



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Isabela  
**MUNICIPALITY OF PALANAN**

**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**

Literal copy of *Municipal Ordinance No. 2021 - 093* approved by the Sangguniang Bayan of Palanan, Isabela in its *Regular Session* on April 26, 2021 held at the Legislative Session Hall, this Municipality.

**MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2021-093**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REPUBLIC ACT 8972, ENTITLED, "SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2000" AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALANAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA**

**Section 1. Title.** This Ordinance shall be known as the "Solo Parents' Welfare Ordinance".

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the Municipal Government of Palanan, Isabela to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development.

**Section 3. Definition of Terms.** Whenever used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean as follows:

(a) "Solo Parent" – any individual who 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) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood due to death of spouse;
- (3) Parent left solo or alone with the responsibility of parenthood while the spouse is detained or is serving sentence for a criminal conviction for 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 invalidity or annulment of marriage as decreed by a court or by 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.

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

(b) "Children" – refer to those living with and dependent upon the solo parent for support who are unmarried, unemployed and not more than eighteen (18) years of age, or even over eighteen (18) years but are incapable of self-support because of mental and/or physical defect/disability.

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SB MEMBER

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SB MEMBER

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(c) "Parental responsibility" – with respect to their minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209, as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the Philippines.

(d) "Parental leave" – shall mean leave benefits granted to a solo parent to enable him/her to perform parental duties and responsibilities where physical presence is required.

(e) "Flexible work schedule" – is the right granted to a solo parent employee to vary his/her arrival and departure time without affecting the core work hours as defined by the employer.

**Section 4. Criteria for Support.** Any solo parent whose income in the place of domicile falls below the poverty threshold as set by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and subject to the assessment of the DSWD 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 mentioned in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of this Ordinance.

**Section 5. Comprehensive Package of Social Development and Welfare Services.** A comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families will be developed by the MSWDO, MHO, PESO of this Local Government Unit in coordination with the DepEd Palanan District and a non-governmental organization with proven track record in providing services for solo parents.

The MSWD shall coordinate with concerned agencies the implementation of the comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families. The package will initially include:

(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) Special projects for individuals in need of protection which include temporary shelter, counseling, legal assistance, medical care, self-concept or ego-building, crisis management and spiritual enrichment.

**Section 6. Flexible Work Schedule.** The employer shall provide for a flexible working schedule for solo parents: Provided, That the same shall not affect individual and company productivity: Provided, further, That any employer may request exemption from the above requirements from the DOLE on certain meritorious grounds.

**Section 7. Work Discrimination.** No employer shall discriminate against any solo parent employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment on account of his/her status.

**Section 8. Parental Leave.** In addition to leave privileges under existing laws, parental leave of not more than seven (7) working days every year shall be granted to any solo parent employee who has rendered service of at least one (1) year.

**Section 9. Educational Benefits.** The LGU and other concerned agencies and or institutions shall provide the following benefits and privileges:

(1) Scholarship programs for qualified solo parents and their children in institutions of basic, tertiary and technical/skills education; and

(2) Non-formal education programs appropriate for solo parents and their children.

**Section 10. Housing Benefits.** Solo parents shall be given allocation in housing projects and shall be provided with liberal terms of payment on said government low-cost housing projects in accordance with housing law provisions prioritizing applicants below the poverty line as declared by the NEDA.

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**Section 11. Medical Assistance.** The LGU shall develop a comprehensive health care program for solo parents and their children. The program shall be implemented by the Municipal Health Office through the Rural Health Unit (RHU) in close coordination with the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs).

**Section 12. Additional Powers and Functions of the MSWD Office.** The MSWDO shall perform the following additional powers and functions relative to the welfare of solo parents and their families:

- (a) Conduct research necessary to:
  - (1) develop a new body of knowledge on solo parents;
  - (2) define executive and legislative measures needed to promote and protect the interest of solo parents and their children; and
  - (3) assess the effectiveness of programs designed for disadvantaged solo parents and their children;
- (b) Coordinate the activities of various governmental and nongovernmental organizations engaged in promoting and protecting the interests of solo parents and their children; and
- (c) Monitor the implementation of the provisions of this Ordinance and suggest mechanisms by which such provisions are effectively implemented.

**Section 13. Implementing Agency.** The Office of Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer and Municipal Health Office shall implement the provisions of this Ordinance.


**Section 14. Appropriations.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this ordinance shall be included in the Gender and Development (GAD) Fund of the municipality.

**Section 15. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 16. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

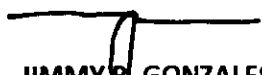
**Section 17. Effectivity Clause.** This ordinance shall take effect after fifteen (15) days posting and publication.

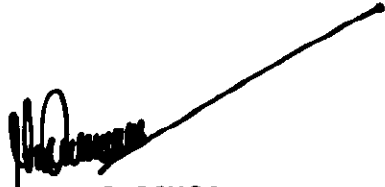
**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing ordinance was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Palanan, Isabela during its Regular Session on April 26, 2021.

  
NELIA ALAMO-PLATA  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED  
TO BE DULY ENACTED:

APPROVED:

  
JIMMY B. GONZALES  
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

  
ELIZABETH B. OCHOA  
Municipal Mayor  
Date: 04-28-2021