

PRIMER ON CHILD ABUSE



Council for the Welfare of Children

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO:

- Equality, regardless of race, colour, religion, sex & nationality
- A name and a nationality
- Grow up in a family environment
- Adequate means of survival: food, housing, & medical care
- Special care if handicapped
- Free education, play & recreation
- Express his/her views
- Immediate aid in the event of disasters & emergencies
- Protection from cruelty, neglect and all forms of exploitation
- Protection from persecution & to an upbringing in the spirit of worldwide brotherhood and peace.

A child cannot wait. . .

Introduction

Children's right to protection from abuse, exploitation and discrimination has always been articulated in several declarations, codes, laws: Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child and Youth Welfare Code, Republic Act 7610. These and a lot more proclamations recognize that children are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and such vulnerability oftentimes makes children the objects and subjects of exploitation, abuse and discrimination.

The development of this primer is anchored on the premise that children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse prejudicial to their total development. This primer translates some of the technical provisions of the above-stated proclamations into more acceptable and understandable manner.

This primer will provide its readers, particularly the service providers (social workers, law enforcers, program implementors) with a basic understanding of child abuse. More importantly, this primer focuses on the types of child abuse, the identification of child abusers, the referral network of child abuse cases, the services provided to victims of child abuse and the list of GOs and NGOs providing such services. It is hoped that this primer will significantly contribute in the dissemination of information on child abuse and its gradual elimination.

WHO is a CHILD?

CHILD - refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or one over said age and who, upon evaluation of a qualified physician, psychologist or psychiatrist, is found to be incapable of taking care of himself fully because of a physical or mental disability or condition or of protecting himself from abuse (IRR of R.A. 7610).

WHAT is CHILD ABUSE?

CHILD ABUSE - refers to the maltreatment, whether habitual or not, of the child which includes any of the following:

1. Psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment;
2. Any act by deeds or words which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a human being;
3. Unreasonable deprivation of his basic needs for survival such as food and shelter; or
4. Failure to immediately give medical treatment to an injured child resulting in serious impairment of his growth and development or in his permanent incapacity or death (Section 3 (b) of R.A. 7610).

Simply stated, child abuse refers to the infliction of physical or psychological injury, cruelty to, or neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation of a child (IRR of R.A. 7610).



What are the types of CHILD ABUSE?

1. **PHYSICAL ABUSE** - any act which results in non-accidental and/or unreasonable infliction of physical injury to a child which includes but is not limited to lacerations, fractures, burns, strangulation, human bites, and similar acts.
2. **PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE** - any harm to a child's emotional or intellectual functioning which includes but is not limited to cursing, belittling, rejecting and other similar acts.
3. **NEGLECT** - any unreasonable deprivation of child's basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, medical, general care, and supervision by parents, guardians or custodian.
4. **SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION**

SEXUAL ABUSE- any employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of a child to engage in, or assist another person to engage in, sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct or the molestation, prostitution, or incest with children (IRR of R.A. 7610).

Lascivious conduct - any intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia,

anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, or the introduction of any object into the genitalia, anus or mouth, of any person, whether of the same or opposite sex, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, bestiality, masturbation, lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of a person (IRR of R.A. 7610).

EXPLOITATION - any hiring, employment, persuasion, inducement, or coercion of a child to perform in obscene exhibitions and indecent shows, whether live or in video or film, or to pose or act as a model in obscene publication or pornographic materials, or to sell or to distribute said materials (IRR of R.A. 7610).

What are the Other Forms of Child Abuse?

A. ACTS CONSIDERED AS ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT PROSTITUTION - there is an attempt to commit prostitution under the following circumstances:

1. Under Section 5 (a) of R.A. 7610, when any person who, not being relative of a child, is found alone with the said child inside the room or cubicle of a house, and inn, hotel, motel, pension house, apartelle or other similar establishments, vessels, vehicle or any other hidden or secluded are under circumstance which would lead a reasonable person to believe that the child is about to be exploited in prostitution and other sexual abuse.
2. Under Section 5 (b) of R.A. 7610, when any person is receiving services from a child in a sauna parlor or both, massage clinic, health club and other similar establishment.

B. OTHER ACTS OF NEGLECT, ABUSE, CRUELTY OR EXPLOITATION AND OTHER CONDITIONS PREJUDICIAL TO THE CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT -The following acts are punishable under Article VI, Section 10 of R.A. 7610:

1. committing acts covered by Article 59 of P.D. 603, as amended (please see said article for specific acts).
2. keeping or having in his company a minor, twelve (12) years under or who is ten (10) years or more his junior in any public or private place, hotel, motel, beer joint, discotheque, cabaret, pension house, sauna or massage parlor, beach and or other tourist resort and similar places.
3. inducing, delivering or offering a minor to any one prohibited by R.A. 7610 to keep or have in his company a minor in areas as provided in the preceding number.
4. any person, owner, manager or one entrusted with the operation of any public or private place of accommodation whether for food, drink or otherwise including residential places, by allowing any person to take along with him to such place or places any minor.
5. using, coercing forcing or intimidating a streetchild or any other child to:
 - a) by or use begging as a means of living;
 - b) act as conduit or middleman in drug trafficking or pushing; or
 - c) conduct any illegal activities.

What are the Effects of Child Abuse?

Child Abuse adversely affects the normal, physical and psychological growth, and development of the child. It may vary depending on the kind and degree of abuse.

Physical Effects:

Malnutrition, sexually-transmitted diseases, AIDS, unwanted pregnancy, permanent physical disabilities, drug addiction and death.

Psychological and Social Effects:

Withdrawal syndrome, learning disabilities, extreme depression, sense of alienation, suicidal/self-destructive tendencies, emotional breakdown, aggressive behavior, low self image, relationship problems, rejection, fear, confusion, distrust to others, truancy, and running away from home.



How do you Identify a Suspected Victim of Child Abuse?

A suspected victim of child abuse can be identified through the following manifestations:

Physical

Unexplained, unusual and periodic bodily injuries, bruises, burns, human bite marks, abrasions,

lacerations, contusions, blade marks, and weight loss.

Psychological

Extreme fear, confusion, anxiety, anger, depression, shock, withdrawal, aggressiveness, blank stares, absent-mindedness, stealing, lying, suicidal tendencies, and regressive behavior

Who is a Child Abuser?

A child abuser is any person regardless of age, sex, race, creed or color who deliberately commits or perpetuates any acts defined as constituting child abuse. A child abuser is usually a person known or trusted by the child -- can be a family member, a relative, neighbor, friend, teacher, baby-sitter or child-care giver. He or she may also be a stranger to the child. Study shows that most child abusers have been victims of child abuse.

Why do parents/adults abuse children?

Parents/adults may abuse children due to ignorance, emotional immaturity, stresses such as marital or economic problems, a predisposition toward maltreatment (perhaps as a result of having been abused, molested or neglected as a child), lack of constructive outlets for tension, anger or aggression, or poor impulse control. In addition, parents and other adults may abuse children as a result of mental disturbance, sexual perversion, and those under the influence of alcohol and prohibited drugs.

Who can report cases of child abuse?

- a. Any person who learns of facts or circumstance that give rise to the belief that a child has suffered

FLOW CHART: REFERRAL NETWORK FOR CHILD ABUSE CASES

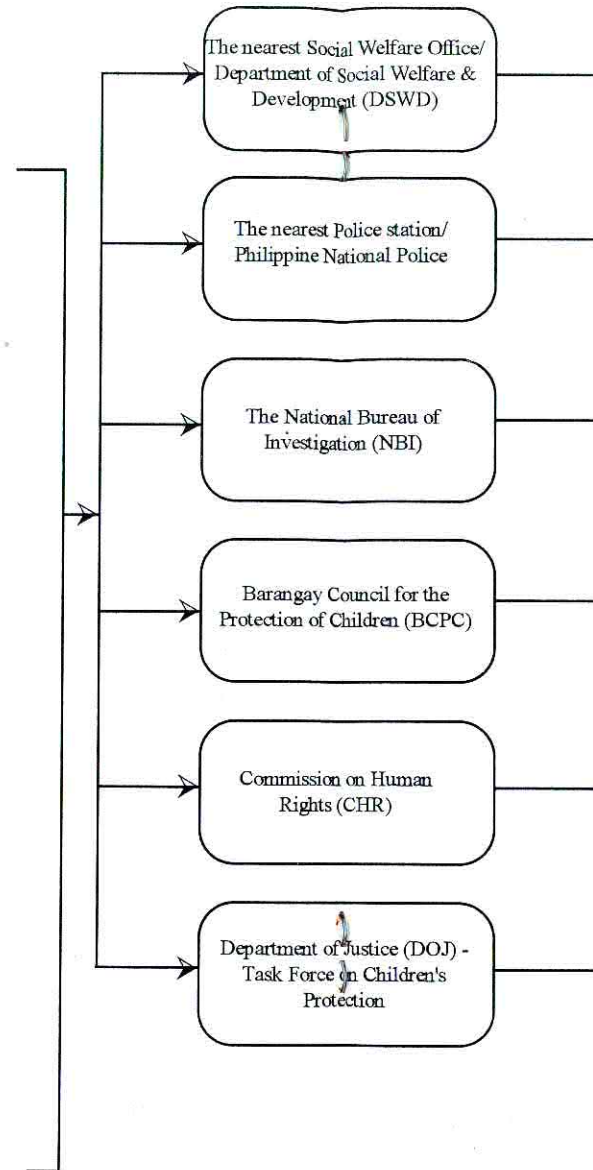
I

Reporting Party

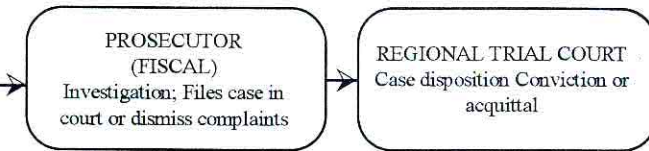
- a. Any person who learns the facts or circumstances that give rise to the belief that a child has suffered abuse may report the name, either orally or in writing.
- *b All government officials and employees whose work involves dealing with children to report all incidents of possible child abuse.
- *c The head of any public or private hospital, medical clinic and similar institutions as well as the attending physician and nurse, shall report, either orally or in writing the examination and/or treatment of a child who appears to have suffered abuse within forty eight (48) hours from knowledge of the same as provided for by *Sect. 4, IRR of R.A. 7610 and Article 166 of P.D. 603*

**For B and C, reports should be made for DSWD*

II



III



IV

abuse may report the same, either orally or in writing.

- b. All government officials and employees whose work involves dealing with children have a duty to report all incidents of possible child abuse.
- c. The head of any public or private hospital, medical clinic, and similar institution, as well as the attending physician and nurse, shall report, either orally or in writing the examination and/or treatment of a child who appears to have suffered abuse within forty-eight (48) hours from knowledge of the same as provided for by Section 4 of R.A. 7610 and Article 166 of P.D. 603.

Where can you report a suspected victim of child abuse?

Report immediately to the following:

1. the nearest Local Social Welfare Office/Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
2. nearest Police Station/Philippine National Police
3. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
4. Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC)
5. Commission on Human Rights
6. Department of Justice (DOJ) -- Task-Force on the Children's Protection

NOTE: Please refer to Flowchart Referral Network on Child Abuse cases.

Is there a sanction imposed upon persons who fail to report child abuse cases?

Yes, but the sanction is imposed only on those persons mentioned in Section 4 of the implementing rule and regulation of R.A. 7610. They are the head of any public or private hospital, medical clinic, and similar institution, as well as the attending physician and nurse and the administrator or head of the hospital, clinic or similar institution concerned to report a possible case of child abuse.

Is a person legally protected when reporting a suspected case of Child Abuse?

Yes, Section 7 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 7610 on the Reporting and Investigation of Child Abuse Cases provides that a person who made such report is presumed to have acted in good faith, and shall be free from any civil or administrative liability arising therefrom.

Who may file a complaint?

Complaints on child abuse cases punishable under R.A. 7610 may be filed by any of the following:

- a. Offended party;
- b. Parent or legal guardian;
- c. Ascendant or collateral relative of the child within the third degree of consanguinity;
- d. Officer, social worker or representative of a licensed child-caring institution;

- e. Officer or Social Worker of the Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- f. Barangay Chairman; or
- g. At least three (3) concerned, responsible citizens where the violation occurred.



What are the services available to victims of child abuse?

- 1. Protective Custody
- 2. Counseling
- 3. Medical/Dental Services
- 4. Psychological/Psychiatric Services
- 5. Social Services to Family
- 6. Child Placement Services
 - a. Residential Care/Temporary Shelter
 - b. Foster Home
 - c. Adoption
- 7. Legal Services
- 8. Educational and Vocational Services

NOTE: Services are also available to the families of child abuse victims.

What are the government and non-government agencies that provide services to victims of child abuse?

Government Agencies:

- 1. Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hill
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. #: 931-81-01

- 1. Department of Social Welfare and Development
National Capital Region
San Rafael Street, Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. #: 742-28-56; 742-26-88
Ugnayan Pag-asa
Tel. #: 741-05-52
Child Help Intervention and Prevention Services
Tel. #: 741-10-51; 741-10-54

- 2. Reception and Study Centers for Children
- 3. Lingap Centers
- 4. Group Home for Girls

* Services are also available at the regional offices

- 2. Department of Justice
DOJ Building, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila
Tel. #: 59-92-71 to 79 local 312

* Services are also available at the National Prosecution Field Offices

- 3. Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. #: 711-60-80; 711-60-55

4. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
PNCC Building, Cor. EDSA and Reliance Street,
Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
Tel. #: 631-87-72; 631-84-31

* **Services are also available through tie-up programs with DSWD, DOLE and Military Regional Commanders (e.g. Community Relations Office of Military CYRO).**

5. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
Taft Avenue, Manila
Tel. #: 521-24-02

* **Services are also available at the Regional Offices**

6. Philippine National Police (PNP)
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Tel. #: 722-08-02; 75-75; 722-06-50; 722-32-53

* **Services are also available at the Women's Desk at the Regional Level, Police Provincial Command.**

7. Childs Rights Center - Commission on Human Rights
IBP Building, Dona Julia Vargas Avenue, Pasig, Metro Manila
Tel. #: 632-04-43; 631-30-23; 631-57-58; 631-16-95 to 98
local 36 and 37

* **Services are also available at the Regional Offices**

8. Department of Labor and Employment, Sagip Batang
Manggagawa (In case of Child Labour).
DOLE Building, Intramuros
Manila
Tel. #: 527-35-14

* **Legal Counseling Services after rescue operations are also available in Regions III, IV, VIII, and X under the Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM) Program. All other regional cooperation for the national child program collaborate with DSWD, DOH, DOJ, and DECS.**

Non-Government Agencies

1. Asilo de San Vicente de Paul
1148 United Nations Avenue, Manila
Tel. #: 523-38-29
2. Asian Social Institute Senden Home
2422 Pedro Gil, Sta. Ana, Manila
Tel. #: 50-65-77
3. Tahanan Outreach Project and Services Incorporated (TOPS)
2589 Sta. Clara Street cor. Leiva and Syquia Street, Sta. Ana,
Manila
4. Create Responsive Infants By Sharing, Philippines, Inc.
(CRIBS)
30 Major Santos Dizon St., Industrial Valley, 1800 Marikina,
Metro Manila
Tel. #: 947-58-17
5. Hospicio de San Jose
Ayala Bridge, Manila
Tel. #: 47-24-14; 47-79-80
6. Kaisahang Buhay Foundation
#58 10th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. #: 912-11-59; 911-41-80
7. Norfil Foundation, Inc.
#16 Mother Ignacia Ave., cor. Roces Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. #: 99-69-02; 98-71-98; 99-26-41 local 259
922-51-19
8. Saint Rita Orphanage
Dr. Arcadio Santos Avenue, Paranaque, Metro Manila
Tel. #: 828-47-90; 828-92-63

9. Scandinavian Children's Mission
Leto Christian Center, #4 Second Street, West Crame, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. #: 721-03-22; 725-09-17
10. Lingap Pangkabataan
158 Ermin Garcia Street, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. #: 98-92-27; 95-17-02; 99-90-54
11. Shepherd of the Hills Children's Home
124 A. Luna Street, Project 4, Quezon City
Tel. #: 922-29-83
12. Caritas Manila Inc., Morning Glory Program
2002 Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Tel. #: 522-00-46 local 206
13. White Cross Children's Home
276 Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. #: 70-21-45
14. Kanlungan Sa ER-Ma Ministry, Inc.
Ermita, Manila
Tel. #: 525-70-92
15. Laura Vicuna Foundation, Inc.
3500 V. Mapa Ext'n, Sta. Mesa, Manila
Tel. #: 601-027
16. Nagkataon Simulain Para Sa Ikagagaling Ng Mga Bata Foundation, Inc.
2263 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
Tel. #: 592-392
17. Shalom Bata Rescue Center
202 Aldrin St., Moonwalk Village, Paranaque
Tel. #: 827-36-37
18. Silong Tanglaw Foundation, Inc.
146 G. Araneta Avenue cor. Kaliraya St., Q.C.
Tel. #: 742-11-09
19. Serra's Center For Girls
155 B. Pestanas St., Park Avenue, Pasay City
Tel. #: 96-28-47
(c/o San Rafael Parish)
20. Virланie Elizabeth Home
1111 Dagonoy St., Singalong, Manila
Tel. #: 57-16-02
21. Sun For All Children
1749 F.B. Benitez St., Malate, Manila
Tel. #: 58-83-08
22. Kuya Drop-In-Center
No.4 Rochester St., cor. 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel #: 911-38-32
23. Bahay Tuluyan
Ground Floor Our Lady of Remedies Bldg.
San Andres St., cor. Mother Ignacia St.,
Malate, Manila, Philippines
Tel. #: 59-40-40
SEC. REG. NO. ANO 933582
24. Alay Pag-asa
32 Arayat St., cor. Road Mandaluyong City
Tel. #: 532-64-33; 532-32-50
25. Kaibigan
1404 Sto. Seulco, Paco, Manila
Tel. #: 522-48-57
26. Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse
37-B. Tomas Morato, Quezon City
Tel. #: 741-48-20 loc. 18

You may also ask assistance or referral from the following non-government agencies assisting victims of child abuse:

National Council of Social Development
#59, 10th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City, 912-66-69; 912-66-87

Child Welfare League of the Philippines
c/o Hospicio de San Jose, Ayala Bridge, Manila, 50-09-06; 50-80-61;
833-90-11

Sub Task Force on Exploited, Neglected & Abused Children

Chairman : National Council of Social Development (NCSD)
Vice-Chairman : Philippine Information Agency (PIA)

Members : Department of Social Welfare and Development
(Bureau of Child & Youth Welfare/Bureau of
Disabled Person's Welfare)
Department of Education, Culture & Sports
Department of Health
Department of Interior & Local Government
Department of Justice
Commission on Human Rights
National Bureau of Investigation
Philippine National Police
Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE WRITE OR CALL:

COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
P.O. BOX 2363
QUEZON CITY CENTRAL POST OFFICE, 1163 QUEZON CITY
OR
4/F BEN-LOR BUILDING
1184 QUEZON AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
☎ 99-26-41 LOCALS 228, 279 & 281