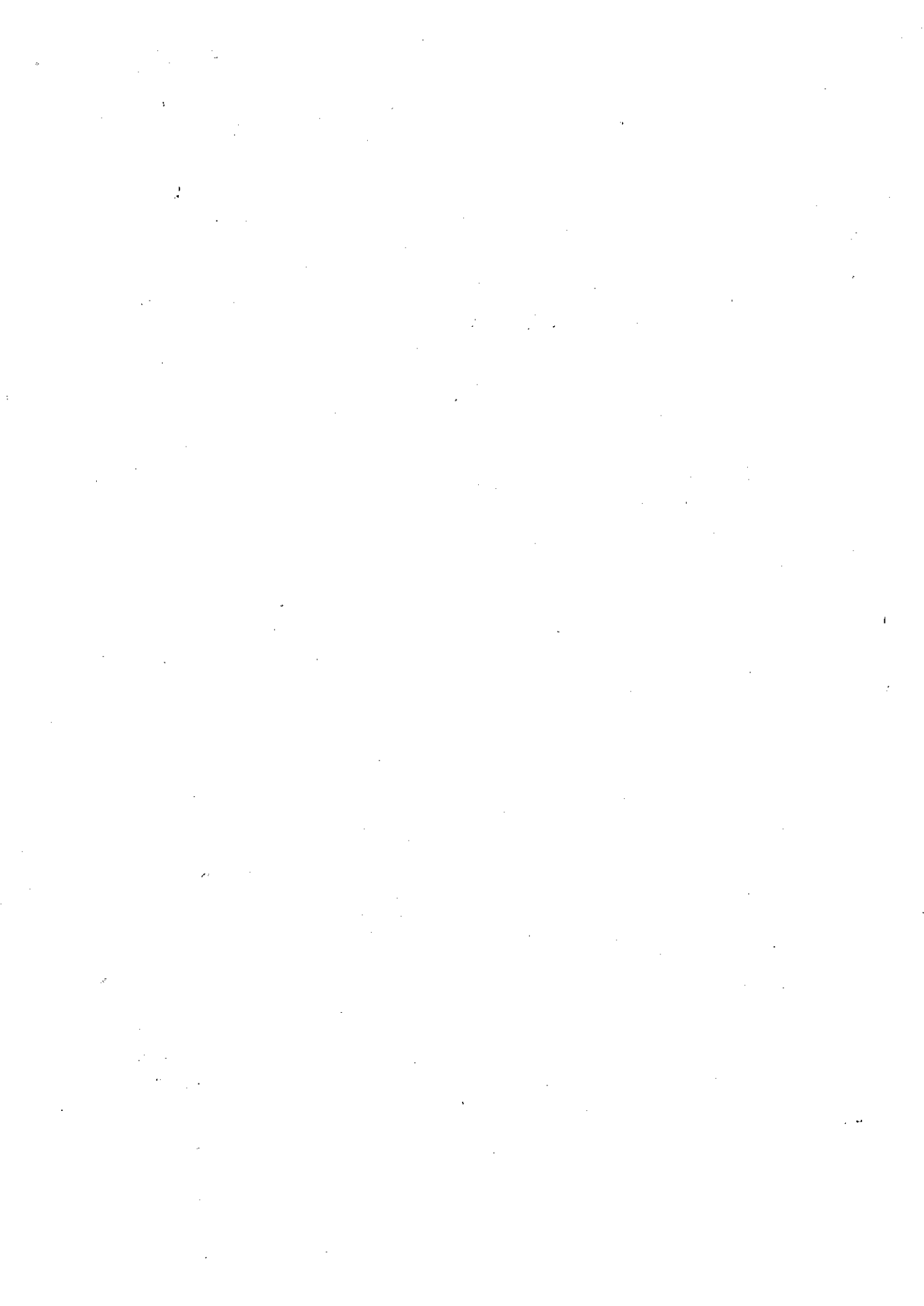


PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL, 2018

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Responsibility of parent or guardian to enroll children into school.
2. Responsibility of a woman to children
3. Responsibility of a man to children.
4. Responsibility to report abandonment
5. Responsibility to pay maintenance.
6. Penalty
7. Miscellaneous and Interpretation
8. Civil liability
9. Citation



A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ENACT A PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR PARENTS TO ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN OR WARDS FOR AT LEAST BASIC CONVENTIONAL EDUCATION, FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL AND TO PROVIDE FOR PUNISHMENT AGAINST ANY PERSON WHO ABANDONS HIS WIFE, GIRL FRIEND OR BABY ANTENATAL OR POSTNATAL IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Bode Ayorinde

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

- 1 1. All parents shall in conformity with the provisions of the Child
2 Rights Act and Universal Compulsory Basic Education Act 2004 enroll their
3 Children below the age of 18 in compulsory primary and secondary
4 education. Responsibility
of parent or
guardian to enroll
children into
school
- 5 2. It shall be unlawful for a woman to, other than in accordance
6 with a lawful court order, abandon her child or children with her spouse,
7 boyfriend, and father of the child or partner. Responsibility
of a woman to
children
- 8 3.-(1) A person who is responsible for impregnating a woman shall:
9 (a) Bear the cost of both ante-natal and post natal care of the
10 woman and child; Responsibility
of a man to
children
- 11 (b) Not under any circumstance abandon the child or mother while
12 the Child is under the age of 18.
- 13 4.-(1) It shall be the duty of an interested person to report to the
14 nearest police station, to the Ministry responsible for women and children or
15 to the social welfare desk or office responsible for women and children at the
16 local government council that a suspected father has abandoned a child
17 and/or mother of a child battered by him. Responsibility
to report
abandonment

1 (2) Where a suspected father denies responsibility on grounds of lack
2 of paternity of the child in question, it shall be the duty of the interested person
3 or ministry responsible for children and women to fund the cost of conducting a
4 compulsory test to determine the paternity of the child.

5 (3) Where the paternity is proven to be that of the suspected father, the
6 father shall be responsible for reimbursing the interested person or ministry
7 responsible for children and women for the cost of conducting the test.

Responsibility
to pay maintenance

8 5. The responsible parent shall, on proof of paternity be responsible
9 for paying a monthly or weekly maintenance allowance for the child and
10 mother until the child is 18 years of age or the order is varied by court,
11 whichever is earlier:

12 (i) Contravention of any of the provisions of this act shall constitute
13 criminal offence punishment by summary trial;

14 (ii) Convicted persons under the provisions of this Act and other
15 relevant laws, including the criminal and penal codes shall be liable to a fine of
16 N500,000 or imprisonment for 12 months or to both fine and imprisonment.

Civil liability

17 6. Nothing in this Bill shall deprive a parent or child affected by the
18 contravention of the Bill to bring civil action for remedy.

Miscellaneous
and Interpretation

19 7. In this Bill:

20 Abandon or Abandonment: Occurs when a person, being of sufficient ability,
21 deserts his or her children under 17 years of age, without providing necessary
22 and proper shelter, food, care, and clothing for them or fails, neglects, or
23 refuses to provide necessary and proper shelter, food, care, and clothing for his
24 or her spouse or his or her children under 17 years of age;

25 Father: Includes the biological father, adoptive father of a child or any man
26 responsible for or consented to procurement of artificial insemination whether
27 or not the man's sperm is used and by which the child is conceived;

28 Impregnate: Includes making a woman pregnant either through sexual
29 intercourse or through artificial insemination with the consent of the father;

30 Interested person: Interested person shall include any adult who is the father,

1 mother, cousin, nephew, niece, neighbor of the woman impregnated of the
2 father of the child registered women and Children related organisation or in
3 the case of none natural persons a registered children and women
4 organization;

5 Legitimate Authority: Includes traditional institutions, council of elders and
6 bodies recognised by law or custom to mediate over family matters;

7 Parent: Includes biological, adoptive and foster parent under whose care a
8 child is brought to live, conceived or adopted;

9 Person: Includes natural and artificial person registered under the relevant
10 law;

11 Responsible Parent: Includes either parents, man or woman, so recognised
12 by the court or legitimate authority to have abandoned a child;

13 Woman: Includes any adult female who is the biological or adoptive mother
14 of the child or pregnant with a child;

15 Children and women organisation related organisation: Includes any
16 registered organisation whose main objective is the protection and
17 promotion of the live and wellbeing of children and women.

18 8. This Bill may be cited as the Parental Responsibility Bill, 2018.

Citation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to enact a Parental Responsibility Act to make it mandatory for parents to enroll their Children or Wards for at least basic conventional education, from primary to secondary school level and to provide for punishment against any person who abandons his wife, girlfriend or baby antenatal or postnatal in Nigeria.

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