



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building  
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100  
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 \* 433-4894 \* 707-8075

***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> 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 – SKF Rep.

**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

**ORDINANCE NO. 022**

**Series of 2024**

***AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE  
RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL,  
INTEGRATING THE PROVINCIAL CHILD WELFARE CODE, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR***

(Authored and Introduced By: Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao)

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care, nutrition and protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), to which the Philippines is a signatory, recognizes the inherent rights of children to survival, development, protection, and participation;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act, affirms the commitment of the State to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty and exploitation;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, underscores the need to protect children in conflict with the law while promoting restorative justice;

3.



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building  
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100  
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 \* 433-4894 \* 707-8075

*(Page 2 of SP Ordinance. No. 022, Series of 2024)*

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Child Welfare Code of Negros Occidental affirms the provincial government's commitment to uphold and safeguard the rights and welfare of children in the province;

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental is committed to ensuring a child-friendly, safe, and nurturing environment where children's rights are respected, protected, and promoted;

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

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental in its regular session duly assembled, to enact this ordinance to wit:

**SECTION 1. TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Child Protection and Rights Ordinance of Negros Occidental"

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY**

The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental recognizes that every child has the right to survival, development, protection, and participation. It is the policy to ensure that children are free from all forms of abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. This Ordinance seeks to promote and protect the rights of children in accordance with the Provincial Child Welfare Code and other relevant laws and regulations.

**SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES**

This Ordinance aims to:

1. Establish a Comprehensive Child Protection Program that safeguards children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence;
2. Promote the rights of children to health, education, and a safe environment, ensuring that their best interests are the primary consideration in all matters affecting them;
3. Integrate the principles and provisions of the Provincial Child Welfare Code into all local policies and programs;
4. Ensure the provision of child-sensitive and child-friendly services in health, education, legal protection, and social welfare;
5. Strengthen mechanisms for the prevention of child abuse and exploitation and for the rehabilitation of child victims;
6. Promote awareness and capacity-building initiatives for families, schools, communities, and local authorities to uphold and protect children's rights

**SECTION 4. COMPREHENSIVE CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM**

The Comprehensive Child Protection Program shall be established to ensure the protection of all children in the province from abuse, exploitation, neglect, and discrimination. The program shall include the following components:

3.  
2

Ja





Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building  
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100  
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 \* 433-4894 \* 707-8075

*(Page 3 of SP Ordinance. No. 022, Series of 2024)*

**1. Prevention of Child Abuse and Exploitation**

- a. Strengthen the implementation of child protection policies in schools, barangays, workplaces, and other public and private institutions where children are present
- b. Collaborate with local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) in conducting public awareness campaigns on the prevention of child abuse, human trafficking, child labor, and all forms of exploitation
- c. Promote responsible parenthood and positive discipline among families to prevent child neglect and abuse

**2. Child-Friendly Services**

- a. Ensure the provision of child-friendly services in health centers, schools, and public institutions. This includes the creation of child-friendly spaces in hospitals, parks, and other public areas.
- b. Establish child protection units (CPUs) in provincial hospitals and rural health centers to provide medical, legal, and psychosocial support to child victims of abuse and neglect
- c. Develop childrens desks in local police stations and barangay halls to ensure child friendly and sensitive handling of cases involving children

**3. Access to Health, Nutrition, and Education**

- a. Strengthen programs to ensure that children have access to essential healthcare services, including immunizations, mental health support, and nutrition programs. Special attention shall be given to children with disabilities and those living in marginalized communities
- b. Promote inclusive and equitable quality education by providing financial support and resources for indigent children, including scholarship programs, school feeding initiatives, and the provision of learning materials
- c. Promote the holistic development of children through programs in arts, sports, and culture, encouraging their participation in activities that enhance their growth and well-being

**4. Child Participation**

- a. Create spaces for children's participation in local governance and decision-making processes, particularly in matters that affect their well-being. The Provincial Children's Council shall be established as a consultative body composed of children and youth representatives from various sectors.

*3.*  
*je*



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building  
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100  
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 \* 433-4894 \* 707-8075

*(Page 4 of SP Ordinance. No. 022, Series of 2024)*

- b. Conduct regular child rights education campaigns to inform children of their rights and responsibilities as members of society. 5. Protection of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL)
- c. Implement programs in line with the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act to prevent and rehabilitate children in conflict with the law. Diversion programs and alternative measures, rather than detention, shall be prioritized for CICL to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
- d. Establish community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programs for CICL, in coordination with LGUs and social welfare offices.

**5. Support for Child Victims of Abuse and Exploitation**

- a. Establish shelters and safe spaces for child victims of abuse, trafficking, and exploitation, ensuring access to comprehensive medical, legal, and psychosocial services
- b. Provide programs for the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims, including counseling, legal aid, and family reunification services

**SECTION 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**

All local government units in the Province of Negros Occidental shall play a critical role in ensuring the implementation of this Ordinance by:

1. Developing local child protection programs and services, and allocating a portion of their budget for the promotion and protection of children's rights;
2. Ensuring the presence of Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs) in every barangay, tasked with addressing child-related issues at the community level;
3. Facilitating the training of barangay officials, health workers, teachers, and law enforcement officers on child protection policies, laws, and child-friendly practices.

**SECTION 6. FUNDING**

To ensure the effective implementation of this Ordinance, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental shall allocate funds for child protection programs and services from the annual budget, in accordance with the Provincial Child Welfare Code and existing budgetary regulations. Additional funding may be sourced from national government agencies, grants, and partnerships with international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector.

3.





Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building  
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100  
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 \* 433-4894 \* 707-8075

*(Page 5 of SP Ordinance. No. 022, Series of 2024)*

**SECTION 7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), in collaboration with the Provincial GAD Office and the Provincial Council for the Welfare of Children, shall regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Ordinance. Key performance indicators, such as the incidence of child abuse, access to education and health services, and the number of child-friendly spaces, shall be tracked and reported annually to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

**SECTION 8. PENALTIES**

Any individual, public official, or private entity found violating this Ordinance by neglecting or failing to protect children's rights shall be subject to appropriate administrative, civil, or criminal sanctions, in accordance with existing laws.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY**

This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Negros Occidental and compliance with the posting requirements.

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**, November 12, 2024

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

**HON. SAMSON C. MIRHAN**  
Temporary Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

**ATTY. MARI ANGEL O. ASCALON**  
Provincial Secretary

APPROVED:

**HON. JEFFREY P. FERRER**  
Acting Governor

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