

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 56, November 06, 1986]

**AUTHORIZING THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND
DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE PROTECTIVE CUSTODY OF CHILD
PROSTITUTES AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, for those who fall prey to prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation due to their fragile age, immediate protection must be accorded by the government to arrest their moral decline and lead them back to the path of morality;

WHEREAS, in pursuance of its responsibility over the welfare of the youth, the Ministry of Social Services and Development must be given more powers to implement effectively the government's commitment against child prostitution and exploitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any minor who is apprehended or taken into custody by any peace officer or by the duly authorized officers of the Ministry of Social Services and Development for engaging in prostitution or other illicit conduct punished under existing laws shall, immediately from such apprehension, be delivered by the arresting officer to the Ministry of Social Services and Development or to its duly authorized office or agency within a particular territorial jurisdiction for protective custody.

The Ministry of Social Services and Development shall be responsible for the appearance of the minor under its protective custody in court or any administrative agency whenever required.

For the purpose of this Executive Order, a minor shall refer to any person below sixteen (16) years of age.

SECTION 2. The Ministry of Social Services and Development shall provide suitable programs for the full rehabilitation of the minors under its custody which shall, among others, include the appreciation or proper moral values, psychological or psychiatric treatment, education in the probable physical ailment or disease which they may contract or the dangers of unwanted pregnancy, and appropriate training for work-skills to prepare them for a decent living.

SECTION 3. The custody of persons, other than the apprehended minor, shall be in accordance with the ordinary criminal procedure as prescribed by the Rules of Court and other laws.