



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Migrant Workers

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BAGONG PILIPINAS

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 06
Series of 2024

GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF SOLO PARENTS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE THROUGH POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11641, otherwise known as the Department of Migrant Workers Act (DMW Act), the DMW is mandated to protect the rights and promote the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the Solo Parents' Welfare Act as amended by Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11861 or the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act, mandates the development of a comprehensive package of social protection services for solo parents and their families through the coordination of various government agencies, including the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW);

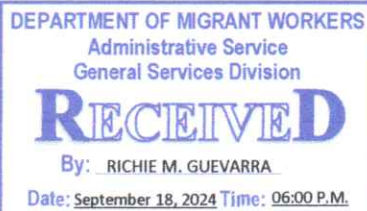
WHEREAS, Section 24 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, establishes an Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee (IACMC), which includes the Secretary of the DMW as member. The IACMC shall accurately gather data on solo parents and their children;

As such, to ensure protection of the rights, promotion of the welfare, and provision of services to solo parents as defined and covered, these guidelines are hereby issued.

I. COVERAGE

1. Section 4(b) of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, defines a "solo parent" to include:
 - A. the spouse or any family member of an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW); or
 - B. the guardian of the child or children of an OFW

Provided, that the OFW belongs to the low/semi-skilled worker category and is away from the Philippines for an uninterrupted period of twelve (12) months.



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2. An Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who falls under the category of a “solo parent” as defined under Section 3(a) of RA 8972 shall, whenever applicable, be covered by these guidelines.

II. APPLICABILITY

1. Assistance and access to services shall be given to all qualified OFW solo parents, as may be determined and registered with their respective local government units. The Department shall assist in the documentation and registration of OFW solo parents. The DMW shall coordinate with the DSWD and the DILG in the establishment of an OFW solo parents database.
2. Subject to the provisions of RA 8972, as amended by RA 11861, changes in status and circumstance of a solo parent shall limit and/or terminate access to assistance and services. However, the DMW shall endeavor to provide assistance within the existing programs of the Department.

III. FORMS AND SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE

1. As mandated by Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, a comprehensive package of social protection services for solo parents and their families shall be developed, which shall include the following:
 - A. Livelihood development services which include trainings on livelihood skills, basic business management, value orientation and the provision of seed capital or job placement.
 - B. Counseling services which include individual, peer group or family counseling. This will focus on the resolution of personal relationship and role conflicts.
 - C. Parent effectiveness services which include the provision and expansion of knowledge and skills of the solo parent on early childhood development, behavior management, health care, rights and duties of parents and children.
 - D. Critical incidence stress debriefing which includes preventive stress management strategy designed to assist solo parents in coping with crisis situations and cases of abuse.
 - E. Targeted interventions for individuals in need of protection which include temporary shelter, counseling, legal advice and assistance, medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis management and spiritual nourishment.

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2. Whenever applicable, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) shall extend to the spouse, family member, or guardian of the child or children of an OFW, who are considered as solo parents, the following DMW programs and services:
 - A. Reintegration Services – the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) shall develop programs and services dedicated to OFW Solo Parents. The NRCO and OWWA through the Migrant Workers Offices (MWO) and Regional Offices shall offer livelihood assistance and skills development programs to OFW solo parents;
 - B. Financial Literacy and Education for OFW Solo Parents – in various stages of migration, the DMW and OWWA shall integrate in the various programs and services the provision for Financial Literacy and Education of OFW Solo Parents;
 - C. Medical Assistance and Services – OFW Solo Parents and their qualified dependents shall be provided medical assistance at the OFW Hospital. The DMW, in coordination with the Department of Health, may also refer OFW Solo Parents and their qualified dependents to DOH Regional and Provincial hospitals to avail of needed medical assistance.
 - D. Psycho-social Assistance and Interventions – the Department's social welfare attaches shall provide psychological first aid to OFW Solo Parents who may need assistance. The DMW, in coordination with the Department of Health and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall also develop programs and interventions for mental health and psycho-social support of OFW Solo Parents and their families.
 - E. Membership Services for OFW Families and OFW Children's Circle Services – The OWWA shall include OFW Solo Parents in the activities of OFW Families and OFW Children's Circle;
 - F. Agarang Kalinga at Saklolo para sa mga OFWs na Nangangailangan (AKSYON) Fund – whenever applicable, and subject to existing guidelines on the implementation of the AKSYON Fund, OFW Solo Parents shall be provided with medical, financial, psycho-social, legal, and other forms of assistance. The same shall be extended to qualified next of kin of, and/or families left behind as defined under the AKSYON Fund Guidelines;
3. The National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in coordination with other government agencies, civil society organizations, OFW groups, and

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relevant stakeholders, shall develop other program offerings for OFW *“solo parents”*.

IV. PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The Department shall actively promote information on assistance and services for OFW solo parents. Private sector and multi-stakeholder participation shall be encouraged in the promotion of information on assistance and services for OFW solo parents.

V. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

1. In order to support access to benefits and programs offered by other government agencies and private institutions to *“solo parents”*, in particular the spouse, family member, or guardian of the child or children of an OFW, the Department shall facilitate the timely release of supporting records and documents needed for the registration of beneficiaries with their respective local government units and other government agencies. This shall be subject to limitations set by law, and to data privacy regulations.
2. The Department shall designate priority lanes in all frontline services for OFW *“solo parents”*.
3. The Department shall establish appropriate child minding centers and facilities in its offices, including at the Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs) and the Regional Offices (ROs), for use of OFW solo parents, their families, and children.

VI. EVALUATION AND MONITORING

The Undersecretary for Foreign Employment and Welfare Services, shall lead the periodic review of these guidelines, including the service offerings and assistance. An implementation report, which shall include the number of beneficiaries shall be submitted to the Secretary.

The Department's Institute for Advanced Strategic Studies for Migration and Development shall include in its portfolio of research, studies on OFW families, including OFW Solo parents and their children.

VII. FUND SOURCE

All costs relative to the implementation of these guidelines shall be sourced from the existing funds of the Department, subject to the usual budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

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VIII. EFFECTIVITY

These Guidelines shall take effect immediately.

_____ September 2024, Mandaluyong City.


HANS LEO J. CACDAC
Secretary

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