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PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SECRETARY

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

***THIS IS TO CERTIFY** that at the regular session duly constituted of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Pangasinan, held on February 9, 2007, at Lingayen, Pangasinan, the following provincial ordinance was approved:*

Authored by SP Member Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas
and co-authored by SP Members Nestor D. Reyes and Romeo H. Dadacay

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 127-2007

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS OF PANGASINAN FOR THE AVAILMENT OF ASSISTANCE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000"

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development;

WHEREAS, Section 458 (a) (2) (i) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 empowers the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to enact ordinances or resolutions in order to generate and maximize the use of resources and revenues for the development plans, program objectives and priorities of the province with particular attention to province-wide growth and progress; and relative thereto, shall appropriate funds for specific programs, projects, services and activities of the province, or for other purposes not contrary to law, in order to promote the general welfare of the province and its inhabitants;

WHEREAS, solo parents, as defined under Section 3 (a) of RA No. 8972, are any individual who falls under any of the following categories:



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1. A woman who gives birth as a result of rape and other crimes against chastity even without a final conviction of the offender; provided, that the mother keeps and raises the child;
2. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouses;
3. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction of at least one (1) year;
4. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner;
5. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to legal separation or de facto separation from spouse for at least one (1) year, as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;
6. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or a church as long as he/she is entrusted with the custody of the children;
7. Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to abandonment of spouse for at least one (1) year;
8. Unmarried mother/father who has preferred to keep and rear her/his child/children instead of having others care for them or give them up to a welfare institution;
9. Any other person who solely provides parental care and support to a child or children;
10. Any family member who assumes the responsibility of head of family as a result of the death, abandonment, disappearance or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent.

WHEREAS, it has been observed that qualified solo parents residing within Pangasinan cannot avail or enjoy the needed assistance, benefits and privileges accorded to them under Republic Act No. 8972 due to the unavailability of identification cards to be issued by the Social Welfare and Development Department;

WHEREAS, Solo Parents Identification Card is necessary for the availment of assistance and benefits such as a comprehensive package of social development and welfare services, flexible work schedule, parental leave, educational benefits, housing benefits and medical assistance;



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WHEREAS, the Social Welfare and Development Department is in dire need of funds in order to facilitate the printing of identification cards that will be issued to qualified solo parents;

WHEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, on motion of SP Member Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas and co-authored by SP Members Nestor D. Reyes and Romeo H. Dadacay, duly seconded –

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in session assembled that:

Section 1. This Ordinance hereby provides for the issuance of identification cards to qualified solo parents of Pangasinan for the availment of assistance and benefit under Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the “Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000”.

The Social Welfare and Development Department shall make a provision at the back of the identification cards including the privilege, assistance and benefits mentioned under Republic Act No. 8972 or to give separate copies of said Act to each qualified Solo Parents upon issuance of identification card.

Section 2. Any solo parent whose income in the place of domicile falls equal to or below the poverty threshold as set by the National Statistics Coordinating Board (NSCB) and subject to assessment of the duly appointed or designated social worker in the area shall be eligible for assistance; provided, however, that any solo parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy the benefits to be provided by the concerned department/office.

Section 3. A solo parent seeking benefits shall be qualified on the basis of the following:

- a. He/she must be a resident of a barangay in Pangasinan as certified by the Barangay Captain; provided, that if the solo parent is transferee from another barangay, he/she is required to secure a clearance from his/her previous barangay indicating whether or not he/she has availed of any benefits for solo parents, and the nature of such benefits.
- b. He/she must have an income level equal to or below the poverty threshold as set forth by NSCB and assessed by the Social Welfare and Development Department.



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Section 4. An applicant who manifests the need for assistance under Republic Act No. 8972 is subject to assessment by a social worker of Social Welfare and Development Department. The assessment shall cover, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Determination of the applicant's category as defined under this ordinance;
- b. Evaluation of needs of the applicant and his/her children as basis for provision of the appropriate service and intervention;
- c. Identification of the level of readiness of the applicant to receive a particular service/assistance, which shall serve as basis for the conduct of social preparation activities prior to the provision of such service/assistance;
- d. Identification of existing and potentially available resources that may support the applicant and his/her children.

Section 5. A person who needs assistance under RA 8972 shall comply with the following process:

- a. Visit the Office of the Social Welfare and Development to manifest her/his need for assistance.
- b. Fill out application form for the assistance indicating but not limited to, the following:
 1. Name
 2. Age
 3. Address
 4. Income per month
 5. Source/s of income
 6. No. of children
 7. Circumstances of being solo
- c. Undergo the necessary assessment process.



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- d. A social case study report shall be prepared by the social worker based on the information/data provided for the applicant as well as his/her assessment of said applicant, indicating therein the appropriate services needed.
- e. A social case study report, together with a referral letter prepared by the social worker, shall be forwarded by the Social Welfare and Development Department to the office/department concerned providing the appropriate assistance/service.
- f. The social worker shall inform the solo parent of the status of his/her application within thirty (30) working days from the filing of such and shall require him/her to visit the office/department providing assistance. In case the applicant is not qualified for services under RA No. 8972, he/she will be referred to appropriate office/department for assistance.
- g. Upon favorable evaluation of the social worker, a solo parent identification card shall be issued to the solo parent within thirty (30) days upon application duly signed by the Head of the Social Welfare and Development Department and the Pangasinan Governor. The solo parent identification card is necessary for the availment of the benefits under RA No. 8972. Such identification card shall be valid for only one (1) year but may be renewed subject to a new assessment and evaluation.

Section 6. A qualified solo parent may apply for benefits under RA No. 8972 thru the following:

- a. The solo parent may go to the department/office providing such benefit bringing with her/him the identification card issued by the Social Welfare and Development Department;
- b. Undergo the necessary qualifying activities required by the department/office as prescribed by this Ordinance;
and



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- c. Comply with the requirements set forth by the department/agency providing the service for the duration of the assistance (e.g. schooling, housing) subject to existing rules of the departments/offices concerned.

Section 7. A solo parent shall manifest to the Social Welfare and Development Department his/her intention to withdraw the availment of the benefits under RA No. 8972. If the solo parent does not voluntarily manifest his/her intention to terminate the provision of benefits and services before the lapse of one year from the issuance of the solo parent I.D., the social worker, based on the report of the employee or any interest person shall conduct the necessary assessment/evaluation to ascertain if grounds for termination and withdrawal of benefits exists. The identification card shall cease to be effective upon the lapse of one (1) year from issuance, unless renewed based on a new assessment and evaluation. Failure to renew will mean that he/she changed his/her status as solo parent.

The solo parent shall be informed of the result of the assessment/evaluation and termination of the service, if warranted, thru written notice. The termination shall take effect 30 days from the receipt of the notice of termination. In cases when the service cannot be terminated in a period of one (1) month, e.g. schooling, the service shall be completed until its due time.

The solo parent and his/her children shall undergo psychosocial counseling with the social worker to prepare them for independent living.

Section 8. In the event, a solo parent decides to relocate his/her family, he/she shall inform the Social Welfare and Development Department. Said office shall thereupon transmit the records to the Pangasinan Social Welfare and Development Department of the place of relocation, who shall then be responsible to assign a social worker to monitor the status of the relocated solo parents and his/her family and to coordinate with the concerned agencies/departments/offices of any changes in the status of the solo parent receiving benefits from said agencies/departments/offices.

Section 9. The funds in order to facilitate the printing of identification cards shall be taken from any available funds.



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Section 10. Separability Clause – All Ordinances, rules and regulation or parts thereof which provisions are in conflict with or contrary to the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity – This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.


ATTY. VERNA T. NAVA-PEREZ
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


VICE GOVERNOR OSCAR B. LAMBINO
Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


VICTOR E. AGBAYANI
Governor