

**REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
LUNGSOD NG DAGUPAN
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
-000-**

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 53RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11TH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD, DAGUPAN CITY, HELD AT SP SESSION HALL ON DECEMBER 10, 2024.

PRESENT:

Hon. Dean Bryan L. Kua	City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer
Hon. Dennis C. Canto	Presiding Officer Pro Tempore, Member
Hon. Michael B. Fernandez	Floor Leader, Member
Hon. Maria Librada Fe M. Reyna	City Councilor, Member
Hon. Jeslito C. Seen	City Councilor, Member
Hon. Alvin T. Coquia	City Councilor, Member
Hon. Celia C. Lim	City Councilor, Member
Hon. Marilou Maria Lourdes S. Fernandez	City Councilor, Member
Hon. Marcelino D. Fernandez	Liga Ng Mga Barangay President, Ex-Officio Member
Hon. Bradley Claude C. Benavides	Pederasyon Ng Mga Sangguniang Kabataan, President, Ex-Officio Member

ABSENT:

NONE

N.B.: Councilors Alipio Serafin D. Fernandez, Redford Christian P. Erfe-Mejia and Victoria Czarinna C. Lim-Acosta are under Preventive Suspension for Sixty (60) days in compliance with Special Order from the Office of President (Reference No. OP-1AD-24-F-066) dated October 30, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 2313-2024

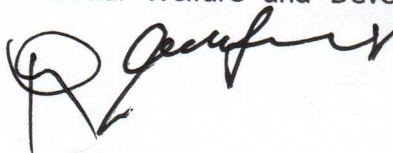
AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2234-2021 STRENGTHENING THE PRE-MARRIAGE ORIENTATION AND COUNSELING (PMOC) PROGRAM THROUGH THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POPCOM-DOH-DSWD-PSA-DILG JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1 SERIES OF 2018.

WHEREAS, Article XV Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to recognize the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation and shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development. Section 2 of the same Article recognizes marriage as an inviolable social institution that is the foundation of the family and thus, shall be protected by the State;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree 965 and Section 15 of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law require couples who apply for marriage license to present a Certificate of Compliance, certifying that they had duly received adequate instructions and information on responsible parenthood, family planning, breastfeeding and infant nutrition;

WHEREAS, Article 16 of the Family Code further requires couples, applying for marriage license, whose ages fall between 18-25 years old, to undergo marriage counselling by a marriage counsellor duly accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development;

WHEREAS, Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1 series of 2018: Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program Implementing Guidelines for 2018 was issued by the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),



Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to streamline and harmonize the implementation of the Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program at the local government level;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular 2018-182: Adoption of the Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program Implementing Guidelines for 2018 was issued by the DILG enjoining all Local Government Units to adopt the JMC No.1;

WHEREAS, Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01 Supplemental Guidelines to the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2018 titled the "Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program Implementing Guidelines of 2018, supplemented to expand the composition of the local PMOC Teams and recognize the solemnizing ministers as strong partner in the implementation of the program;

WHEREAS, DSWD Memorandum Circular No.01 Series of 2019 or the Amended Guidelines in the Accreditation of Pre-Marriage Counselor expands the accreditation process including documentary requirements qualifications required for accreditation;

WHEREAS, Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program NTWG Resolution No.1 Series of 2020 approving the processes under transition period and giving light to all implementation issues of the local government units;

WHEREAS, PMOC-RTWG Joint Advisory R1-2023-01 & R1-2024 -01 Regional Technical Working Group guideline on provision of Pre Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Services;

WHEREAS, Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01 series of 2018 issued by DSWD- POPCOM-DOH-DILG-PSA, Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program Implementing Guidelines of 2018 No.10.0 Accreditation of Pre-Marriage Counselors. The accreditation of pre-marriage counselors shall be governed by separate guidelines issued by the DSWD.

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 221, series of 2003, entitled "Redirecting the Functions and Operations of the DSWD"

Sec. 3, (a) set standards, accredit and provide consultative services to public and private institutions, organizations and persons engaged in social welfare activities, and monitor performance and compliance to standards by institutions, organizations and persons engaged in social welfare activities, both public and private.

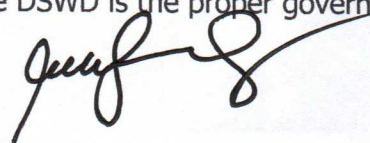
WHEREAS, Joint Circular No. 1-89 issued by the Office of the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office and Department of Social Welfare and Development

Rule 1. Seminar on marriage counseling shall be conducted by a priest, imam or minister authorized to solemnize marriage and registered as such with the Office of the Civil Registrar General, or by a marriage counselor duly accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 209, series of 1987 otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines

Article 16, In the cases where parental consent or parental advice is needed, the party or parties concerned shall, in addition to the requirements of the preceding articles, attach a certificate issued by a priest, imam, or minister authorized to solemnize marriage under Article 7 of this Code or a marriage counselor duly accredited by the proper government agency to the effect that the contracting parties have undergone marriage counseling.

"The Civil Code Revision Committee, UP Law Center in its letter dated September 23, 1988 to the National Statistics Office clarified this provision that the DSWD is the proper government agency to accredit marriage counselors."



WHEREAS, Sec. 3, (a) set standards, accredit and provide consultative services to public and private institutions, organizations and persons engaged in social welfare activities, and monitor performance and compliance to standards by institutions, organizations and persons engaged in social welfare activities, both public and private.

WHEREAS, RDC- 1 Resolution No. 6, s. 2023 Requesting All Local Government units (LGU's) to organize a Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Team with Accredited Pre-Marriage Counselors in support of the Regional Technical Working Group Guideline on PMOC Services.

RDC-1 requests the Local Government on the following:

1. To organize a PMOC Team with accredited counselors in support for the RTWG Guideline
2. To have at least one of the members of the PMOC Team to be accredited by the DSWD as PM Counselor
3. To coordinate with DSWD Field Office 1 for their duly identified staff to be accredited PM Counselors by DSWD to serve as part of the PMOC teams

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Councilor Michael B. Fernandez, duly and jointly seconded by Councilors Marcelino D. Fernandez, Bradley Claude C. Benavides, Jeslito C. Seen, and Dennis C. Canto, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Dagupan in regular session assembled that:

SECTION 1. Adoption and Implementation of JMC No. 1 Series of 2018 on the Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program Implementing Guidelines of 2018. The current Pre-Marriage Counseling Program shall be strengthened through the adoption and implementation of the relevant provisions of the JMC No. 1, herewith attached and made as integral part of this Ordinance. Accordingly, the program be reorganized as Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program, which will provide the requisite pre-marriage orientation and counseling sessions to contracting parties applying for marriage license.

SECTION 2. Organization and Mobilization of the Local PMOC Team reiterating team approach. A local PMOC Team shall be organized to oversee and efficiently perform the functions of the team prescribed in the JMC. There shall be a constituted PMOC Team composed of Team Leader (Appointed/Designated City/Municipal Population Officer), mandatory members (Local Civil Registrar (LCR), Local Health Office (LHO) and Local Social Welfare Development Office (LSWDO) and optional members (relevant local offices such as but not limited to agriculture, education, Gender and Development, Civil Society Organization, etc.).

The PMOC Team, shall be composed of:

- a) Malen Bernadette B. Pilon - (City Population Office) - Team Leader;
- b) Dra. Ophelia T. Rivera - (City Health Office) - Member;
- c) Ana Mariel M. Lopez - (City Nutrition Office) - Member;
- d) Irene L. Ferrer - (City Social Welfare Development Office) - Member;
- e) Atty. Crisanto Ambrosio Q. Estrada (City Civil Registry Office) - Member;
- f) Mary Ann Salomon - (OIC - City Agriculture Office) - Member
- g) Philippine Mental Health Association (PMHA), Pangasinan Chapter (CSO) - Member; and
- h) Faith-Based Organization - Member

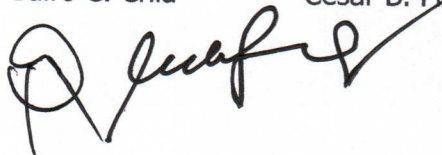
Auxiliary Members: (Conducts PMOC Seminar)

City Population Office

Kim M. Paras
Irene A. Oreta
May Joy V. Soriano

City Social Welfare & Development Office

Irene L. Ferrer
April Mae S. Cueno
Jairo C. Chia
Christine S. Loresco
Magnolia M. Yao
Cesar B. Florague



Erynikka M. Lamsen
Jerome C. Espeleta
Ed Veronica Jane B. Cruz
Crista Marie M. Pulo
Althea Rei C. Ugaban

Jojo Q. Cendaña
Eden A. Arboneda
Ma. Caifen S. Mercado
Maria Angela A. Aquino

Teddy C. Victorio
Marnie S. Ignacio
Mitch L. Visperas
Merinesa D. de Guzman

City Nutrition Office

May Gay V. del Castillo

City Health Office

Mylona Suzette A. Okol

Precious L. Santillan

City Agriculture Office

Mark Elben B. Gonzales

City Civil Registry Office

Teresa C. Sotelo

Sheena Marie B. Abkilan

Philippine Mental Health Ass.

Michael C. Romero

Faith-Based Organization - Church

Rev. Benjie B. Benitez
Pastor Fidel L. Lomibao
Bishop Manuel L. Moreno II

Rev. Joel D. Valdez

Pastor Roseller M. Zamora
Chaplain Veronica P. Baldo
Rev. Mario A. Tomboc

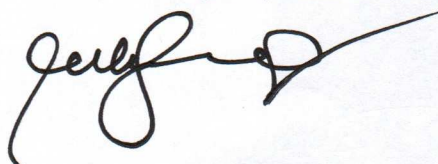
Pastor Roberto Agustin Q. Arcega

Mr. Myles Adrian Z. Lioanag

The United Methodist Church
Victory Christian Fellowship
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints
Harvester Bible Baptist Church
in the Philippines, Inc.
Seventh Day Adventist
Open Door Baptist church (Lucao)
International Heritage Baptist Church
(Bonuan Gueset)
Malued Fundamental Faith Baptist
Church, Inc.
Christ's Commission Fellowship

SECTION 3. Task and Function of PMOC TEAM

- a) Develop and maintain a responsive mechanism to effectively implement the PMOC program in the city;
- b) Ensure adequate number of trained PMOC members that can cover the prevailing number of marriage license applicants;
- c) Advocate the effective implementation of the PMOC Program to ensure adequate resources, logistic requirement, and family support for the program;
- d) Undertake preparatory activities for the PMOC sessions by:
 - d.1. Disseminating information about the PMOC program through community assemblies, barangay meetings and quad-media outlets;
 - d.2. Posting schedule of PMOC sessions in the office of the Local Registrar, office of the mandatory members of the PMOC team and other noticeable places in the city hall;
 - d.3. Ensuring appropriateness, readiness and availability of a venue for PMOC sessions;
 - d.4. Preparing schedules of PMOC sessions for mandatory team members to enable them to plan these activities; and
 - d.5. Processing of the accomplished marriage expectation inventory (MEI) by contracting parties to take note of the specific areas of concerns needing emphasis at the actual conduct of the PMOC session



- e) Conduct PMO session for not more than 15 couples at a time following the existing protocol as well as session content and methodologies. All applicant contracting parties shall be given adequate instructions and information on marriage and relationships, responsible parenthood, planning the family, and pregnancy and child care.
- f) Conduct PMC session to couples who are 18-25 years old (per couple or by group of not more than six (6) couples per accredited counselor) based on their accomplished MEI. Contracting parties who are 18-25 years old are also required to attend a separate PMC session to be provided by an accredited pre-marriage counselor who is a member of the local PMOC. If only one of the contracting parties is between ages 18-25, the other party who is more than 25 years old must also be present at the PMC.

g) Schedule of Seminar:

Day	Pre-Marriage Orientation	Age	Pre-Marriage Counseling	Age
Tuesday	8:00 – 12:00 nn	18 & Above	1:30 - 5:00 pm	18-25 y/o
Thursday	8:00 – 12:00 nn	18 & Above	1:30 - 5:00 pm	18-25 y/o

h) The PMOC Team may prescribe P500.00 fee per couple strictly for the procurement of needed supplies and materials for program implementation and continuing training of the PMOC Team implementers.

i) Provide Certificate of Compliance (COC) to contracting parties who have completed the PM Orientation to be signed by the PMOC Team Members who conducted the PMO Session and issued by the City Population Office;

j) Provide the Certificate of Marriage Counseling (CMC) to contracting parties who have completed the PM Counseling session issued by an accredited PM Counselor.

All current PMOC Team Members with valid accreditation as Pre-Marriage Counselors by the DSWD may issue the CMC;

j.1 Contracting parties ages 18-25 who has a CMC issued by priest, imam or minister authorized to solemnize marriage will no longer need to undergo PM Counseling (Art.16, EO 209) provided the CMC follows the NTWG prescribed standard template.

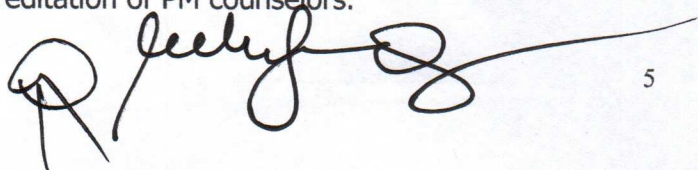
j.2 Pre-Cana session as equivalent of a pre-marriage counseling. The Pre-Cana session conducted by the Catholic church is equivalent to a pre-marriage counseling session, however the certificate should follow the standard CMC format (Annex C). Furthermore, the couples are still required to attend the pre-marriage orientation session in the LGU where the application of marriage license is filed.

k) Provide PMC to contracting parties (would be couples) from other LGUs securing CMC due to the absence of an accredited PM Counselor from any LGU where the marriage license has been filed provided that a Certificate of Non-Availability of Accredited Pre-Marriage Counselor (CNAAC) is issued by the PMOC Team of the LGU.

l) The PMOC Team shall prescribe P300.00 fee for couple referred by other LGUs for PM Counselling strictly for the procurement of needed supplies and materials for program implementation

m) Regularly assess, resolve and/or elevate arising issues in the implementation of the PMOC program; and

n) Maintain a client satisfaction feedback survey and consolidate the result annually as a mechanism to monitor the quality of the PMOC session provided as well as to serve as an additional basis in the renewal of the accreditation of PM counselors.



SECTION 4. ADHERENCE TO PMOC PROTOCOLS AND ORDINANCE

The LGU, Civil Registrar, PMC Program Implementers and contracting parties to intended marriages shall comply to the guidelines.

PMC referrals of other LGUs shall comply to the requirements for marriage license application, PMOC protocols (schedule, venue, etc.) and the existing PMOC Ordinance of the City of Dagupan. Any sending LGU shall likewise issue a Certificate of Non-Availability of Accredited Pre-Marriage Counselor (CNAAC) by the PMOC Team of the LGU to the contracting party as requirement of the City PMOC Team.

SECTION 5. PMOC SECRETARIAT

The City Population Office will provide secretariat support to the local PMOC Team and the implementation of the PMOC Program. The PMOC Secretariat shall specifically perform the following functions:

- 5.1. Maintain the profile and electronic or hard database of couples
- 5.2. Prepare the needed supplies, materials, and equipment for the conduct of the PMOC sessions;
- 5.3. Prepare and control the issuance of Certificate of Compliance and Certificate of Marriage Counseling; and
- 5.4. Prepare and submit reports to PMOC Regional TWG

SECTION 6. REITERATION ON THE ROLES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

The Local Government Unit through the City/Municipal Mayor shall:

- 6.1 Effect the implementation of the PMOC program particularly the issuance of executive orders/circulars/directives for an effective and responsive PMOC program implementation;
- 6.2 Include in his/her proposed annual budget to the Sanggunian an allotment for the effective operation of the PMOC team and the conduct of PMOC sessions;
- 6.3 Provide support for the PMOC implementation ensuring that resources would be made available for (1) the venue for the sessions, (2) supplies and materials, (3) basic and refresher training for PMOC team members, and (4) meals, transportation, and other incidental expenses necessary for the PMOC Team’s performance of their duties and functions; and

SECTION 7. Training of PMOC Team and Accreditation of PMC Counselors. To equip the members of the PMOC Team with the needed competency in the implementation of the program, all members of the team shall undergo relevant training in coordination and collaboration with national government agencies.

The City PMOC team shall also have at least one (1) accredited Pre-Marriage Counselor, who will provide pre-marriage counseling session pursuant to the Family Code (EO 209). Initially, the member from the City Social Welfare Development Office shall comply to the accreditation requirements of the DSWD. Other members will be supported by the LGU to be able to complete the accreditation requirements of the DSWD.

SECTION 8. Reporting. The City PMOC Team shall maintain a PMOC database and regularly consolidate program implementation reports. The said reports of accomplishments shall be submitted to the Local Chief Executive and the Regional TWGs annually.

SECTION 9. Confidentiality of the Database. Personal details of the contracting parties shall be stored and maintained confidentially by the PMOC Team. The PMOC Team must observe and respect the data privacy rights of the contracting parties.

The use of any personal information collected, stored, and processed under the PMOC Program shall be subject to the rules and regulations as provided for by the Data Privacy Act of 2012 or RA 10173.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. The needed annual allocation for the efficient implementation of the PMOC program shall be proposed under the budget proposal of the City Population Office. Moreover, all local departments and offices participating in implementation of the PMOC Program shall allocate in their respective annual investment plan the needed funding.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 13. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED. (COUNCILORS MARIA LIBRADA FE M. REYNA, ALVIN T. COQUIA, CELIA C. LIM AND MARILOU MARIA LOURDES S. FERNANDEZ WERE NO LONGER AROUND WHEN THIS MEASURE WAS TAKEN UP.)

Authors:

COUNCILOR MICHAEL B. FERNANDEZ

COUNCILOR JESLITO C. SEEN

COUNCILOR DENNIS C. CANTO

COUNCILOR MARCELINO D. FERNANDEZ



DEAN BRYAN L. KUA
City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:



RYAN C. RAVANZO
City Secretary

APPROVED:



BELEN T. FERNANDEZ

City Mayor

Date: 12/26/24