



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
Old Capitol Building, Bacolod City  
Tel. No. 707-8075 (Admin) \* 435-7698 (Board Member) \* 709-0121 (Legislative Division)  
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko	Acting Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore
Hon. Rommel T. Debulgado	Member - 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Hon. Samson C. Mirhan	Member - 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Member - 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Valentino Miguel J. Alonso	Member - 6 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep.
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SK Rep.

**ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:**

Hon. Andrew Martin Y. Torres	Member - 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Anthony Dennis J. Occeño	Member - 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member - PCL Rep.

**ON ACTING CAPACITY AS GOVERNOR**

Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer	Vice-Governor
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**ORDINANCE NO. 019**  
**Series of 2024**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROVINCIAL POLICIES AND COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION, REHABILITATION, AND REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW (CICL) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND PROVIDING NECESSARY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

*Authored by: Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao*  
*Chairman: Committee on Women and Children*  
*Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member, 5<sup>th</sup> District*

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, in line with Republic Act No. 9344, also known as the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006," as amended by Republic Act No. 10630, recognizes the need to provide special protection, care, and assistance to Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), ensuring that their rights are upheld at every stage of the judicial and social welfare processes;

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative for the Provincial Government to take a proactive role in coordinating with national agencies, local government units, civil society, and other stakeholders in order to provide a restorative, child-centered justice system that focuses on rehabilitation and reintegration rather than punishment;

**WHEREAS**, this ordinance aims to ensure the proper implementation of programs, facilities, and services designed for CICL across the province, in accordance with existing laws





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and international standards such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

**NOW THEREFORE**, on motion of Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao, unanimously seconded by all the members present,

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental in a Regular Session duly assembled that:

**SECTION 1: DECLARATION OF POLICY** - It is the policy of the Province of Negros Occidental to uphold the rights of Children in Conflict with the Law, prioritize their rehabilitation, and provide support systems for their reintegration into the community. The Provincial Government commits to a restorative justice approach and shall ensure the provision of comprehensive care, legal assistance, and psychological and social support.

**SECTION 2: DEFINITION OF TERMS** - As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall be understood as follows:

1. **Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)** - refers to individuals below eighteen (18) years of age who are alleged, accused, or recognized as having committed an offense under Philippine laws.
2. **Restorative Justice** - an approach that focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community.
3. **Diversion** - refers to a child-appropriate process of handling CICL cases without resorting to formal court proceedings, as allowed by law.

**SECTION 3: PROVINCIAL JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE COUNCIL** - A Provincial Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (PJJWC) is hereby created under the leadership of the Provincial Governor, which shall include:

1. Representatives from the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO),
2. Provincial Prosecutor's Office,
3. Public Attorney's Office (PAO),
4. Provincial Health Office,
5. Department of Education (DepEd) – Provincial Division,
6. Local law enforcement units,
7. Civil society organizations (CSOs) specializing in child protection,
8. Other relevant agencies.

The PJJWC will oversee the development and implementation of provincial-level policies, programs, and projects aimed at addressing the needs of CICL. It shall coordinate with the National Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) to ensure alignment with national policies.

**SECTION 4: ESTABLISHMENT OF CICL-FRIENDLY FACILITIES.** - The Provincial Government shall establish or support the development of child-friendly rehabilitation and holding facilities, known as Bahay Pag-asa Centers, in strategic locations across the province.





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These centers shall provide:

- Safe and child-friendly environments,
- Access to formal and non-formal education,
- Vocational and livelihood training programs,
- Psychological counseling and therapy,
- Legal assistance.

Each facility shall be adequately staffed with trained professionals, including social workers, psychologists, teachers, and legal practitioners.

**SECTION 5: PROVINCIAL DIVERSION PROGRAMS.** - The Provincial Government shall develop and implement diversion programs for CICL that aim to:

- a. Prevent the formal filing of charges in court where appropriate,
- b. Provide counseling and skills development activities,
- c. Engage the community in reconciliation and restorative justice practices,
- d. Foster partnerships with schools and community organizations to support CICL in their reintegration efforts.

These programs shall be implemented by the PSWDO, in coordination with barangay, municipal, and city-level governments, as well as the judiciary.

**SECTION 6: REINTEGRATION AND AFTERCARE PROGRAMS** - The Provincial Government shall design and implement reintegration programs to ensure that CICL, after undergoing rehabilitation, are successfully reintegrated into their families and communities. The programs shall include:

- a. Educational and vocational training,
- b. Assistance in seeking employment,
- c. Monitoring and mentoring systems,
- d. Support for families of CICL to foster a nurturing environment.

The PSWDO, in partnership with schools, private sector, and community-based organizations, shall play a key role in ensuring the success of these reintegration programs.

**SECTION 7: BUDGETARY ALLOCATION** - The Provincial Government shall allocate sufficient funds for the implementation of this ordinance, including but not limited to:

- a. The provision of support for Bahay-Pagasa and like centers, subject to the provisions of the liquidation of government funds and availability of funds,
- b. The operational costs of diversion and reintegration programs,
- c. Training for law enforcement officers, social workers, and personnel handling CICL cases,
- d. Community awareness campaigns on children's rights and the importance of restorative justice.

Funds may also be sourced from partnerships with national agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international donors.

**SECTION 8: CAPACITY-BUILDING AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS** – The Provincial Government shall provide capacity-building activities for provincial personnel involved in CICL cases, including social workers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges. These





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activities shall focus on child rights, child-sensitive investigation techniques, and restorative justice.

In addition, community awareness campaigns on the rights and responsibilities of children, as well as the impact of juvenile justice reform, shall be conducted to promote community participation in the rehabilitation and reintegration of CICL.

**SECTION 9: MONITORING AND EVALUATION** - The Provincial Government, through the PJJWC, shall establish a system for the regular monitoring and evaluation of the programs and facilities for CICL to ensure compliance with national standards and the effectiveness of the interventions. Reports shall be submitted annually to the Provincial Board and the National Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council.

**SECTION 10: PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE** - Any provincial official, public employee, or private individual found guilty of violating the provisions of this ordinance, particularly in relation to the mistreatment or neglect of CICL, shall be held accountable under the relevant provisions of national laws, including RA 9344 and RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act).

**SECTION 11: SEPARABILITY CLAUSE** - If any provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 12: REPEALING CLAUSE** - All ordinances, resolutions, and other regulations inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 13: EFFECTIVITY** - This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval and proper publication in a newspaper of provincial circulation or posting in prominent public areas across the province.

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**, November 12, 2024.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

HON. SAMSON C. MIRHAN  
Temporary Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ATTY. MARLANGELO D. ASCALON  
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:

HON. JEFFREY P. FERRER  
Acting Governor

Date: DEC 04 2024

**NOTE:** The Presiding Officer Pro-Tempore, Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko relinquished the chair to the Temporary Presiding Officer, Hon. Samson C. Mirhan