

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

HOUSE BILL NO. **1471**

<b>HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</b>	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
DATE:	<u>12 JUL 2015</u>
TIME:	<u>6:09pm</u>
BY:	<u>[Signature]</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

---

Introduced by Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

To ensure peace of mind to victims of violence while starting a new life in a peaceful and secure environment and helping them get back into the mainstream of society, the proposed Address Confidentiality Program shall be administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ), should therefore be enacted. This measure was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress. Passage of this Bill is earnestly sought now in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

  
**HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III**  
Representative  
Party-List AANGAT TAYO

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1471**

---

Introduced by Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

---

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM FOR  
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “Address Confidentiality Program Act”.

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy**, It is hereby declared the policy of the state to value the dignity of women and defend the rights of children and to recognize their role in nation-building. Towards this end, the state shall ensure the protection of their fundamental rights by establishing the Address Confidentiality Program to substitute mailing address, thus, help them get back into the mainstream of society.

**SEC. 3 Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a) Address – a residential address, school address, or work address of an individual, as specified on the individual’s application to be a program participant under this Act;
- b) Application Assistant- a regular employee of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or a duly designated Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) personnel who shall counsel, assess and assist the victims of violence against women and children in the completion of program applications, who has been trained, certified and registered by the Department of Justice (DOJ);
- c) Certification- a notice certifying the eligibility to participate in the program;

- d) Department of Justice- refer's to DOJ;
- e) Department of Social Welfare and Development- refers to DSWD;
- f) Designated agencies- agovernment agency or a non-profit organization that provides counseling, shelter or other services to victims of violence against women and children that has been designated by the DOJ as place where eligible person may apply to be a program participants;
- g) Mailing Address- an address used for delivery by the Philippine Postal Office;
- h) Program Participant- a person certified by the DOJ as eligible to participate in the program;
- i) Sustitute Address- address assigned to a Program participant provided by the department of Justice -(DOJ); and
- j) Violence Against Women and Children- acts as defined in section 3 of RA 9262.

**SEC. 4. Address Confidentiality Program .-** The Department of Justice shall established and administer the Address Confidentiality Program hereinafter reffered to as the the "Program", for victims of violence against women and their children that shall ensure their protection and safety by providing them with substitute address to be used when interacting with government agencies and a new mailing address which keeps their actual address confidential and free from the risk of discovery by their parties. The Program shall cater to victims who intends to establish a new residence and for those who have already relocated to another place unknown to their assailants or abusers who may use public records to find them.

**SEC 5. Criteria for Eligibility to the Program.** The following shall be eligible to the program:

- a) A victim attempting to escape from actual or threatened violence;
- b) Fears for her and or/her child/children's safety and
- c) Recently established a new residence address unknown to the abuser or is planning to move in the near future.

**SEC. 6. Filing and Submission of Application –** Any person eligible to the Program shall submit the duly accomplished application farms with the DOJ in the manner and on the prescribed from containing the following:

- a) A sworn statement by the applicant that she is a victim of violence against women and their children and that she fears for her and/or her children' safety;
- b) The mailing address and phone number where the applicant can be contacted by the DOJ;
- c) The latest address that the applicant request not to be disclosed; and
- d) Duly accomplished address confidentially program application form signed by the applicant and attested by the application assistant.

**SEC. 7. Program certification.** Upon receipt of the duly accomplished application form by the DOJ, the applicant is certified as a program participant and shall be issued an authorization card. Such authorization card shall include the program participant's name, date of birth, place of birth, new identification number, substitute mailing address, expiry date of said certification and signature of the participant. The participant shall thereafter be notified by the DOJ of the approval of her application. Said program participant certification is renewable after every four years from its initial issuance.

**SEC. 8. Cancellation of Certification.-** Certification to the program by the participant may be cancelled for any of the following reasons;

- a) The certification term has expired and an application for renewal has not been filed;
- b) Knowingly providing false or incorrect information when applying for certification;
- c) Changing one's name without informing the DOJ;
- d) Changing the residence address from the one listed on the application without informing the DOJ; and
- e) Mail forwarded to the program participant is returned unclaimed for at least three times.

**SEC. 9. Disclosure of Records.** – The DOJ shall not make any records in a program participant's file available for inspection or copying unless directed by a court order to the person identified in the order to person identified in the order. The information disclosed shall be maintained in strict confidentiality by the party receiving the information.

It shall likewise make available for inspection or copying the program participant's residential or mailing address if the participant's certification has already been cancelled.

**SEC. 10. Designation of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or Non-Government Organization (NGO).**– The DOJ shall designate the DSWD or NGO that provides counseling and shelter service to the victims of violence against women and their children to assist persons applying to be program participants.

**SEC. 11. Training Seminar for application Assistant.** The DOJ shall undertake trainings/seminars for designated application assistance to train them on the proper procedure to follow in counseling the would-be program applicants.

**SEC. 12. Penalty for Violation of Confidentiality of Program Participant's Records.** – A program participant's application and or supporting materials are not a public records and shall be kept confidential by the DOJ. Any employee who willfully breaches the confidentiality of these records or willfully disclose the name, residential or mailing address of a program participant in violation of the provisions of this Act shall suffer the penalty of one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of not more than five hundred (500,000.00) thousand pesos; Provided, However, That if the violator is the program participant himself who falsely claims that disclosure of her residential or mailing address threatens her or her child's safety shall likewise suffer the same penalty mentioned above.

**SEC. 13. Appropriation of Funds.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year appropriation of the DOJ. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

**SEC. 14. Implementing Rules.**– The Department of Justice in coordination with the DSWD, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provision of this Act.

**SEC. 15. Separability Clause.**- If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and affect.

**SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.** Any law, presidential decree, executive order, or issuance, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC.17. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the official Gazette or in two newspaper

Approved.