

[**REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4836, June 18, 1966**]

AN ACT CREATING A JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT IN QUEZON CITY BY AMENDING THE CHARTER OF QUEZON CITY.

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

SECTION 1. Republic Act Numbered Five hundred and thirty-seven, otherwise known as the Charter of Quezon City, as amended, is further amended by inserting between Article IX and Article X, a new Article to be known as Article IX-A which shall read as follows:

"ARTICLE IX-A. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

"SEC. 29-A. *The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.*—There shall be a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in Quezon City to be presided by a judge who shall have experience, recognizable aptitude or demonstrated ability in dealing with cases involving children and families, and shall further possess the same qualifications, enjoy the same privileges and receive the same salary as judges of Courts of First Instance. He shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

"Provisions of the Judiciary Act to the contrary notwithstanding, the court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and decide the following cases:

1. Criminal cases cognizable by the city court and the Court of First Instance of Quezon City wherein the accused is sixteen years of age or under sixteen at the time of the trial;
2. Cases involving custody, guardianship, adoption, revocation of adoption, paternity and acknowledgment;
3. Annulment of marriages, relief from marital obligations, legal separation of spouses, and actions for support;
4. Proceedings brought under the provisions of Title six and Title seven, Chapters one to three of the Civil Code;
5. Petitions for the declaration of absence and for the change of name;
6. Proceedings affecting a dependent or neglected child, as hereinafter defined, or other cases affecting the deprivation of parental authority;
7. Actions for the separation of property of spouses.

"The court shall likewise have such incidental powers as are generally possessed by the Courts of First Instance.

"If any question involving any of the above matters should arise as an incident in any case pending in the ordinary court, said incident shall be determined in the main case.

"SEC. 29-B. *Social Service and Counselling Division.*—There shall be established a Social Service and Counselling Division which shall be staffed with qualified personnel, such as duly registered social workers, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Justice with such compensation as may be fixed by the City Council: *Provided, however,* That the chief of the division shall receive a compensation of not less than eight thousand six hundred pesos, and shall possess a Master's degree in Social Work and must have had at least ten years of paid experience in the supervision and administration of social services programs preferably in a public agency. The division shall prepare social case studies, perform probation, counselling and other social services in connection with cases filed with the court. When warranted this division shall recommend that the court shall avail of the consultative services of psychiatrists, psychologists and/or other qualified specialists in connection with cases filed with the court.

"SEC. 29-C. *'Dependent' or 'neglected' child defined.*—The term 'dependent' child or 'neglected' child shall mean any child sixteen years of age or under who is destitute and/or dependent upon the public for support or who is homeless or abandoned or who has no proper parental care or guardianship. The following shall also be deemed 'neglected': one who is found living in any house of ill fame or with any vicious or disreputable person/s, or whose home by reason of neglect, cruelty, or depravity on the part of parents, guardian or other person in whose custody it may be, is unfit for such child.

"SEC. 29-D. *Proceedings in juvenile delinquency cases.*—After a minor has pleaded not guilty to the offense charged, and before the date of the trial, a social case study of the child shall be undertaken by a social worker of the court and the report and recommendation/s thereon shall be submitted to the judge before the trial.

"All detention facilities which shall be established and maintained by the city for minor offenders shall be under the supervision and control of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court subject to approved standards.

"SEC. 29-E. *Proceedings involving custody.*—In proceedings involving a child whose parents are separated, and/or a vagrant or abused child. Rule 99, sections six and seven, respectively, of the Revised Rules of Court shall apply.

"SEC. 29-F. *Custody of child pending proceeding.*—In proceedings concerning a 'dependent' or 'neglected' child, the Social Welfare Administration, and or any agency created by the Quezon City government which is accredited to receive and/or place out children and to render other social services, having knowledge of a child in the city who appears to be a 'dependent' or 'neglected' child, may file with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court a written petition setting forth the