

**[DSWD DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 06,
September 20, 1991]**

**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR REPUBLIC ACT 6972 (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)**

Pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act 6972, the following Guidelines are promulgated to implement said Republic Act which is also known as the "Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act."

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. — It is 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 years of age deserve the best care and attention at the family and community levels because the quality of care provided at this time will determine the kind of youth and adult we will have in the future. Thereby, a Day Care Center is hereby established in every barangay to provide the total development and protection of children.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. — As used in these Guidelines unless specifically provided otherwise:

2.1 Day Care service is an arrangement whereby supplemental parental care is provided to a child who may be neglected, potentially neglected, abused, exploited or abandoned part of the day where the parents cannot attend to the needs of the child.

Supplemental parental care is temporary care provided by the Day Care Worker who attends to the child's needs, ensures his/her comfort and safety and provides creative experiences, mental stimulation, cognitive skills development, and value formation.

2.2 Child under this Act is a person six years of age and below.

2.3 A potentially neglected child is a child whose mother is working outside the home or busy with home and other activities and therefore child is left alone part of the day without any adult to provide care and supervision.

2.4 A neglected child is one whose basic needs have been deliberately unattended or inadequately attended which may occur in two ways:

- a. Physical neglect when the child is malnourished, ill clad, and without proper shelter.

- b. Emotional neglect is when the child is maltreated, raped, or seduced; when child is exploited, overworked or made to work under conditions not conducive to good health; or is made to beg in the streets or public places; or when child is in moral danger or exposed to gambling; prostitution and vices.

A child is unattended when left alone without proper supervision and provisions.

2.5 An **abused child** is one who is unreasonably deprived of the basic needs for survival or is inflicted with physical injuries by parents, guardians, or custodian to a degree that if not immediately remedied could seriously impair the child's growth and development or result in permanent disability or even death; this includes sexual and psychological abuse.

2.6 An **abandoned child** is a child who has no proper parental care and whose parents have deserted him for a period of at least 6 continuous months.

2.7 An **exploited child** is a child who was induced or forced by parents/guardians or other persons or circumstances to indulge in activities which endanger his moral, emotional and social development.

2.8 A **day care center** is a facility in a barangay where children who are 3 to 6 years old are cared for during part of the day by an accredited Day Care Worker.

2.9 A **day care worker** is a child care worker in a Day Care Center providing supplemental parental care and early childhood enrichment activities.

2.10 A **sanctuary home** is a licensed foster home or a child caring facility in the area.

2.11 **Accreditation** is the process of ensuring that minimum standards of day care service are met.

2.12 **Accredited day care Center** is a Day Care Center which meets the minimum standards of Day Care Service.

2.13 An **accredited day care worker** is a child care worker trained on early childhood development and who has met the minimum requirements of a Day Care Worker.

SECTION 3. The following guidelines shall be followed in the implementation of Day Care Service in the community:

3.1 **Determination of need**

3.1.1 Sources of data:

The number of pre-school children in given barangay (0-6 years old) shall be determined from the following sources: (a) family/community survey; (b) barangay demographic profile; (c) results of the *operation timbang*; (d) others

3.1.2 Usage of data: (a) The data shall be shared with the barangay chairperson who will share the same with the community during an assembly. The Supervising Social Welfare Officer (SSWO) shall explain to the barangay council and the community the rationale for providing a child with early childhood development activities and come up with plans to establish a day care center in the area. Only

one day care center shall be established in every barangay. The SSWO shall likewise explain the need for an intake interview with the parents to further identify the specific needs of each child.

b. After the community assembly, the social worker shall schedule the visits to the families of identified children for day care for intake.

3.1.3 Intake — The intake shall be individually conducted by the Supervising Social Welfare Officer through home visit and interview using the attached intake form. (Appendix A*) During the visit, the Supervising Social Welfare Officer shall explain to the parents the following:

a.1 **Consent of parents:** — The parents shall sign the intake form indicating their consent for their child's total development and protection. However in cases of children who are abused neglected, and exploited, such consent shall not be required.

a.2 **Birth certificate:** — The parents shall present the child's birth certificate to the SSWO. If the child's birth is not registered with the local Civil Registrar, the parents shall be assisted to ensure registration of the child's birth.

a.3 **Immunization:** — (1) The Supervising Social Welfare Officer shall record the types and dates of Immunization of the child in the attached Initial and Annual Health Record;

(2) Children not immunized shall be referred to the Health Center. Arrangements with the health center shall be made for mass immunization and medical and physical check-up of the children.

(3) Each child must have a complete immunization for the prevention of tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis and such other diseases for which and vaccines have been developed for administration to children up to six (6) years of age.

a.4 **Child development checklist** — During the home visit, the Supervising Social Welfare Officer shall interview the parents and observe the child in order to accomplish the child development checklist which shall serve as basis for the DCW in preparation of the WPAG.

a.5 **Early detection and prevention of disability** — Using the CDC, the Supervising Social Welfare Officer and the DCW shall identify who among the children have disabilities. If child is found with disabilities and illnesses, appropriate referral shall be made.

SECTION 4. Services for Children and Their Families in the Day Care Center

4.1 Care for children

4.1.1 Care for children by an accredited Child Care Worker during part of the day or if feasible during the night while their parents are at work, shall be provided, under the supervision of the Supervising Social Welfare Officer.

4.1.2 Early childhood development activities such as value formation,

mental stimulation and activities supervised play, shall be provided to the children.

4.1.3 Monitoring of growth and nutrition of children shall be regularly monitored by the Day Care Worker on a monthly basis.

4.1.4 Malnourished children shall be referred to the DSWD Unit Office for supplemental feeding.

4.2. Sanctuary for abused, neglected or exploited children

4.2.1 Foster homes shall be developed and maintained by the Senior Social Worker of DSWD where abused, neglected or exploited children shall be temporarily placed for protective custody.

4.2.2 If there is a licensed child caring facility in the area, coordination shall be made by the Senior Social Worker, for referral of abused, neglected and exploited children.

4.2.3 A barangay level support system or a barangay level "Bantay Bata" shall be established to urgently respond to the needs of the victims and to prevent further abuse, neglect and exploitation. Coordination with the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (DCPC) or in its absence the Barangay Development Council or any existing organization shall be made. The same group shall be responsible for the prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation in their respective areas which includes information dissemination, education, advocacy. They shall also be responsible for the protection and rehabilitation of the victims and assistance to their families. Part of the group's responsibility shall be to provide surveillance on illegal abortions and the presence of incompetent and untrained hilots.

4.3. Referral and support system for pregnant mothers

4.3.1 All pregnant mothers of Day Care children shall be motivated to have pre-natal and neo-natal care and shall be referred to the Health Center.

4.3.2 Appropriate supplemental feeding shall be extended to pregnant mothers whose children are "enrollees" in the Feeding Centers. Others who are not under this category shall be referred to the Department of Health under their Food Assistance Program.

4.3.3 The untrained hilots shall be provided at the Rural Health Unit with the needed basic training for normal delivery and also be trained to recognize high-risk pregnancies.

SECTION 5. Selection of a Day Care Worker

5.1. The following are qualifications of a day care worker