

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6972, November 23, 1990]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DAY CARE CENTER IN EVERY BARANGAY, INSTITUTING THEREIN A TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and to provide them with special protection against all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

Filipino children up to six (6) years of age deserve the best care and attention at the family and community levels. Towards this end, there is hereby established a day care center in every barangay with a total development and protection of children program as provided in this Act instituted in every barangay day care center.

SEC. 3. *Program Framework.* - The total development and protection of children program for day care centers shall be provided for children up to six (6) years of age with the consent of parents: *Provided, however,* That, in case of abused, neglected or exploited children, such consent shall not be required. The program shall include the following:

- a. Monitoring of registration of births and the completion of the immunization series for prevention of tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis and such other diseases for which vaccines have been developed for administration to children up to six (6) years of age;
- b. Growth and nutritional monitoring, with supplementary nutritional feeding and supervision of nutritional intake at home;
- c. Care for children of working mothers during the day and, where feasible, care for children up to six (6) years of age when mothers are working at night: *Provided,* That the day care center need not take care of the children in a particular place but shall develop network of homes where women may take care of the children up to six (6) years of age of working mothers during work hours, with adequate supervision from the supervising social welfare officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development: *Provided, further,* That, where young children are left to the care of a paid domestic, an elderly relative or older children without adequate and competent adult supervision, the supervising social welfare officer shall provide such training and adult