

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7392, April 10, 1992]

**AN ACT REVISING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2644, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE MIDWIFERY ACT**

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

ARTICLE I - TITLE

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Midwifery Act of 1992".

ARTICLE II - THE BOARD OF MIDWIFERY

SEC. 2. *Composition.* - There shall be a Board of Midwifery, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be under the direct supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). It shall be a collegial body composed of a chairman and four (4) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among the recommendees of the Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission.

The Commission shall recommend three (3) registered midwives from the list submitted by the association of midwives; one (1) obstetrician from the list submitted by the association of obstetricians; and one (1) registered nurse-midwife from the list submitted by the association of midwives: *Provided*, That said associations are accredited in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 223: *Provided, further*, That the nominees submitted shall possess the appropriate qualifications prescribed in Section 3 hereof.

SEC. 3. *Qualifications and Disqualifications of the Board Members.* -

a. Each member of the Board shall at the time of his appointment:

1. be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;
2. be of good moral character;
3. be at least thirty (30) years of age; and
4. not be a member of the faculty, whether full time, part time or lecturer, of any school, college or university where a regular course in midwifery is taught, and shall not have any pecuniary interest directly or indirectly, in such institution during his term of office as a Board member.

b. The Chairman of the Board shall at the time of his appointment:

1. be a registered obstetrician; and

2. have at least ten (10) years practice as an obstetrician prior to his appointment.

c. Three (3) members of the Board shall at the time of their appointment:

1. be registered midwives;
2. be degree holders, preferably in the field of health and social sciences; and
3. have at least ten (10) years practice as midwives prior to their appointment, five (5) years of which are in supervisory positions.

d. One (1) member of the Board shall at the time of his appointment:

1. be a registered nurse-midwife; and
2. have at least ten (10) years practice as a nurse-midwife.

SEC. 4. *Term of Office.* - The Chairman and the four (4) members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified, without prejudice to reappointment for another term. Each member of the Board shall qualify by taking his/her oath of office before entering upon the performance of his/her duties.

SEC. 5. *Duties and Functions of the Board.* - The Board shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. to enforce the provisions of this Act;
- b. to administer oaths in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- c. to issue and, after due investigation, suspend or revoke certificates or registration for the practice of midwifery;
- d. to investigate any violation of this Act or of the rules and regulations issued thereunder, as may come to the knowledge of the Board, and for this purpose, to issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum* to alleged violators or witnesses to secure their attendance in investigations or hearings, and the production of books, papers and documents in connection therewith and compel their attendance by the power of contempt;
- e. to conduct yearly board examinations to midwifery examinees under the supervision of the Commission;
- f. to look, from time to time, into the condition affecting the practice of midwifery in the Philippines and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the maintenance of the standards and ethics of the profession; and
- g. to adopt an official seal to authenticate its official documents.

The Board shall exercise these powers and duties in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 223.

SEC. 6. *Compensation of Board Members.* - The chairman and the members of the Board shall receive the same compensation granted to the Chairman and members of the boards of similar nature as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Removal of Board Members.* - Any member of the Board may be removed from office by the President, upon the recommendation of the Professional Regulation Commission, for neglect of duty, incompetence or for unprofessional,

immoral or dishonorable conduct, after having been given the opportunity to defend himself in a proper administrative investigation conducted by the Commission.

SEC. 8. *Supervision of the Board and Custodian of Its Records.* - The members of the Board shall be under the general supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission. All records, including examination papers, examination results, minutes of deliberation, records of administrative cases and investigations of the Board shall be kept by the Commission.

SEC. 9. *Rules and Regulations.* - Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board shall set ethical and professional standards for the practice of midwifery and adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such standards, rules and regulations shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 10. *Annual Report.* - The Board shall submit an annual report to the Commission at the end of each calendar year, giving a detailed report of its activities and proceedings during the year. Other information or data may be requested by the Commission as often may be necessary and practicable.

ARTICLE III

EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES

SEC. 11. *Examination Required.* - All applicants for registration to the practice of midwifery in the Philippines shall be required to undergo an examination as required for in this Act.

SEC. 12. *Scope of Examinations.* - The scope of examinations for the practice of midwifery shall consist of the following:

- a. Infant care and feeding;
- b. Obstetrical anatomy and physiology;
- c. Principles of bacteriology as applied to midwife practice;
- d. Obstetrics;
- e. Midwifery procedures;
- f. Domiciliary midwifery;
- g. Community hygiene and first aid;
- h. Nutrition;
- i. Ethics of midwifery practice;
- j. Primary health care;
- k. Professional Growth and Development;
- l. Family planning; and
- m. Other subjects which the Board may deem necessary for addition or inclusion from time to time.

SEC. 13. *Prerequisite and Qualifications of Applicants for Examination.* - In order to be admitted to the midwifery examination, an applicant shall, at the time of filing of his/her application therefor, establish to the satisfaction to the Board that he/she:

- a. is in good health and of good moral character; and
- b. is a graduate of midwifery in a government recognized and duly accredited institution.