

Preface

This book is the twenty-sixth edition of the Children's Code Handbook volume of West's Louisiana Deskbook series. It follows the format of the other books in the series, particularly the Handbook on Louisiana Evidence Law. This Handbook on the Louisiana Children's Code is designed to provide the user with easy and convenient access to the Children's Code and other legislation and rules affecting juvenile law and procedure, by combining all relevant materials in a single volume that can be updated annually. The main portion of this Handbook contains the text of every Article in the Louisiana Children's Code followed by the Official Comments. After the Article and Comment is, where appropriate, an Authors' Note which contains the Authors' observations concerning the particular Article. The Authors have particularly noted the constitutional jurisprudence that overlays the Children's Code. In addition, Louisiana cases that are important to a better understanding of the application of the Articles have been noted. Other useful information, such as related legislation, cross-references to other Articles, and the purpose, intent, and history of particular provisions is provided in the Authors' Notes. Appendix A includes related Louisiana statutes that affect juvenile law and procedure. Appendix B contains the standards for juvenile detention facilities. Appendix C contains the Louisiana Supreme Court Special Rules for child abuse and neglect cases. The Louisiana Public Defender Board's Trial Court Performance Standards for attorneys practicing in juvenile courts are found in Appendices D and E. Appendix F contains the "new" Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. Though not yet in effect, the reader may find these provisions interesting by comparison to the "old" ICPC, which remains in Chapter 2 of Title 16 of the Children's Code. Finally, the reader is directed to "The Drafting of the Children's Code" by Lucy S. McGough, following this preface, for a brief history of the Children's Code and a list of those persons who were involved with the Children's Code Project.

JACK HARRISON
August 2024
Baton Rouge, Louisiana