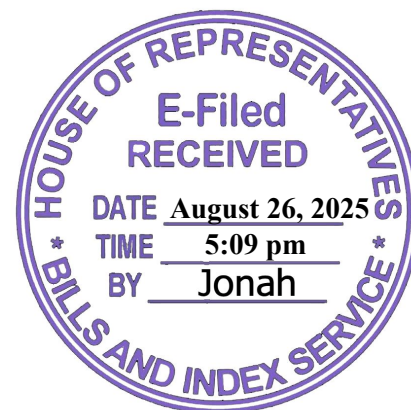


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4034



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL OF THE SOLO
PARENT IDENTIFICATION CARD AND MANDATING COORDINATION WITH
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR EASE OF REGISTRATION, AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A study from the World Health Organization estimates that there are around 14 to 15 million solo parents in the Philippines.¹ Republic Act No. 8972 or the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000, as amended by Republic Act No. 11861 or the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act, is a key social welfare legislation that grants comprehensive benefits to solo parents, in recognition of the unique challenges they face. While the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act has widened the definition of "solo parents" and introduced additional benefits, many solo parents continue to face persistent difficulties, particularly in obtaining the Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC).

The SPIC is a requirement to be able to enjoy the benefits of solo parents under the law. However, based on a survey by the Commission on Human Rights, solo parents have trouble with the costs of processing the application for the SPIC. These include the fees for securing the documentary requirements, such as birth certificates, death certificates, and Certificates of No Marriage (CENOMAR), and transportation expenses.² While some local government units (LGUs) have taken the initiative to

¹ <https://www.philstar.com/business/2023/03/07/2249742/naytay>

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2083078/many-solo-parents-unaware-of-rights-benefits-under-law>;
https://cdn1.chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/09105337/CHR_VI_No_POL2025_010_A_Situation_Report_on_Gendered_Experience.pdf

allow online applications for the SPIC, these systems are not standardized and are dependent on the resources of each LGU.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing an online registration and renewal system for the SPIC, which would make the process more convenient and less costly for solo parents nationwide. This option to register online will help solo parents save on both transportation costs and the time spent on multiple visits to government offices.

In addition, the bill mandates the Solo Parent Office or Division to directly coordinate with the concerned government agencies who are in custody of the documentary requirements, to obtain the necessary documents for SPIC applications. With this, we hope to reduce the administrative and financial burden on solo parents.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

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THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION. 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Online Registration and Renewal for Solo Parents Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the declared policy of the State to support the natural and primary rights and duty of solo parents in rearing their children by providing for their basic needs, and extending to them assistance in social service and welfare benefits, with the end in view of uplifting their status and circumstances. Towards this end, the State shall adopt measures to remove barriers to the enjoyment of benefits under the law and reduce the administrative and financial burden on solo parents.

SECTION 3. Coordination with Government Agencies for Documentary Requirements. — Section 19 of Republic Act 8972, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 19. Documentary Requirements. - For purposes of registration and issuance of SPIC and booklet, the solo parent shall submit authenticated or certified true copies of the following

documents to the SPO or SPD where the solo parent resides, **PROVIDED, THAT THE CONCERNED SPO OR SPD SHALL DIRECTLY COORDINATE WITH AND REQUEST FROM THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS IN THEIR CUSTODY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH CERTIFICATES, AND CERTIFICATES OF NO MARRIAGE, TO REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON SOLO PARENTS:**

(a) For the solo parent with child or children as a consequence of rape falling under Section 4(a)(1) of this Act:

- (1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;
- (2) Complaint affidavit;
- (3) Medical record on the incident of rape; and
- (4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent has the sole parental care and support of the child or children at the time of the execution of affidavit: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, only the sworn affidavit shall be submitted every year.

(b) For the solo parent on account of the death of the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(2) of this Act:

- (1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;
- (2) Marriage certificate;
- (3) Death certificate of the spouse; and
- (4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has the sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, only the sworn affidavit shall be submitted every year.

(c) For the solo parent on account of the detention or criminal conviction of the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(3) of this Act:

(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;

(2) Marriage certificate;

(3) Certificate of detention or a certification that the spouse is serving sentence for at least three (3) months issued by the law enforcement agency having actual custody of the detained spouse, or commitment order issued by the court pursuant to a conviction of the spouse; and

(4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (3) and (4) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(d) For solo parent on account of physical or mental incapacity of the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(4) of this Act:

(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;

(2) Marriage certificate or affidavit of cohabitation;

(3) Medical record or medical abstract evidencing the physical or mental state of the incapacitated spouse issued not more than three (3) months before the submission; and

(4) Sworn affidavit that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (3) and (4) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(e) For the solo parent on account of legal or de facto separation of spouse falling under Section 4(a)(5) of this Act:

(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;

(2) Marriage certificate;

(3) Judicial decree of legal separation of the spouses or, in the case of de facto separation, an affidavit of two (2)

disintegrated persons attesting to the fact of separation of the spouses; and

(4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (3) and (4) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(f) For the solo parent on account of declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage falling under Section 4(a)(6) of this Act:

(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;

(2) Marriage certificate;

(3) Judicial decree of nullity or annulment of marriage or judicial recognition of foreign divorce; and

(4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (3) and (4) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(g) For the solo parent on account of abandonment by the spouse falling under Section 4(a)(7) of this Act:

(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;

(2) Marriage certificate or affidavit of the applicant solo parent;

(3) Affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons attesting to the abandonment of the spouse;

(4) Police or barangay record of the fact of abandonment; and

(5) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, only sworn affidavit shall be submitted every year

(h) For the spouse or any family member of an OFW falling under Section 4(b) of this Act:

- (1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;
- (2) Marriage certificate of the applicant;
- (3) Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) or its equivalent document;
- (4) Copy of passport stamps showing continuous twelve (12) months of overseas work;
- (5) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (3), (4), (5), and (6) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(i) For the unmarried father or mother who keeps and rears the child or children falling under Section 4(c) of this Act:

- (1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;
- (2) Certificate of No Marriage (CENOMAR);
- (3) Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent; and
- (4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (2), (3) and (4) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(j) For the solo parent who is a legal guardian, adoptive or foster parent falling under Section 4(d) of this Act:

- (1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;

(2) Proof of guardianship, foster care or adoption;

(3) Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent; and

(4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (3) and (4) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(k) For any relative within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the parent or legal guardian who assumes parental care and support of the child or children falling under Section 4(e) of this Act:

(1) Birth certificate/s of the child or children;

(2) Death certificate of the parents or legal guardian, or police or barangay records evidencing the fact of disappearance or absence of the parent or legal guardian for at least six (6) months;

(3) Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent; and

(4) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children: Provided, That for purposes of issuance of subsequent SPIC or booklet, requirement numbers (3) and (4) under this paragraph shall be submitted every year.

(l) For the solo parent who is pregnant woman falling under Section 4(f) of this Act:

(1) Medical record of her pregnancy;

(2) Affidavit of a barangay official attesting that the solo parent is a resident of the barangay and that the children are under the parental care and support of the applicant solo parent; and

(3) Sworn affidavit declaring that the solo parent is not cohabiting with a partner or co-parent, and has sole parental care and support of the child or children.

(m) For the solo parent availing subsidy and discounts provided for under Section 15, paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Act, the following additional documentary requirements shall be submitted:

- (1) Affidavit of no employment;
- (2) Income Tax Return (ITR);
- (3) Social case study issued by the DSWD; or
- (4) Any verifiable proof of income.

Custodians of the documents, records, data or information shall ensure the utmost confidentiality of the same, in compliance with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the 'Data Privacy Act of 2012'.

SECTION 4. Online Registration and Renewal of SPIC. — Section 20 of Republic Act 8972, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 20. SPIC and Booklet. - **APPLICATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF THE SPIC MAY BE SUBMITTED EITHER IN PERSON OR THROUGH AN ONLINE REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL SYSTEM, TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.**

The SPO of the province or city, or the SPD of the municipality shall review and verify the documents submitted by the applicant and shall issue the SPIC and booklet, if applicable, within seven (7) working days from receipt of complete documents. In case of dispute, the Municipal/City/Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (M/C/PSWDO), as the case may be, shall resolve the same within five (5) working days.

The SPIC and booklet are valid for one (1) year. **THE RENEWAL OF THE SPIC SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SIMPLIFIED REQUIREMENTS.**

THE SPO OR SPD SHALL NOT REQUIRE THE RESUBMISSION OF PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS, UNLESS THERE IS A CHANGE IN STATUS OR CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING THE QUALIFICATION OF THE SOLO PARENT.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DSWD, in consultation with the DICT and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Government agencies and LGUs may also utilize a portion of their respective GAD budget to implement this Act anchored on the guidelines issued by the Department of Budget and Management.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and operational.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. — This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,