



New York State Archives

**Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children
Child Commitment Contracts A1910**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series contains signed contracts between parents or guardians and the asylum's superintendent authorizing placement of children in the asylum for "care, education and support". Each agreement contains the parent/guardian's name and address; child's name, sex, Indian nation, age, destitute or orphan status; and agreement date. Many agreements include the child's date of discharge or death.
Creator:	Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children
Title:	Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children child commitment contracts
Quantity:	0.2 cubic feet
Quantity:	1 volume(s)
Quantity:	1 35mm microfilm roll(s)
Inclusive Date:	1881-1896
Series:	A1910

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Arrangement

Chronological by date of agreement to place child.

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Scope and Content Note

The series contains 394 signed contracts ("agreements") between a child's parent or guardian and the superintendent of the asylum authorizing the child to be placed in the asylum for "care, education and support" under its rules and regulations. Standardized provisions in the agreements state that the parent or guardian will not interfere with the asylum's custody of the child; that the child will not be removed without 30 days written notice to the superintendent;

and that the signatory waives all claims for annuities to which the child, guardians, or relatives might be entitled during the placement period.

Each agreement contains the following information: name and address of parent or guardian; child's name, sex; Indian nation, age, destitute or orphan status; date of the agreement; and certification by the superintendent witnessing that the agreement was fully explained to and executed by the parent or guardian. Many agreements are also annotated (in red ink) with the date of discharge or death of the child.

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Related Information

Related Material

B0595Series B0595, Thomas Indian School Children's Case Files, contains post-1892 records of children in this institution.

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

The volume contains an alphabetical index by child's last name.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Microfilm is available for use at the New York State Archives or through inter-library loan.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Accessioned from NYSL as old series number 248, accession number -375.

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Access Terms

- Orphanages
- Indians of North America--Child welfare
- Admitting children
- Assisting children
- Schools--Records and correspondence
- Cattaraugus Indian Reservation (N.Y.)
- Indians of North America--Orphanages
- New York (State)
- Indians of North America--Education
- Erie County (N.Y.)
- Iroquois (N.Y.)
- Contracts
- Admitting
- Indians--Education
- Education
- Administering schools
- New York (State). State Board of Charities
- Thomas Indian School