NEGLECT OF CHILDREN

H. F. 281

AN ACT making wanton neglect on the part of a parent of his or her child unlawful and providing penalty therefor.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 SECTION 1. Wanton neglect on the part of a parent in the care or  
2 supervision of his or her child under the age of eighteen years shall  
3 be unlawful.

1 SEC. 2. "Wanton neglect" as contemplated by the foregoing sec-  
2 tion is wilful neglect of such a nature, arising under such circum-  
3 stances as a parent of ordinary intelligence actuated by normal and  
4 natural concern for the welfare of the child would not permit or be  
5 a party to.

1 SEC. 3. A violation of section one (1) of this act shall be punish-  
2 able by a fine of not exceeding one hundred dollars or by imprison-  
3 ment in the county jail not exceeding thirty days.

1 SEC. 4. Juvenile courts shall have jurisdiction in the prosecution  
2 of the offense set forth herein, though the defendant or defendants in  
3 such actions be adults. Said proceedings in juvenile court shall be  
4 commenced by filing a sworn complaint or information and the mat-  
5 ter shall be tried summarily and without a jury. Provided, however,  
6 that prior to the filing of such complaint or information the proba-  
7 tion officer for the territory in question, or the county attorney, shall  
8 make such investigation as he may deem necessary, and no such  
9 complaint or information shall be filed without the approval of such  
10 probation officer or county attorney, except by order of a judge of  
11 the juvenile court. Any defendant convicted upon such trial shall  
12 have the right of appeal and trial de novo, including the right of trial  
13 by jury, in the District Court, the same as in case of appeals thereto  
14 from the Justice Courts.

1 SEC. 5. This Act being deemed of immediate importance shall be  
2 in full force and effect on its publication in the Evening Democrat, a  
3 newspaper published at Ft. Madison, Iowa, and in the Gate City, a  
4 newspaper published at Keokuk, Iowa.

Approved March 25, 1949.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Evening Democrat, April 9, 1949, and in the Gate City, April 9, 1949.

MELVIN D. SYNHORST, *Secretary of State.*