



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Sorsogon
CITY OF SORSOGON



Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE EIGHTH CITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD SESSION HALL, CABID AN, EAST DISTRICT, SORSOGON CITY ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2022.

PRESENT:

HON. MARK ERIC C. DIONEDA
City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

WEST DISTRICT

Hon. Peter Joseph J. Ravanilla
Hon. Nestor J. Baldon
Hon. Bryan J. Pingul
Hon. Ma. Teresa D. Perdigon

EAST DISTRICT

Hon. Maria Theresa S. Gonzalez
Hon. Lester R. Lubiano
Hon. Mark Jayson D. Jamisola
Hon. Angelu Magda P. Ravanilla

BACON DISTRICT

Hon. Jo Abegail C. Dioneda
Hon. Reynaldo C. Taladtad
Hon. Glenn P. Olbes
Hon. Danilo A. Deladia

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Hon. Bessie C. Diaz

ABSENT:

Hon. Renalene Mae J. Duka – on official business

Resolution No. 217, Series of 2022

(Authors: Hon. Mark Eric C. Dioneda & Hon. Maria Theresa S. Gonzalez)

RESOLUTION ENACTING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ASSISTANCE FOR THE CARE OF OFFSPRING OR DEPENDENTS AND ELDERS RESCUE (ACODER) AND THEREBY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PROGRAMS AND PACKAGE OF BENEFITS FOR THE ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS AND FOR REGISTERED QUALIFIED SOLO MOTHERS IN THE CITY OF SORSOGON AS HEREIN DEFINED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, raising children without the help of the biological father is challenging, thus, the most difficult part of single parenting is to overcoming the financial challenges, working with budget constraints, especially during this pandemic that triggered job loss and increased prices of commodities;

WHEREAS, under R.A. No. 8972 otherwise known as the Solo Parent Act, it is a declared policy of the State to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development and towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children;

WHEREAS, Article XV Section 4 of the Philippines Constitution declared that it is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order for the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippines society;

WHEREAS, to support the fundamental law of the land, the Philippine Congress enacted Republic Act 7432, as amended, or An Act to maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and for Other Purposes;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, specifically Section 458 (a) provides that “The Sangguniang Panlungsod, as the legislative body of the city, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the city and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of this Code.”

WHEREAS, the same Code mandates each Local Government Units, through their respective Sanggunian, to approve Ordinances to provide for the care of disabled persons, paupers, the aged, the sick, persons of unsound mind, abandoned minors, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, abused children and other needy and disadvantaged persons, particularly children and youth below eighteen (18) years of age; and subject to availability of funds, establish and provide for the operation of centers and facilities for the said needy and disadvantaged persons;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 also narrates same adherence as part of the basic services of local government units;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Sorsogon recognizes, celebrates, encourage union and marriage of couples with full respect and veneration;

WHEREAS, every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom; as well as powers necessary, appropriate or incidental for its efficient and effective governance and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial jurisdiction, local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, maintain peace and order and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of **Hon. Maria Theresa S. Gonzalez**, duly seconded by **Hon. Nestor J. Baldon**, resolve as it is hereby done to enact an ordinance establishing the Assistance for the Care of Offspring or Dependents and Elders Rescue (ACODER) and thereby institutionalizing the programs and package of benefits for the abandoned senior citizens and for registered qualified solo mothers in the city of Sorsogon as herein defined providing funds thereof and for other purposes.

City Ordinance No. 008, Series of 2022

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ASSISTANCE FOR THE CARE OF OFFSPRING OR DEPENDENTS AND ELDERS RESCUE (ACODER) AND THEREBY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PROGRAMS AND PACKAGE OF BENEFITS FOR THE ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS AND FOR REGISTERED QUALIFIED SOLO MOTHERS IN THE CITY OF SORSOGON AS HEREIN DEFINED PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod in session that:

SECTION 1 SHORT TITLE

This ordinance shall be known as **“ACODER ORDINANCE OF 2022”**

SECTION 2 DECLARATION POLICY

It is hereby the policy of the City Government of Sorsogon to promote utmost care to the offspring or children who were affected by enigmatical relationship and/or separation of their parents. It is likewise the policy of the city government to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development, however, if separation of parents is already inevitable, the City Government of Sorsogon shall develop a concrete and comprehensive programs and package of benefits for registered qualified solo parents particularly the mother and their children.

It is likewise the policy of the City Government of Sorsogon to give full support to the improvement of wellbeing and integration into the mainstream of the society of senior citizens, thus, any parent (mother or father) who is/are senior citizen/s, separated or not, however, physically and financially abandoned by their children and are incapable of self-support because of old age, mental and/or physical defect/disability shall likewise receive a concrete and comprehensive programs and package of benefits.

SECTION 3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean as follows:

REGISTERED QUALIFIED SOLO MOTHER - any female individual who is registered as such before the CSWDO, beneficiaries of this program, which falls under any of the following categories:

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. A mother left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the other spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction for at least one (1) year;
3. A mother 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;
4. Any female family member as legal guardian within 4th degree by affinity or consanguinity, who assumes the responsibility of head of family as a result of the disappearance or prolonged absence of the parents or solo parent.
5. Any female family member as legal guardian within 4th degree by affinity or consanguinity, who assumes the responsibility of head of family when a solo mother becomes mentally disabled and become physically and mentally incapacitated to raise and nurture her child/children;

6. A mother left abandoned by her husband/partner and thereby left alone with the responsibility of parenthood with no permanent employment and the monthly income does not exceed the amount of P6,000.00.

A change in the status or circumstance of the solo mother claiming benefits under this ordinance, such that she is no longer left alone with the responsibility of parenthood, shall terminate his/her eligibility for these benefits.

CHILDREN - refer to those living with and dependent upon the solo mother for support who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than twenty two (22) years of age, or even over twenty two (22) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/disability. (RA 11861-Expanded Solo Parent Act)

SOLO PARENT - any individual who falls under any of the categories enumerated under Section 3 of RA 8972 otherwise known as the "Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000."

CSWDO – refers to the City Social Welfare and Development Office of the City Government of Sorsogon.

DSWD – refers to the Department of Social Welfare and Development Office;

ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS –refers to any resident of Sorsogon City who is sixty (60) years old or above and are physically and financially abandoned by their children and are incapable of self-support because of old age, mental and/or physical defect/disability. The term shall include single or unmarried senior citizens.

SECTION 4 **INCORPORATION CLAUSE**

Notwithstanding that the mandate under Republic Act No. 8972 is unto the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities, by this Ordinance, the City of Sorsogon formally imposes upon itself the obligation to augment the support provided to registered qualified solo mother and their children, including among others, the welfare services, special privileges and benefits that the law has enumerated. Accordingly, the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8972 and RA 11861-Expanded Solo Parent Act are hereby considered written in this ordinance.

Similarly, notwithstanding the mandate under Republic Act 7432, as amended and Republic Act 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizen Act are unto the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities, the City of Sorsogon formally imposes upon itself the obligation to augment the support provided to abandoned senior citizens, including among others, the welfare services, special privileges and benefits that the law has enumerated. Accordingly, the pertinent provisions of Republic Act 7432, as amended and Republic Act 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizen Act are hereby considered written in this ordinance.

SECTION 5 **SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

This ordinance shall cover all programs and package of benefits for registered qualified solo mother as herein defined and their children including those senior citizens, separated or not, however, physically and financially abandoned by their children and are incapable of self-support because of old age, mental and/or physical defect/disability.

SECTION 6

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF “ACODER PROGRAM”

“ACODER PROGRAM” is hereby institutionalized in the City of Sorsogon for the promotion of the general welfare of the registered qualified solo mother and their children and for the senior citizens, physically and financially abandoned by their children and are incapable of self-support because of old age, mental and/or physical defect/disability. For purposes of this ordinance, the City Social Welfare and Development Office shall spearhead the implementation of this program in close coordination and supervision of the Office of the City Mayor.

SECTION 7

REGISTRATION OF BENEFICIARIES FOR ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS

All qualified abandoned senior citizens in the City of Sorsogon, as identified and defined under Section 3 hereof shall be registered before the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO).

The City Government of Sorsogon, through the CSWD shall undertake a city-wide registration of all qualified abandoned senior citizens for purposes of obtaining, among others, information on their names, ages, addresses, number of children and the circumstances of being abandoned. The CSWD shall undertake profiling, assessment and case study of the qualified abandoned senior citizens under Section 3 hereof and the corresponding special ID shall be issued for the purpose of availing the programs and package of benefits of this ordinance.

SECTION 8

REGISTRATION OF BENEFICIARIES FOR REGISTERED QUALIFIED SOLO MOTHERS

The City Government of Sorsogon, through the CSWD shall likewise undertake a city-wide registration of all the solo parents and their children for purposes of obtaining, among others, information on their names, ages, addresses, income including the source thereof, number of children per solo mother and the circumstances of being solo. The CSWD shall further undertake profiling of the registered qualified solo mother under Section 3 hereof.

The CSWDO shall have an online application facility where they can assist the applicants to upload the requirements and make an appointment for online for assessment and downloading of the digital Solo Parent ID. The applicants may also directly apply to the CSWDO with the following requirements:

Barangay Certificate and City ID

Barangay certificate to prove that the applicant resided in the barangay for the last six months and to certify the applicant’s situation as a solo parent. Barangay Certificate must be supported with the City ID.

Supporting Documents/Certificates

The applicant must prepare and submit documents and certificates that can prove solo parent status, such as but not limited to court records, decisions and medical certificates.

Birth Certificate/s of the Child/Children

The applicant shall submit PSA copies of birth certificate her children, if there’s any.

Filled Out Solo Parent ID Application Form

The applicant must personally fill up the registration form and her application for the issuance of Solo Parent ID with a 2x2 ID photo.

The CSWDO shall cause the issuance of a Solo Parent Identification Card which shall be considered as competent evidence of identity and membership in the sector as well as of the entitlement to the benefits under this ordinance if they qualify for the purpose. These privileges are valid for one year along with the Solo Parent ID, which can be renewed every year. A special ID shall be issued to registered qualified solo mother for purposes of availing the programs and package of benefits under this ordinance.

The CSWDO shall maintain an updated database for all solo parents in the City of Sorsogon and issue the corresponding Solo Parent ID as recognized and acknowledged by the DSWD. The office shall likewise maintain an updated database for registered qualified solo mothers and abandoned senior citizens intended for this program.

SECTION 9 CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT

Abandoned senior citizens and registered qualified solo mother as herein defined shall be eligible for the program and the package of assistance and benefits as provided for in this ordinance.

Proof of membership and entitlement shall be presented by the abandoned senior citizens and registered qualified solo mother and/or her children to avail of the benefits granted under this Ordinance.

SECTION 10 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS AND REGISTERED QUALIFIED SOLO MOTHER

For purposes of this ordinance and as herein provided, qualified recipients for abandoned senior citizens shall be entitled to receive financial assistance in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (P1,000.00) PESOS** commencing on the date of approval of this ordinance.

Recipients for registered qualified solo mothers shall be entitled for a monthly financial assistance in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (P 1,000.00) PESOS** commencing on the date of approval of this ordinance and shall be released and received on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.

SECTION 11 SKILLS AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE

A Ten (10%) Percent allocation or slots for registered qualified solo mothers and their children in all non-formal, technical/vocational short courses, skills and livelihood trainings, entrepreneurial activities and poverty alleviation programs undertaken by the city government is hereby guaranteed.

Registered qualified solo mothers shall have priority in the grant of livelihood assistance under any of the city's applicable programs or projects, subject to the qualification requirements under existing ordinance, rules and regulations.

SECTION 12 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

A Ten (10%) Percent allocation/slots of every batch of incoming scholars shall come from the ranks of the children of registered qualified solo mothers in all academic scholarship programs of the city government who shall possessed all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications.

Children of registered qualified solo mothers are priority for inclusion in the city's basic educational programs in the preschool, elementary and secondary level, including the SPED (Special Education) Program.

SECTION 13 HOUSING AND RELOCATION PROJECTS

No less than five (5%) percent of the beneficiaries in any new housing site under the City's Relocation and Socialized Housing Programs should come from the ranks of the abandoned senior citizens and registered qualified solo mothers subject to the program's requisites.

Provided, that the beneficiaries' equity requirement shall be reduced to fifty (50%) percent of the prescribed amount but the remaining half shall nonetheless be paid in the manner most convenient to them; provided that she acquire all the qualifications and requirements and none of the disqualifications thereof.

SECTION 14 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The City Health Office shall develop a comprehensive health care program for abandoned senior citizens and for solo mothers and their children. The program shall be implemented through city owned hospitals, medical centers, and district health units.

Abandoned senior citizens and registered qualified solo mothers and their children shall be prioritized in all the medical assistance programs of the City Government.

SECTION 15 PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT

All public and private establishments in the City of Sorsogon shall provide preference in the application for employment of registered qualified solo mothers and/or their children, provided that he/she acquire all the qualifications and requirements and none of the disqualifications.

The Sorsogon City Public Employment Services Office (PESO) shall also provide job placement assistance to all registered qualified solo mothers and their children.

Registered solo mothers shall have priority in the employment programs of the City Government subject to job matching based on qualifications and experience.

SECTION 16 LEGAL CONSULTATION

The City Legal Office shall provide free legal consultation and legal assistance to all registered qualified solo mothers, such as preparation of affidavits and other similar undertakings. The City Legal Office may also institute separate legal programs for the benefits and welfare of the registered solo parents and their children.

SECTION 17 PARENT EFFECTIVENESS SERVICES, COUNSELLING AND INTERVENTIONS

The City Social Welfare and Development Office through its Population Division shall provide free parent effectiveness services, counselling and treatment to all registered solo mothers and their children, to include preparation of case study and interventions for critical incidence, stress debriefing which includes preventive stress management strategy designed to assist solo parents in coping with crisis situations and cases of abuse and other similar undertakings. The Population Division may also institute a separate social programs for the benefits and welfare of the registered solo parents and their children.

SECTION 18 SOLO PARENTS' DESK

A Solo Parent Desk is hereby created which shall be under the direct supervision of the City Social Welfare and Development Office which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive social development and welfare program for solo parents and their children which shall include those herein listed;
- (b) Coordinate and work with appropriate offices and agencies of the government in providing such welfare services, privileges and benefits to the intended beneficiaries;
- (c) Assist in the organizational matters of the solo parents organization/federation in coordination with the Committee on Women, Children and Family Welfare of the Sangguniang Panlungsod;
- (d) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be assigned by the mayor or as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SECTION 19 RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

The City hereby encourages and gives its full support to the solo parents' right to organize themselves for purposes beneficial to its members. The Solo Parents Organization/Federation shall assist the city in the effective formulation and implementation of its program of services.

SECTION 20 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

An implementing body, composed of the City Social Welfare and Development Officer as chairman and the City Legal Officer, the City Administrator, the President of the Solo Parents Federation and the SP Chairman of the Committee on Women, Children and Family Affairs as members, is hereby constituted to promulgate rules and regulations to effectively carry out the purposes of this ordinance, subject to the approval of the City Mayor. But notwithstanding the absence of implementing rules and regulations, this ordinance shall be considered self-executory.

SECTION 21 DISBURSEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Payment and Disbursement of Financial Assistance shall be in the form of a check payable to the financial assistance beneficiary. The same shall be made after compliance of the mandatory requirements as herein provided and by all existing accounting rules and regulations.

In no case shall a financial assistance be released without complete mandatory requirements.

SECTION 22 INITIAL FUNDING AND AUTOMATIC INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE BUDGET.

An initial amount is hereby appropriated for the current year. The amount thereof shall be determined upon recommendation of the CSWDO. Further, for purposes of continuity of this program, ample amount as determined later shall be deemed automatically included in the forthcoming Annual Performance Budget of the City Government of Sorsogon.

SECTION 23 ACODER DAY AND WEEK

December 12 of every year shall be regularly observed and celebrated as **Acoder Day**.

SECTION 24 SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If for any reason, any provision or provisions of this ordinance be held unconstitutional or declared invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 25 REPEALING CLAUSE

All ordinances, rules and regulations in conflict with and/or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 26 EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval by the Sangguniang Panlungsod and after compliance with the law on public dissemination and of publication.

DATE APPROVED : September 6, 2022

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution and ordinance.


ROVAN E. DOMASIAN
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

ATTESTED:


MARK ERIC C. DIONEDA
City Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


MA. ESTER E. HAMOR
City Mayor