



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

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Province of Leyte
Legal Office
[Signature]
5.28.25

SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
RECEIVED
APR 29 2025
PROVINCE OF LEYTE

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

2nd INDORSEMENT
April 23, 2025

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 25-05 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Burauen, Leyte.

Issues/concerns for review/recommendation/legal opinion is/are as follows:

- Ordinance No. 25-05 entitled: “An Ordinance implementing RA 11596 (Anti-Child Marriage Law) and strengthening preventive measures against child marriage in the Municipality of Burauen, Leyte.”

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance with its power under Section 447(a)(1)¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) in relation to RA 11596². Hence, we recommend for the declaration of its validity.

We hope to have assisted you with this request. Please note that the opinion rendered by this Office are based on facts available and may vary or change when additional facts and documents are presented or changed. This opinion is likewise without prejudice to the opinions rendered by higher and competent authorities and/or the courts.

ATTY. JOSE RAYMUND A. ACOL
Provincial Legal Officer *[Signature]*

¹ (a) The sangguniang bayan, as the legislative body of the municipality, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of this Code and in the proper exercise of the corporate powers of the municipality as provided for under Section 22 of this Code,

² AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
21 April 2025

Handwritten signature and date: 4-21-25

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 25-05**, of the **Municipality of Burauen, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance implementing Republic Act No. 11596 (Anti-Child Marriage Law) and strengthening preventive measures against child marriage in the Municipality of Burauen, Leyte.**

Handwritten signature of Florinda Jill S. Uyvico

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF BURAUEN

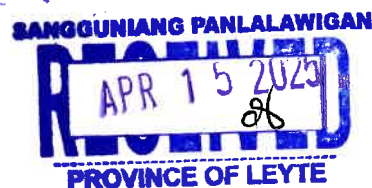


OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

April 15, 2025

THE HONORABLE MEMBERS
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

ATTENTION: FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian
Province of Leyte
Palo, Leyte



Ladies/Gentlemen:

We transmit herewith 15 copies of **Municipal Ordinance No. 25-05**, Series of 2025 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Burauen, Leyte, entitled "***An Ordinance Implementing Republic Act No. 11596 (Anti-Child Marriage Law) and Strengthening Preventive Measures Against Child Marriage in the Municipality of Burauen, Leyte***", for review and approval of the body.

Thank you and please acknowledge receipt hereof.

Respectfully yours,


ATTY. RUDEJANE S. TAN
Secretary to the Sanggunian

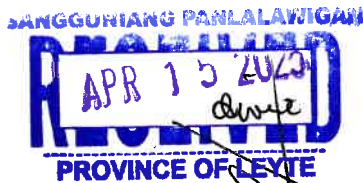


Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Burauen



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 25-05
Series of 2025



AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11596 (ANTI-CHILD MARRIAGE LAW) AND STRENGTHENING PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BURAUEN, LEYTE

Introduced by Hon. Cipriano R. Relatorres, Jr.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11596, otherwise known as the “Anti-Child Marriage Law,” was enacted to declare child marriage illegal and provide measures to protect children from the harmful effects of early marriage;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Burauen recognizes the importance of protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being, including their right to education, health, and development;

WHEREAS, the Municipality acknowledges that child marriage is a violation of these rights and a significant barrier to achieving a better future for young individuals;

WHEREAS, there is a need to implement R.A. 11596 and its provisions at the local level, and strengthen existing programs and services aimed at preventing and addressing child marriage in Burauen;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Cipriano R. Relatorres, Jr., duly seconded by all Sangguniang Bayan Members present:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF BURAUEN, LEYTE, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED:

ARTICLE I
TITLE AND SCOPE

Section 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the “Burauen Anti-Child Marriage Ordinance.”

Section 2. SCOPE. This Ordinance shall apply to all residents of Burauen, Leyte, including but not limited to, minors, parents, guardians, and community leaders.

ARTICLE II
DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Adoptive Parent/s:** refers to the child's mother and father by legal adoption;
- b. **Arranged Marriage:** refers to marriages where the parties do not have a say in the selection of their spouse;
- c. **Biological Parent/s:** refers to the child's mother and father by nature, or the mother alone if the child is an unacknowledged non-marital child;
- d. **Child:** refers to any human being under eighteen (18) years of age, or any person eighteen (18) years of age or over but who is unable to fully take care and protect oneself from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
- e. **Child Marriage:** refers to any marriage entered into where one or both parties are children as defined in the paragraph above, and solemnized in civil or church proceedings, or in any recognized traditional, cultural or customary manner. It shall include an informal union or cohabitation outside of wedlock between an adult and a child, or between children;
- f. **Cohabitation:** refers to the act of dwelling together, in the manner of husband and wife, as couples, or as partners, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, for some period of time, as distinguished from occasional, transient intervals for unlawful intercourse;
- g. **Customary law:** refers to a set of practices, beliefs, and customs that are accepted as rules of conduct by a community. It's based on the traditions and norms of a group of people, such as an ethnic group, tribe, or religious group;
- h. **Early Marriage:** refers to any marriage solemnized before the legal age of eighteen (18);
- i. **Facilitation of Child Marriage:** refers to the act of causing, fixing, or arranging the child marriage of contracting parties that leads to their marriage and cohabitation;
- j. **Forced Marriage:** refers to a marriage where one or both parties are married without their free and full consent;
- k. **Foster Parents:** refers to persons duly licensed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to provide foster care to a child or children;
- l. **Guardian:** refers to relatives or individuals taking custody of a child in the absence of the parents or anyone to whom a child is given or left for care or custody, whether permanent or temporary including but not limited to foster parents, or person judicially appointed by a competent court as guardians;
- m. **Parent:** refers to the biological or adoptive parent(s) of the child;
- n. **Perpetrator:** refers to an adult who commits any of the acts prohibited and considered as unlawful under Section 4, Article III, of this Ordinance;
- o. **Social and Behavioral Change Communications (SBCC):** encompasses any set of strategies and interventions, including but not limited to, information dissemination, motivation, problem solving and planning, that influence drivers of change and supports local action to empower individuals and communities, and lower structural barriers that hinder people from adopting positive practices and behavior, and societies from becoming more equitable, inclusive, cohesive, and peaceful.
- p. **Solemnization of Child Marriage:** refers to the act of performing or officiating a ceremony, in accordance with the prescribed forms or religious sites, which leads to child marriage and/or cohabitation of contracting parties, with the purview of this Ordinance;

- q. **Solemnizing Officer:** refers to any person authorized to officiate a marriage under Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, Presidential Decree No. 1083 (Under Article 18), and all other customary laws or practices.

ARTICLE III PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

Section 4. PROHIBITED ACTS. The following acts are hereby declared unlawful and prohibited:

- a. Facilitation of child marriage;
- b. Solemnization of child marriage; and
- c. Cohabitation of an adult with a child outside wedlock.

Section 5. PENALTIES. The penalties provided under R.A. 11596 shall be imposed for violations of this Ordinance.

Section 6. PUBLIC CRIMES. The foregoing unlawful and prohibited acts are deemed public crimes and their prosecution may be initiated by any concerned individual.

ARTICLE IV PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Section 7. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) shall conduct a comprehensive information and education campaign to raise awareness about the negative impacts of child marriage and promote the importance of education and personal development for children. This campaign shall target schools, families, and communities.

Section 8. STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT. The MSWDO shall implement programs to strengthen family and community support systems to protect children from child marriage. This includes providing counseling, parenting education, and livelihood assistance to vulnerable families.

Section 9. COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOLS. The Municipal Government shall collaborate with schools to integrate information about the Anti-Child Marriage Law and its consequences into the curriculum. Schools shall also play a crucial role in identifying and referring at-risk children to the MSWDO for appropriate interventions.

Section 10. REFERRAL SYSTEM. A comprehensive and coordinated referral system shall be established to ensure that children at risk of or affected by child marriage are provided with appropriate services, including legal assistance, medical care, psychosocial support, educational interventions, and other necessary assistance. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) shall lead the establishment and implementation of this referral system, working in close collaboration with the following key stakeholders:

- a. Municipal Health Office (MHO)
- b. Department of Education (DepEd) – School Representatives
- c. Philippine National Police (PNP) – Burauen Police Station, Women and Children's Protection Desk
- d. *Liga ng mga Barangay* (representing Barangay Officials)
- e. Local Civil Registrar

- f. Public Attorney's Office (PAO)
- g. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating in Burauen and working on child protection, women's rights, and related fields

Section 11. KEY COMPONENTS OF THE REFERRAL SYSTEM. The referral system shall encompass:

- a. **Identification:** Clear mechanisms for identifying children at risk of or affected by child marriage, including self-referral, community reporting (e.g., through barangay officials, teachers, health workers), and proactive identification by schools, health centers, and other frontline service providers. These mechanisms should be culturally sensitive and accessible to children and families.
- b. **Assessment:** A standardized, child-sensitive process for assessing the needs of the child and their family. This assessment should be conducted by qualified professionals (e.g., social workers, psychologists) and should consider the child's physical and mental health, social circumstances, educational needs, and legal situation.
- c. **Referral:** Clearly defined pathways for referring children to appropriate services based on their assessed needs. Referral pathways should be streamlined and efficient to minimize delays in accessing services.
- d. **Case Management:** A system for coordinating services and monitoring the child's progress. A designated case manager (often a social worker) should be assigned to each child to ensure continuity of care and advocate for their best interests.
- e. **Follow-up:** Regular follow-up mechanisms to ensure the child is receiving the necessary support and that their needs are being met. Follow-up should also include evaluating the effectiveness of the interventions provided.

Section 12. DUTIES OF THE MSWDO. The MSWDO shall have the following responsibilities in establishing and implementing the referral system:

- a. **Protocol Development:** Develop and disseminate clear, written referral protocols and guidelines to all stakeholders involved in the system. These protocols should outline the steps to be taken in identifying, assessing, referring, and managing cases of child marriage or children at risk.
- b. **Training and Capacity Building:** Conduct regular training and capacity-building activities for all stakeholders involved in the referral system, including but not limited to those listed above, to ensure they are knowledgeable about the referral protocols, RA 11596, its IRR, this ordinance, child protection principles, and case management best practices.
- c. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Develop and implement a system for monitoring the effectiveness of the referral system, including tracking the number of referrals made, the types of services provided, and the outcomes for children and families. This data should be used to improve the system over time.
- d. **Confidentiality:** Ensure the confidentiality of all information shared within the referral system, adhering strictly to data privacy laws and ethical standards related to child protection.
- e. **Focal Person/Team:** Designate a focal person or team within the MSWDO to manage and oversee the referral system.

Section 13. Capacity Building. The Municipal Government shall conduct capacity building activities for relevant stakeholders, including social workers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, and community leaders, to enhance their knowledge and skills in preventing and addressing child marriage.

**ARTICLE V
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Section 14. Appropriations. The necessary funds for the effective implementation of this Ordinance shall be appropriated from available sources as determined by the Municipal Government of Burauen.

Section 15. Separability Clause. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining provisions, which shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 16. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect after the required posting and publication are satisfied, as prescribed under the Local Government Code of 1991.

APPROVED AND ENACTED, this 10th day of March 2025 by the Sangguniang Bayan of Burauen, Leyte.


CERTIFIED CORRECT:


ATTY. RUDEJANE S. TAN
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:



HON. NOEL P. ALPINO
*(absent)
Vice Mayor*


HON. VINCENT G. ENERLAN
Sangguniang Bayan Member


HON. CIPRIANO R. RELATORRES, JR.
Sangguniang Bayan Member


HON. HERMENIA C. CAMASIN
Sangguniang Bayan Member


HON. BRYAN R. CINCO
Sangguniang Bayan Member


HON. DEXTER R. SENO
*Sangguniang Bayan Member/
Temporary Presiding Officer*


HON. ROBERT G. DEL PILAR
Sangguniang Bayan Member


HON. EVAFEL A. CORAL
Sangguniang Bayan Member


HON. OSCAR A. CAGARA
Sangguniang Bayan Member


HON. FE S. RENOMERON
LnB President/ Ex-Officio SB Member


HON. JUSTINE MERP G. ANDRADE
SK Federation President/ Ex-Officio Member

APPROVED:


HON. JUANITO E. RENOMERON
Municipal Mayor





Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF BURAUEN



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNANG BAYAN

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **Municipal Ordinance No. 25-05**, Series of 2025 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Burauen, Leyte, entitled, ***“An Ordinance Implementing Republic Act No. 11596 (Anti-Child Marriage Law) and Strengthening Preventive Measures Against Child Marriage in the Municipality of Burauen, Leyte”***, was enacted on March 10, 2025, approved on even date, and has been posted in two (2) conspicuous and publicly accessible places of the municipality from *March 12, 2025 to April 1, 2025*, in compliance with Section 59, paragraph (b) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”.

Burauen, Leyte, April 7, 2025.


ATTY. RUDEJANE S. TAN
Secretary to the Sanggunian