



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7030

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BY REPRESENTATIVES YAP (V.), GATCHALIAN, ANTONINO, BATOCABE, GARBIN, CO, ARAGONES, NOGRALES (K.A.), VILLARICA, NAVA, DEL MAR, SUANSING (E.), SY-ALVARADO, SILVERIO, BIAZON, LOBREGAT, ABELLANOSA, AMATONG, CAMINERO, DELOSO-MONTALLA, ESCUDERO, GO (M.), MARIÑO, PADUANO, RELAMPAGOS, ROQUE (R.), TAN (A.), VERGARA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, ABAYON, TAMBUNTING, ORTEGA (V.N.), TEJADA, DATOL, ALEJANO AND NIETO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 581

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AN ACT PROTECTING SENIOR CITIZEN FROM VIOLENCE, DEFINING ELDER ABUSE, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the Philippines in session assembled:*

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Elder  
2 Abuse Act".

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the  
4 State to value the dignity of senior citizens and thereby guarantee full respect  
5 for human rights. The State also recognizes the need to protect the family and  
6 its members, particularly the senior citizens from all forms of violence, abuse,  
7 neglect, exploitation and coercion, especially acts deleterious to their  
8 personal safety and security.

9           Towards this end, the State shall exert efforts to address all  
10 forms of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and coercion,  
11 especially acts deleterious to their personal safety, security, dignity  
12 or any discriminatory act committed against senior citizens in keeping with the

1 fundamental freedom guaranteed under the Constitution and the provisions of the Universal  
2 Declaration of Human Rights.

3 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

4 a) *Domestic violence* refers to acts or threats of violence on a senior citizen, to exclude  
5 an act of self-defense, committed by any of the following:

6 1) current or former spouse of the victim;

7 2) a person related by blood or marriage to the victim;

8 3) a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim;

9 4) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;

10 5) a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate  
11 nature with the victim; or

12 6) a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim, or by any other person,  
13 if the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction of the victim provide for legal  
14 protection of the victim;

15 b) *Elder abuse* refers to a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action,  
16 occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or  
17 distress to a senior citizen. It includes any act or series of acts committed by any person against a  
18 senior citizen, within or outside the family abode, which result or is likely to result in physical or  
19 psychological harm, suffering or distress, or neglect including threats of such acts, battery, physical  
20 assault, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. This includes physical violence, psychological  
21 or emotional, economic or domestic violence, and neglect or abandonment;

22 c) *Emotional abuse* refers to acts that include shouting, swearing, scaring or  
23 humiliating a senior citizen through name-calling, ridicule, constant criticism, accusing, blaming,  
24 showing disrespect, ignoring, or giving them the silent treatment;

1           d) *Safe place or shelter* refers to any home or institution  
2 maintained or managed by the Department of Social Welfare and  
3 Development (DSWD) or by any other suitable place that is willing  
4 to accommodate the aggrieved senior citizen; and

5           e) *Senior citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the  
6 Philippines at least sixty (60) years old as defined under Republic  
7 Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens  
8 Act of 2010."

9           SEC. 4. *Acts of Violence Against a Senior Citizen.* – Acts of  
10 violence against a senior citizen are acts that cause harm or distress  
11 committed once or repeatedly through any of the following:

12           a) Physical abuse or infliction of pain or injury with the use  
13 of physical force resulting in bodily injury, physical harm, pain or  
14 impairment, suffering or distress;

15           b) Psychological, mental or emotional abuse causing mental  
16 or emotional suffering or disress;

17           c) Material exploitation through illegal or improper use of  
18 funds or resources of the senior citizen; and economic or financial  
19 abuse through acts that make the senior citizen financially  
20 dependent; and

21           d) Abandonment or desertion by leaving a senior  
22 citizen unattended at a place for such a considerable length of time,  
23 as may be likely to endanger the health and welfare of a senior.



1 citizen, by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for the senior citizen,  
2 or by a person with custody of the senior citizen;

3 **SEC. 5. Rights of a Senior Citizen Who is a Victim of Violence.** - During the pendency  
4 of the case involving violence against a senior citizen, in addition to those provided under existing  
5 laws, a senior citizen shall have the following rights:

6 a) to avail of protection and legal assistance from the Public Attorney's Office (PAO)  
7 of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or any public legal assistance office;

8 b) to be entitled to support services from the DSWD and the Local Government Unit  
9 (LGU) concerned;

10 c) to be entitled to all legal remedies as provided for under the Family Code;

11 d) to be informed through the Senior Citizen Help Desk established hereunder of the  
12 senior citizen's rights and services available including the right to apply for a protection order; and

13 e) to be entitled to actual, compensatory, moral and exemplary damages.

14 **SEC. 6. Mandatory Programs and Services for a Senior Citizen Who is a Victim of**  
15 **Violence.** - The DSWD, in coordination with the LGUs, shall provide a senior citizen who is a  
16 victim of violence and similar acts the following services:

17 a) a safe place or temporary shelter, such as senior housing or nursing home or other  
18 suitable facility or service, when appropriate, as emergency short term shelters. This safe place or  
19 temporary shelter shall provide counselling, psycho-social services, recovery or rehabilitation  
20 programs and livelihood assistance;

21 b) counselling, healing, recovery and rehabilitation services; and

22 c) the appropriate programs to ensure the personal safety and security of a senior  
23 citizen and prevent the recurrence of violent acts committed against them.

24 The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide medical assistance to senior citizens who  
25 are victims or survivors of violence and similar acts.

1           **SEC. 7. Response to a Request for Assistance.** - In responding to a request for assistance,  
2 a barangay official or law enforcer shall have the following duties:

3           a)       respond immediately to a call for help or request for protection of the victim by  
4 entering the senior citizen victim's dwelling, if necessary, whether or not a protection order has  
5 been issued to ensure the safety of the victim;

6           b)       confiscate any harmful object in the possession of the perpetrator, or one which is  
7 within plain view;

8           c)       transport the victim to a barangay hall, or to a clinic or hospital;

9           d)       assist the victim in removing personal belongings from the dwelling;

10          e)       ensure the enforcement of the Protection Orders (PO) issued by the *Lupong*  
11 *Tagapamayapa*, the *Punong Barangay* or Barangay Chairman and the court;

12          f)       arrest the suspected perpetrator even without a warrant when any of the acts of  
13 violence defined in this Act is occurring, or on a personal knowledge, an act of violence has been  
14 committed, and there is imminent danger to the life or limb of the senior citizen as defined in this  
15 Act; and

16          g)       immediately report the call for assistance to the DSWD, the LGU or accredited  
17 Non-Government Organization (NGO).

18           **SEC. 8. Philippine National Police (PNP) Protocol in Responding to Violence**  
19 **Committed Against a Senior Citizen.** - The Philippine National Police (PNP) is hereby directed to  
20 adopt a written protocol establishing written guidelines and procedures to be followed by police  
21 officers in responding to request for assistance and calls related to violence against senior citizens.

22           **SEC. 9. Education and Training Programs for Law Enforcement Officers and Persons**  
23 **Involved in Responding to Cases of Violence Against a Senior Citizen.** - All persons involved in  
24 responding to cases on all forms of abuse, violence, threats to personal safety and security or any  
25 discriminatory act committed against a senior citizen, shall be required to undergo education and

1 training. The PNP, in coordination with the LGU concerned and the DSWD shall establish  
2 education and training programs to assist law enforcement officers and barangay officials to enable  
3 them to properly handle cases of violence against senior citizens and acquaint them with:

- 4 a) the nature, extent and causes of violence;
- 5 b) the legal rights of, and remedies available to victims of violence;
- 6 c) the services and facilities available to victims or survivors;
- 7 d) the duties imposed on police officers in making lawful arrest and to offer protection  
8 and assistance; and,
- 9 e) the necessary techniques to be employed in handling incidents of violence to  
10 minimize the likelihood of injury to the officer and promote the safety of the victim or survivor.

11 ***SEC. 10. Mandatory Reporting of Domestic Violence.*** - A public officer who receives a  
12 complaint of violence committed against a senior citizen or the head of a public or private hospital,  
13 medical clinic or similar institution, as well as the attending physician or nurse, clinician, barangay  
14 health worker, therapist or counsellor who examined or rendered treatment to a senior citizen  
15 victim shall make a report of the complaint, examination or treatment within forty-eight (48) hours  
16 from the time of complaint, examination or treatment to the nearest police station.

17 All public workers and medical professionals who have knowledge of the incident  
18 involving domestic violence and to whom said abuse or violence was reported or revealed in the  
19 course of the performance of official duty, shall immediately report the incident to the proper  
20 authorities.

21 In all cases, a report shall be made to any law enforcement agency within forty-eight (48)  
22 hours from knowledge of the same. Whereupon, investigation shall immediately follow. The  
23 DSWD shall assign a social worker to verify incidents of violence and file a petition for PO, if  
24 warranted.



1           The application for a PO must be in writing, signed and verified under oath by the  
2 applicant. If the applicant is not the victim, the application must be accompanied by an affidavit  
3 of the applicant attesting to:

- 4           1)     the circumstances of the disclosure of the violence or abuse suffered by the  
5           victim; and
- 6           2)     the circumstances of consent, or lack thereof, given by the victim for the  
7           filing of the application.

8           When disclosure of the address of the abused senior citizen will pose danger to that  
9 person's life, it shall be stated in the application. In such a case, the applicant shall attest that the  
10 victim is residing in the municipality or city over which the Court has territorial jurisdiction, and  
11 shall provide a mailing address for purpose of the service of court processes.

12           The standard application form for PO shall include the following information:

- 13           1)     names and addresses of petitioner and respondent;
- 14           2)     description of relationship between petitioner and respondent, in the case of  
15           violence within the context of Section 4 of this Act;
- 16           3)     a statement of the circumstances and the nature of violence or abuse;
- 17           4)     description of the reliefs requested by the petitioner as specified in this  
18           section;
- 19           5)     request for counsel and reasons for such request;
- 20           6)     request for waiver of application fees until hearing; and,
- 21           7)     an attestation that there is no pending application for a PO in another Court.

22           The following persons may file the petition for a PO:

- 23           1)     the offended party;
- 24           2)     any member of the family or household of the victim as defined in this Act;

1           3)     social worker from the DSWD or the SWDO of the LGU or any accredited  
2     social welfare organization;

3           4)     law enforcement officer or agent;

4           5)     lawyer, counsellor, therapist or healthcare provider of the petitioner; and

5           6)     any concerned responsible citizen of the community who has personal  
6     knowledge of the offense committed.

7     No filing fee shall be required in the application for a PO.

8     An application for a PO filed with a Court shall be considered an application for both a  
9     TPO and a PPO.

10        ***SEC. 15. Transfer of Residence; New Application Needed.*** – A petitioner previously  
11     granted a BPO under this Act and who desires to relocate to a new residence outside the original  
12     city or municipality of residence has to apply for a new BPO.

13        When a PO has been issued by a Court of competent jurisdiction, and the person in whose  
14     favour it is issued transfers to a place outside the court’s jurisdiction, the person may still have the  
15     order enforced by filing a petition before a court in the place where the person has transferred. The  
16     petition to enforce the order shall include a copy of the previously obtained PO. The respondent  
17     shall be notified of the issuance of a new PO.

18        ***SEC. 16. Legal Representation of Applicant for a PO.*** - If a petitioner for a PO is  
19     requesting for the appointment of a counsel because of lack of economic means to hire a counsel  
20     *de parte*, the Court shall immediately direct the Office of the Public Prosecutor who has  
21     jurisdiction over the case to represent the petitioner in the hearing on the application sought. The  
22     applicant who cannot afford to hire the services of a private counsel or lacks access to family or  
23     conjugal resources such as when the same are controlled by the abuser, shall qualify for legal  
24     representation by the DOJ, the Public Prosecutors’ Office or the PAO.



1           However, a private counsel offering free legal service is not barred from representing the  
2 petitioner with the latter's consent, and with the leave of Court.

3           **SEC. 17. Barangay Protection Order (BPO).** – A Barangay Protection Order (BPO) is  
4 issued by the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* and the *Punong Barangay* or Barangay Chairman. The  
5 issuance of a BPO or the pendency of an application for a BPO shall not preclude petitioner from  
6 applying for, or the Court from granting a TPO or PPO.

7           Application for a BPO shall follow the Rules on venue under the Local Government Code  
8 of 1991 and its implementing rules and regulations.

9           A *Punong Barangay* or Barangay Chairperson who receives application for a BPO shall  
10 issue the PO to the applicant on the date of filing after *ex parte* determination of the basis of the  
11 application. If the *Punong Barangay* or Barangay Chairman is unavailable to act on the application  
12 for a BPO, the application shall be acted upon by any available *Lupong Tagapamayapa* or  
13 *Barangay Kagawad*. If the BPO is issued by a *Barangay Kagawad*, the order must be accompanied  
14 by an attestation by the *Barangay Kagawad* that the *Punong Barangay* and the *Lupong*  
15 *Tagapamayapa* were not available at the time of the issuance of the BPO.

16           A BPO issued by a *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, a *Punong Barangay* or Barangay Chairperson  
17 and *Barangay Kagawad* may cover only the relief provided in Section 14 hereof and shall be  
18 effective for fifteen (15) days. Immediately after the issuance of an *ex parte* BPO, the *Punong*  
19 *Barangay* or *Kagawad* shall personally serve a copy of the same to the respondent, or direct any  
20 barangay official to personally serve the order.

21           Within forty-eight (48) hours of issuance of an *ex parte* BPO, the *Punong Barangay* or  
22 *Barangay Kagawad* must refer the case to the *Lupong Tagapamayapa*. The case shall be heard by  
23 the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* within seven (7) days from the date of referral and within the fifteen  
24 (15) - day effectivity period of the *ex parte* BPO.

1 Notice of the hearing shall be given to both parties. Subsequent to a hearing on the merits  
2 of the application, the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* may extend a BPO that grants relief under Section  
3 14 for a period of six (6) months. The issuance of a BPO shall not preclude any applicant from  
4 applying or receiving a subsequent BPO concerning the same matter.

5 **SEC. 18. Temporary Protection Order (TPO).** - A Temporary Protection Order (TPO)  
6 may be issued by a Court prior to the issuance of a Permanent Protection Order (PPO) and shall  
7 be based on an application under Section 14 herein. Any application for TPO or PPO must be  
8 made with the RTC, Metropolitan Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court or Municipal Circuit Trial  
9 Court with territorial jurisdiction over the place of residence of the offended family or the senior  
10 citizen victim who suffered violence described under Section 4 of this Act: *Provided*, however,  
11 That if a Family Court exists in the place of residence of the person for whom the application is  
12 made, the application shall be filed with that Court.

13 A Court that receives an application for a PO shall issue a TPO on the date of filing of the  
14 application after *ex parte* determination that such order shall be issued. The TPO shall be effective  
15 for thirty (30) days. The Court shall schedule a hearing on the issuance of a PPO prior to or on the  
16 date of the expiration of the TPO. The Court shall order the immediate service of the TPO on  
17 respondent by the Court Sheriff who may obtain the assistance of law enforcement agents for the  
18 purpose. The TPO shall include a notice of the date of the hearing on the merits of the issuance of  
19 a PPO.

20 **SEC. 19. Permanent Protection Order (PPO).** - A Permanent Protection Order (PPO)  
21 may be issued only by the Court after notice and hearing.

22 Any application for TPO or PPO must be made with an RTC, Metropolitan Trial Court,  
23 Municipal Trial Court or Municipal Circuit Trial Court with territorial jurisdiction over the place  
24 of residence of the offended family or the abused senior citizen who suffered violence described  
25 under Section 4 of this Act: *Provided*, however, That if a Family Court exists in the place of



1 residence of the person for whom the application is made, the application shall be filed with that  
2 Court.

3 Respondent's non-appearance despite proper notice, or lack of a lawyer, or the non-  
4 availability of respondent's lawyer shall not be a ground for rescheduling or postponing the hearing  
5 on the merits of the issuance of a PPO. If the respondent appears without counsel on the date of  
6 the hearing on the PPO, the Court shall appoint a lawyer for the respondent and immediately  
7 proceed with the hearing. In case the respondent fails to appear despite proper notice, the Court  
8 shall allow *ex parte* presentation of the evidence by the applicant and render judgment on the basis  
9 of the evidence presented. The Court shall allow the introduction of any history of abusive conduct  
10 of a respondent even if the same was not directed against the applicant or the person for whom the  
11 application is made.

12 The court shall, to the extent possible, conduct the hearing on the merits of the issuance of  
13 a PPO in one (1) day. Where the court is unable to conduct the hearing within one (1) day and the  
14 TPO issued is due to expire, the court shall continuously extend or renew the TPO for the duration  
15 of the case until the final resolution on the case is issued. *Provided*, however, That the PPO may  
16 be modified by the Court accordingly to address the needs of the applicant.

17 The Court may grant any, some, or all of the reliefs provided in Section 14 hereof through  
18 a PPO. A PPO shall be effective until revoked by a Court upon application of the person in whose  
19 favor the order was issued. The Court shall ensure immediate service of the PPO on respondent.

20 The Court shall not deny the issuance of a PO on the basis of the lapse of time between the  
21 act of violence or abuse as defined in Section 4 herein, and the filing of the application.

22 Regardless of the conviction or acquittal of the respondent, the Court must determine  
23 whether or not the PPO shall become final. Even in a dismissal of the application for a PPO, the  
24 same shall be granted as long as there is no clear showing that the act from which the order might  
25 arise did not exist.



1 Failure to act on an application for a PO within the period specified in the previous sections  
2 without justifiable cause shall render the the *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, the *Punong Barangay* or  
3 Barangay Chairman, the *Barangay Kagawad*, the Official or the judge administratively liable.

4 **SEC. 20. Priority Action on Application for a Protection Order.** - Hearings on  
5 applications for a PO under this Act shall have priority over all other proceedings. Barangay  
6 officials, *Lupong Tagapamayapa* and the Courts shall schedule and conduct hearings on  
7 applications for a PO under this Act above all other businesses and, if necessary, suspend other  
8 proceedings in order to hear applications for a PO.

9 Respondents shall be notified of the issuance of a PO.

10 **SEC. 21. Prohibition Against Undue Influence Over a Protection Order Applicant.** - A  
11 *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, a *Punong Barangay* or Barangay Chairman, or the Court hearing an  
12 application for a PO shall not order, direct, force or in any way unduly influence the applicant for  
13 a PO to compromise or abandon any of the reliefs sought in the application for PO provided under  
14 this Act. Section 7 of the Family Courts Act of 1997 and Sections 410, 411, 412 and 413 of the  
15 Local Government Code of 1991 shall not apply in proceedings where relief is sought under this  
16 Act.

17 Failure to comply with this Section shall render the concerned individual, official or Judge  
18 administratively liable.

19 **SEC. 22. Mutual Protection Order Prohibited.** - No order for protection of the offender  
20 or respondent may be granted by a *Lupong Tagapamayapa* or a *Punong Barangay* or Barangay  
21 Chairman and the Courts.

22 **Sec. 23. Complaint Against a Violation of Protection Order.** - A complaint on a violation  
23 of a BPO issued under this Act shall be filed directly with any Municipal Trial Court, Metropolitan  
24 Trial Court, or Municipal Circuit Trial Court that has territorial jurisdiction over the barangay that  
25 issued the BPO. Violation of a BPO shall be punishable by imprisonment of thirty (30) days

1 without prejudice to any other criminal or civil action that the offended party may file for any of  
2 the acts committed under Sec. 4 hereof.

3 A judgment on a violation of a BPO may be appealed according to the Rules of Court.  
4 During trial and upon judgment, the trial court may *motu proprio* issue a PO as it deems necessary  
5 without need of an application.

6 A violation of any provision of a TPO or a PPO issued under this Act shall constitute  
7 contempt of Court punishable under the Rules of Court, without prejudice to any other criminal or  
8 civil action that the offended party may file for any of the acts committed in accordance with  
9 Section 4 hereof.

10 Any violation of a PO issued under this Act shall constitute an offense punishable by  
11 imprisonment of thirty (30) days, without prejudice to any criminal or civil action that the offended  
12 party may file against a person who has committed any of the acts described in Section 4 hereof.

13 A complaint on a violation of a PO shall be filed by the complainant directly with the Court  
14 that issued the order, or with the Court in the place of residence of the complainant, if the former  
15 is not practicable. A criminal case for violation of a PO shall be tried and resolved by the Court  
16 within sixty (60) days from the date the complaint was filed. The Court, upon determination of  
17 probable cause, shall cause the arrest of the accused who may post bail in the interim in an amount  
18 to be determined by the Court.

19 A judgment on a violation of a PO may be appealed according to the Rules of Criminal  
20 Procedure. During trial and upon judgment, the Court may *motu proprio* issue a PO as it deems  
21 necessary.

22 **SEC. 24. Hold Departure Order.** - A hold departure order shall be issued immediately by  
23 the Court against the respondent of a complaint of abuse against a senior citizen as described under  
24 this Act.

1           **SEC. 25. Penalties.** – Commission of the acts described under Sec. 4 hereof shall suffer  
2 the following penalties:

3           a)       Acts falling under Section 4 (a) constituting attempted, frustrated or consummated  
4 parricide or murder or homicide shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of the Revised  
5 Penal Code.

6           b)       Acts falling under Section 4 (a) resulting in mutilation shall be punishable in  
7 accordance with the Revised Penal Code: *Provided*, That those resulting in serious physical  
8 injuries shall be punishable with the penalty of *prision mayor*; those resulting in less serious  
9 physical injuries shall be punishable by *prision correccional* and those resulting in slight physical  
10 injuries shall be punishable by *arresto mayor*.

11           (c)       All other acts enumerated in Section 4 hereof shall be punishable by *prision*  
12 *correccional* and a fine in an amount not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)  
13 but not more than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00).

14           In addition to these penalties, a person found guilty of any of the acts enumerated in Section  
15 4 hereof shall be required to undergo mandatory psychological counselling or psychiatric treatment  
16 and shall report compliance therewith to the court.

17           A Barangay Official or law enforcer who fails to respond to any request for assistance or  
18 protection from or on behalf of a victim shall suffer imprisonment of six (6) months to one (1)  
19 year, at the discretion of the Court and pay a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00),  
20 but not more than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00).

21           Any person who fails to report any act of violence described in Section 4 hereof as required  
22 herein shall be liable for a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00). Whenever  
23 applicable, criminal or administrative charges may also be filed.

24           **SEC. 26. Counseling and Treatment of Offenders.** - The DSWD shall provide  
25 rehabilitative counselling and treatment to perpetrators towards learning constructive ways of



1 coping with anger and emotional outbursts and reforming their ways. When necessary, the  
2 offender shall be ordered by the Court to submit to psychiatric treatment or confinement.

3 **Sec. 27. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act  
4 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the concerned departments.  
5 Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in  
6 the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.

7 For LGUs, the implementation of the programs shall be charged against the internal  
8 revenue allotment and other internally generated funds of the LGU concerned.

9 In addition, the departments concerned and the LGUs may accept donations, contributions  
10 and grants from various sources for purposes of implementing this Act.

11 **SEC. 28. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** - Within six (6) months from the  
12 approval of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD in coordination with the Secretaries of the DOJ,  
13 the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the DOH shall formulate rules and  
14 guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this Act. This  
15 shall include developing protocols and training programs for all agencies and public officers  
16 concerned and a public information and education program on violence against senior citizens.  
17 The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) provided for under this Act shall be reviewed  
18 periodically, and revised, if necessary.

19 **SEC. 29. Suppletory Application.** - For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal Code and  
20 other applicable laws, shall have suppletory application.

21 **SEC. 30. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
22 unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall  
23 remain in full force and effect.

1            **SEC. 31. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and  
2 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act  
3 are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

4            **SEC. 32. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
5 the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general application.

6            Approved,