

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 5685

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RAPE CRISIS CENTER IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505 ALSO KNOWN AS THE RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to an article published by SunStar Cebu, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported a total of 11,479 incidents of rape involving girls under 16 years of age in 2023, yet no case was filed.¹ This alarming statistic demonstrates that, despite the efforts of the Philippine National Police and government agencies to promote awareness and protect vulnerable sectors, many such crimes continue to occur.

One contributing factor may be the lack of “one-stop shop” centers in hospitals that can provide comprehensive assistance to rape victims. Furthermore, many victims, particularly indigent individuals, are hesitant to seek medical assistance in private hospitals due to high cost of hospitalization.

Hence, this bill seeks to mandate the establishment of Rape Crisis Center in private hospitals and to amend for this purpose Republic Act No. 8505, also known as the “Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998.”

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is respectfully sought.


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR

¹ <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/tell-it-to-sunstar-more-than-11000-rape-incidents-in-2023-but-no-case-filed>



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Quezon City, Metro Manila

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MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RAPE CRISIS CENTERS IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998”

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

Section 1. Amendment of Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8505 or the “Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Rape Crisis Center. - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and a lead non-government organization (NGO) with a proven track record or experience in handling sexual abuse cases shall establish in every province and city a rape crisis center located in a government hospital or health clinic or in any other suitable place for the purpose of:

(a) Providing rape victims with psychological counseling, medical and health services, including their medico-legal examination;

(b) Securing free legal assistance or service, when necessary, for rape victims;

1 (c) Assisting rape victims in the investigation to hasten the arrest of offenders and the filing
2 of cases in court;

3
4 (d) Ensuring the privacy and safety of rape victims;

5
6 (e) Providing psychological counseling and medical services whenever necessary for the
7 family of rape victims;

8
9 (f) Developing and undertaking a training program for law enforcement officers, public
10 prosecutors, lawyers, medico-legal officers, social workers, and barangay officials on human rights
11 and responsibilities; gender sensitivity and legal management of rape cases;

12
13 (g) Adopting and implementing programs for the recovery of rape victims.

14
15 The DSWD shall be the lead agency in the establishment and operation of the Rape Crisis
16 Center.

17
18 IN ADDITION, ALL DOH-LICENSED PRIVATE HOSPITALS SHALL ESTABLISH
19 AND OPERATE A RAPE CRISIS CENTER WITHIN THEIR FACILITIES, OR, SUBJECT TO
20 DOH GUIDELINES, THROUGH A SHARED OR NETWORKED ARRANGEMENT WITH
21 OTHER PROXIMATE PRIVATE HOSPITALS, WHICH SHALL PERFORM THE SAME
22 FUNCTIONS ENUMERATED IN PARAGRAPHS (A) TO (G) AND COMPLY WITH THE
23 STANDARDS UNDER THIS ACT AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES”

24
25 THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS SHALL COORDINATE WITH
26 THE DSWD, THE DILG, AND THE DOJ FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF FOCAL PERSONS TO
27 THEIR RAPE CRISIS CENTERS TO ENSURE PROMPT INTER-AGENCY ASSISTANCE,
28 VICTIM SAFETY PLANNING, CASE REFERRAL, AND ACCESS TO LEGAL AND
29 PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES.

30
31 MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AFFILIATED WITH PRIVATE HOSPITALS SHALL
32 BE ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT MEDICO-LEGAL EXAMINATIONS AND TO ISSUE
33 MEDICO-LEGAL REPORTS WHICH MAY BE USED FOR CASE FILING, WHEN
34 NECESSARY, CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE RULES ON DOCUMENTATION,
35 EVIDENCE HANDLING, AND CONFIDENTIALITY.”

36
37 **Section 2. Separability Clause.** - If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
38 unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

1 **Section 3. *Repealing Clause***- All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders,
2 administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this
3 Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.
4

5 **Section 4. *Effectivity***. - This Act shall take effect fifteen [15) days after its publication in
6 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

7 Approved,
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