



New York State Archives

**New York State Commission on Relief for Widowed Mothers
Transcripts of Hearings A3106**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	The series consists of typescript copies, with infrequent annotations, of testimony given to the commission and its subcommittees on the question of relief for widowed mothers caring for dependent children. The commission, as authorized by Chapter 588 of the Laws of 1913, called representatives of many charitable organizations to confer with commission members on the objectives, policies, and work of their respective organizations in providing such relief.
Creator:	New York (State). Commission on Relief for Widowed Mothers
Title:	Commission on Relief for Widowed Mothers transcripts of hearings
Quantity:	1 cubic foot
Quantity:	(4 microfilm rolls 35mm)
Inclusive Date:	1913-1914
Series:	A3106

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Arrangement

Chronological by hearing date.

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Administrative History

The commission was established by authority of Chapter 588 of the Laws of 1913 to investigate and report on the practicability and appropriate method of providing by statute for pensions or other relief for widowed mothers. Its work included an investigation of the circumstances affecting widowed mothers which would show the necessity or propriety of providing relief, and it was required to submit a report to the 1914 legislature on its findings, including recommendations on proposed legislation. The commission and its appointed subcommittees had authority to inquire into the conditions and statutes "in any State and country" and in doing

so to "send for persons or papers," examine witnesses under oath, and take all necessary measures to examine the subject.

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Scope and Content Note

The series consists of typescript copies, with infrequent annotations, of testimony given to the commission and its subcommittees on the question of relief for widowed mothers caring for dependent children. The commission, as authorized by Chapter 588 of the Laws of 1913, called representatives of many charitable organizations to confer with commission members on the objectives, policies, and work of their respective organizations in providing such relief.

The series includes testimony by representatives of the following organizations; Brooklyn Bureau of Charities; Charity Organization Society of the City of New York; Charity Organization Society of Buffalo; New York Association for the Improvement of the Poor; United Hebrew Charities; and various other organizations in New York City, Albany, Syracuse, and Rochester.

Testimony typically concerned: goals, policies, and activities of the organization; specific cases of widowed mothers with dependent children and actions taken by the organization in those cases; hypothetical cases and proposed actions of the organization in those cases; and personal opinions of private or public actions or policies necessary to provide adequate relief to widows with dependent children.

Also included in the series are transcripts of conferences held by the commission in Chicago, Illinois, and Madison, Wisconsin to gather information on existing and needed provisions, laws, and policies of public and private charities.

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

There is an index to witnesses for the November 25, 1913 hearing found at the front of Folder 15.

Folder list is available at the repository.

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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.

Access Terms

- Providing pensions
- Widows--Legal status, laws, etc.
- Investigating social issues
- Women--Health and hygiene
- Assisting children
- Social work with widows
- Rochester (N.Y.)
- Assisting women
- Buffalo (N.Y.)
- Transcripts
- Hearings
- New York (State)
- New York (N.Y.)
- Child welfare
- Mothers
- Testimony
- Maternal and infant welfare
- Mothers' pensions
- Albany (N.Y.)
- Single mothers
- Syracuse (N.Y.)
- Women--Charities
- Testimonies