

**[DSWD DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 15, s. 2000,
December 01, 2000]**

**AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE DSWD
DESK AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS**

I

Rationale

Pursuant to R.A. 7610 entitled, "An Act Providing for Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination, Providing Penalties for its Violation and for Other Purposes," the DSWD was mandated to issue travel clearance to minors traveling alone to a foreign country as a preventive measure against child trafficking.

Child trafficking is defined as an act of trading and dealing with children including, but not limited to, the act of buying and selling of a child for money, or any other consideration, or barter. It is usually committed when a family can no longer cope with responsibilities due to financial problems that they resort to other means in order to meet their basic needs and other requirements in life. Child trafficking cases that were documented by the DSWD involve children who are brought out of the country by the alleged mother and given to childless couples for a fee through syndicates.

The issuance of a travel clearance is to protect a child from abuse and exploitation when he/she travels abroad by ensuring that such travel is for a legitimate reason and with an authorized person thus preventing child trafficking. Moreover, Sec. 14 of RA 7610 states that the Department shall provide assistance to unaccompanied children at the point of embarkation hence the need to re-open the Desk of the International Airport.

II

Objectives of the Operation of the DSWD Desk:

1. To provide immediate protection to unaccompanied minors against child trafficking and other forms of abuse and exploitation.
2. To assist immigration officials in the assessment of unaccompanied children without travel clearance.
3. To provide appropriate assistance to off-loaded minors/victims of child trafficking.

III

Implementing Procedures: