



Republic of the Philippines

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City  
<http://www.dilg.gov.ph>



September 1, 2016

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

**No. 2016-115**

**TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, THE ARMM REGIONAL GOVERNOR, CITY / MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS, THE ARMM REGIONAL SECRETARY AND FIELD OFFICERS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : ROLE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS CUSTODIAN OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

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Children are human beings with dignity and basic human rights. As children go through distinct periods of development from the moment of conception to adolescence, they need support, encouragement, structure and interventions to enable them to progress through each stage as successfully as possible. This must start at the community and barangay where they belong.

As State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the government has the responsibility to take all available measures to ensure child's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled so children survive, thrive and reach their fullest potential. This responsibility includes creating an enabling environment which support families to care, nurture and protect the child.

Further, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall defend the rights of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

The Local Government Code of 1991 is replete with provisions that mandate local government units to establish basic services and facilities for the welfare, development and protection of children. In particular, the LGUs are reminded of Section 17, their powers, duties and functions, which include the efficient and effective delivery of basic services for the care of abandoned minors, abused children, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, and other needy and disadvantaged persons, particularly children and youth below eighteen (18) years of age. The Local

Government Code of 1991 further provides that local government units have the duty to facilitate efforts to promote the welfare of families below the poverty threshold, the disadvantaged, and the exploited.

During the 1st Cabinet Meeting on June 30, 2016, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte directed the DILG to communicate to all barangay officials their role as custodian of children's rights within their barangays.

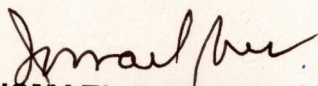
In this regard, the Barangay Officials as custodian of children's rights within their barangay shall perform the following:

1. Promote the vision of building a child-friendly Philippines. Putting children's rights and well-being at the center of its development agenda is a hallmark of a "child-friendly society" that is characterized by a "culture of care and protection" for all children;
2. Ensure that programs, projects and activities for the welfare, development and protection of children are included in the comprehensive Barangay Development Plan. These programs, projects and activities must be rights-based, age appropriate, gender responsive, and culturally appropriate;
3. Enact and enforce rights-based local ordinances for children;
4. Ensure that programs, projects and activities are supported by adequate human and financial resources for efficient and effective implementation; and
5. Strengthen structures and systems for the welfare, development and protection of children with emphasis on the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).

All Punong Barangays and Sangguniang Barangay Members are hereby encouraged to be champions for and defenders of children's rights. Likewise all LCEs at the provincial, city and municipal levels are encouraged to mobilize necessary resources and support to deliver efficient and effective basic social services and facilities for the care and protection of children.

All DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to all local government units within their respective jurisdiction.

For compliance.

  
**ISMAEL D. SUENO**  
Secretary

