

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, November 07, 2000]

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO
SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Solo Parents' Welfare Act of
2000."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote the family as
the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total
development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of
services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of
Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the
Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Department of the
Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education
(CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the
National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Labor and Employment
(DOLE) and other related government and nongovernment agencies.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - Whenever used in this Act, 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 nullity 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; and
 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 Act, 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.
- 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.

SEC. 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 Act.

SEC. 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 DSWD, DOH, DECS, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, NHA and DILG, in coordination with local government units and a nongovernmental organization with proven track record in providing services for solo parents.

The DSWD 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.