Rodrigues Regional Assembly Child Protection (Placement Home) Regulations 2009

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RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

CHILD PROTECTION (PLACEMENT HOME) REGULATIONS 2009

Regulations made by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly under sections 26(1) and 31 of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 and the Fourth Schedule of the said Act, items (4) Child Development and (14) Family Welfare

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PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title

These regulations may be cited as the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Child Protection (Placement Home) Regulations 2009.

2. Interpretation

In these regulations -

"Act" means the Child Protection Act;

"Court" shall mean the Court of Rodrigues;

"alternative placement" means a new place of safety to which a child is committed, following a variation of a committal order under section 8(4) of the Act;

"certificate" means the certificate of registration issued under regulation 22;

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner responsible for Child Development & Family Welfare:

"Departmental Head" means the Departmental Head of the Commission responsible for Child Development and Family Welfare;

"Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee" means Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee set up under regulation 20;

"placement home" means a placement parent or the head of household;

"placement" means a committal order made under section 8 of the Act and includes an emergency placement made in virtue of an emergency protection order made under section 4 of the Act and an interim committal order made under section 8(2)(a) of the Act:

"register" means the register prescribed under regulation 24;

"visitor" means a licensed social worker who has been designated by the Departmental Head to monitor any placement made under these regulations;

"Probation Officer" shall mean the Probation Officer of Rodrigues;

3. No child shall be placed in a placement home unless the placement home is registered under these regulations.

PART II - THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENTAL HEAD

- **4.** (1) The Departmental Head shall be the supervisory officer for all placements made under these regulations.
 - (2) An application for the registration of a placement home shall be submitted to the Departmental Head.
 - (3) The Departmental Head may refer any application for consideration to the Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee.
 - (4) Upon receipt of the recommendations from the Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee, the Departmental Head shall consider the application and may grant or refuse the application.
 - (5) For the purpose of granting the registration, the Departmental Head shall take into account -
 - (a) the number of children who may be accommodated;
 - (b) the age range of the children; and
 - (c) the recommendation of the Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee.
- **5.** (1) The Departmental Head shall keep -
 - (a) a record of the registered placement homes which shall be opened to the public;

- (b) a detailed case record for every child placed in a placement home containing the information kept for as specified in the Fourth Schedule to these regulations; and
- (c) confidential and secret, the detailed case record of every child for a period of 20 years.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph 5(1)(c), a child placed in placement home or his biological parents may consult his personal detailed case record.

6. The Departmental Head shall –

- (a) have all powers of supervision over the placement home including the power to visit, assess, assist and guide the placement home;
- (b) ensure that adequate training be given to the placement home and assistance and support be given to the biological parents;
- (c) ensure that the registered placement home complies with the Act and these regulations;
- (d) ensure that the child's best interests shall prevail;
- (e) interview the child before the placement;
- (f) ensure that due consideration shall be given to the child's wishes and views;
- (g) inform the Court and the probation officer of the child's wishes and views;
- (h) arrange for after-care service to the child upon termination of the placement;
- (i) inform the *Ministère Public* of any placement made and recommend that necessary action be initiated before the appropriate jurisdiction regarding the exercise of 'autorité parentale';

- (j) explain to the placement home all the duties and obligations that they have under these regulations, code of conduct and related policy; and
- (k) enter into a written agreement with the placement home regarding the placement before such placement is made, specifying that the placement home shall carry out the duties specified in the code of conduct to these regulations.
- 7. Save and except in cases of emergency placements, the Departmental Head shall provide the placement home with all the information necessary for the care and welfare of the child, including -
 - (a) the reasons for the placement of the child in placement home;
 - (b) the child's personal history, religious persuasion, family, social and cultural background;
 - (c) the child's health history and state of health;
 - (d) the child's educational needs; and
 - (e) whenever appropriate a psychological report on the child and his emotional needs.
- 8. (1) The Departmental Head shall assess the needs of the child and shall, if reasonably justified in the light of the circumstances, arrange for the payment of monthly allowance to the placement home to cater for the needs of the child and shall ensure that such payment is immediately and effectively made upon placement.
 - (2) When in presence of a report to the effect that such allowance has been mismanaged, the Departmental Head shall cause an enquiry to be made and shall take appropriate action to remedy the situation.
 - (3) The Departmental Head shall review the child's welfare at regular intervals or upon request of the licensed social worker of the placement home.

- **9.** (1) The Departmental Head shall receive all complaints and carry out an enquiry into such complaints within the shortest possible delay and may refer the child to the authorities concerned.
 - (2) All information gathered in the course of the enquiry shall be kept confidential and where the enquiry or complaint reveals that the child is in imminent danger, the Departmental Head shall take the appropriate steps to remove the child immediately and to find an alternative placement.
 - (3) The Departmental Head may within 72 hours apply to the Magistrate for Rodrigues for a variation of the order.
 - (4) The Departmental Head shall, upon request, give necessary assistance to the placement home in order to enable it to present its defence in any criminal or civil suit arising out of the child's acts and doings whilst in placement.

PART III - PLACEMENT

10. Prior to any placement, the Departmental Head shall ensure that the placement home where it is proposed to place the child still complies with the conditions for registration.

Sub Part I - Emergency Placement under sections 4 and 8 of the Act

- **11.** Where a child is the subject of a series of emergency placements he shall be placed as far as practicable, in the same placement home, provided that they occur within a period not exceeding one year.
- 12. Where a child has been placed in a placement home pursuant to an interim committal order under section 8(2)(a) of the Act and no committal order is made under section 8(3) of the Act, the placement home shall bring back the child to Court at such time as may be determined by the Court.

Sub Part II - Placement as a result of a Committal under section 8 of the Act

13. Where the Departmental Head has made an application under section 8(1) of the Act and is of the opinion that it is in the interests of the child to be placed in a placement

home, he -

- (a) may make recommendations regarding the duration of the placement and the preferred registered placement home, taking into account the child's best interests and, in particular, the desirability of keeping siblings in the same placement home;
- (b) shall inform the Court as to whether there is any relative of the child who is willing to take charge of the child; and
- (c) shall ascertain that the preferred placement home is appraised of, agrees with, the individual plan in respect of the child.
- **14.** (1) The Departmental Head shall effect regular reviews at intervals of not more than one month to ensure that the placement home and its household continue to suit the child's best interests.
 - (2) Prior notice of the Departmental Head's decision shall be given to the placement home.
 - (3) If it appears that the requirements are no longer suitable, the Departmental Head may either grant a delay to comply with the requirements or apply for a variation order.
- **15.** The placement may be terminated where
 - (a) it appears to the Departmental Head that it is not in the child's best interests to remain in placement;
 - (b) the child is adopted;
 - (c) the child becomes emancipated by marriage;
 - (d) the placement order lapses; or (e) the child dies.
- **16.** (1) One or both parents may request the Departmental Head to place his or their child in a placement home where he or they consider that -

- (a) neither parent is capable of caring for the child; and
- (b) the placement is in the best interests of the child.
- (2) Where a request under paragraph (1) has been complied with, the parents shall enter into a written agreement with the Departmental Head, which shall inter alia set out the duration and the conditions of such placement.
- 17. The Departmental Head may delegate anyone of his powers under these regulations to an officer or authority who shall furnish a written report to the Departmental Head every 6 months. Such report shall be communicated to the Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee.
- **18.** The Departmental Head and or any person to whom any of the powers have been delegated shall not be personally liable for any acts and decisions taken in good faith in the exercise of the powers vested in them by the present regulations.
- **19.** Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations shall commit an offence, and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs 5000 and to imprisonment not exceeding one year.

PART IV - RODRIGUES FAMILY WELFARE COMMITTEE

- **20.** (1) The Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee shall be made up of 7 members and shall consist of
 - (a) the Departmental Head of the Commission responsible for child development and welfare;
 - (b) a representative of the Probation Service;
 - (c) a representative of the Chief of Police;
 - (d) a representative of the Commission responsible for the subject of Health;
 - (e) a representative of the Social Security Office;

- (f) a representative of the Commission responsible for the subject of Education; and
- (g) a legally qualified person appointed by the Commissioner.
- (2) 5 Members shall constitute a quorum.
- (3) The Committee shall be chaired by the Departmental Head.
- (4) The Committee shall meet at such times and place as may be decided by the Chairperson.
- (5) A decision taken by the Committee shall be by simple majority including the Departmental Head.
- (6) Subject to the other provisions of this regulation, the Committee shall regulate its proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.

21. The function of the Committee shall be -

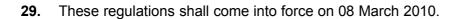
- (a) to formulate objectives, policies and priorities for the development and implementation of placement care system in Rodrigues;
- (b) to oversee processes, standards and products related to the development and implementation of a placement care system in Rodrigues, including strategies for monitoring and assessment of the system;
- (c) to oversee evaluation of the placement care system and make recommendations to the Commissioner for improvements and changes; and
- (d) to consider such application referred to it under regulation 4(3) and make recommendations to the Departmental Head.

PART V - REGISTRATION

- **22.** (1) Every application for registration of a placement home shall be made to the Departmental Head in the form as set out in the First Schedule to these regulations.
 - (2) Any information given by the applicant for the purposes of registration shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed by the Departmental Head to any third party.
 - (3) The Departmental Head may issue a certificate of registration or refuse to register the placement home, after having heard the applicant and caused an enquiry to be made.
 - (4) The decision shall be communicated to the applicant by registered post within a reasonable delay.
 - (5) The Departmental Head shall not issue a certificate unless he is satisfied that the applicant complies with the prescribed requirements.
- **23.** (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a certificate issued under these regulations shall be valid for a period of 2 years and may be renewed on application for subsequent periods of 2 years.
 - (2) An application for renewal shall be granted where the placement home certifies to the satisfaction of the Departmental Head that it still complies with the standard prescribed in the Code of Conduct as set out in the Second Schedule to these regulations.
 - (3) Where a registered placement home ceases to meet the standard prescribed in the Code of Conduct, the Departmental Head may
 - (a) give the placement home a delay not exceeding 3 months within which to comply with the requirements; and
 - (b) after giving the placement home a hearing, suspend or revoke the certificate.

- **24.** (1) The Departmental Head shall keep a register of placement homes which shall include a list of the placement homes whose certificates have been revoked, suspended or not renewed.
 - (2) Such register shall be open to public consultation.
 - (3) A placement home the certificate of which, has been revoked or cancelled may not apply for fresh registration within 1 year of the revocation or cancellation.
- 25. (a) Where a certificate has been refused, revoked or cancelled, the applicant may appeal to the Commissioner in the form set out in the Third Schedule in writing within 21 days from the date on which he has been notified of the refusal, revocation or cancellation, as the case may be.
 - (b) The decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
- **26.** Any material change in the personal circumstances or otherwise of the placement home shall be communicated to the Departmental Head as soon as it occurs and not later than one month after its occurrence.
- **27.** (1) Any registered placement home may apply in writing to the Departmental Head to be removed from the register, either temporarily or permanently.
 - (2) The decision of the Departmental Head shall be communicated to the applicant not later than 30 days from the date of the application, and the register shall be amended accordingly.
- 28. In case of revocation, suspension or cancellation of a certificate or of removal of any home from the register, the Departmental Head shall apply forthwith for a variation of the committal order, under section 8(4) of the Act, to the Court of Rodrigues for the alternative placement of any child under the applicant's care.

PART VI – COMMENCEMENT



Made by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on 17th November, 2009.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(regulation 22(1))

APPLICATION FORM TO REGISTER AS A PLACEMENT HOME

FICHE D'APPLICATION POUR L'ENREGISTRER COMME FAMILLE D'ACCUEIL

Please return the application forms duly filled in, together with the following documents, to the address below:
Commission for Women's Affairs, Child Development and Family Welfare
MHC Building
Camp du Roi
Documents to be submitted:
 birth certificate for you - your spouse - your children and any person staying with your family;
• your marriage certificate
• a certified copy of Court Order for divorce, if any
 a certified copy of morality for you, your spouse, all children above 18 and any person staying with your family
• proof of your income

• health certificate for you, your spouse and all children above 18 and any person

• proof of ownership of your property or lease document

staying with your family.

Veuillez retourner les formulaires dûment remplis et les documents suivants à l'adresse cidessous:

Commission de la Femme, du Developpement de l'Enfant, et du Bien-être de la Famille, Immeuble MHC, Camp du Roi

Documents à être soumis:

- votre acte de naissance, celui de votre conjoint, de vos enfants et de toute autre personne qui habite chez vous
- votre acte de marriage
- une copie certifiée conforme du jugement prononçant votre divorce s'il y a lieu
- un certificat de moralité pour vous, votre conjoint, vos enfants âgés de plus de 18 ans et de toute autre personne qui habite chez vous
- la preuve de vos revenus
- votre titre de propriété ou le bail de votre maison
- l'attestation de santé pour vous, votre conjoint, vos enfants âgés de plus de 18 ans et de toute autre personne qui habite chez vous

Part I/Partie I

1.	Name of Applicant/Nom du postulant:
2.	Address/Adresse:
	(Please specify capacity in which occupying: single ownership/jointly owned/unsufructary/leased)
	$(\textit{Veuillez pr\'eciser si le domicile vous appartient/propri\'et\'e conjointe/usufruit/\`a \ bail)}$
3. rent)	How financed: loan (please state monthly repayment/monthly
193	(Comment payez-vous: emprunt (préciser le montant mensuel de repaiement/loyer mensuel) :
4.	Phone No./Numéro de téléphone:
5.	Home/Résidence:
6. '	Office/Bureau:
7.	Mobile / Cellulaire :
8.	Email address/Addresse e-mail :
9.	Date of birth/Date de naissance:
10.	Marital Status/Situation familiale:
	Current/Présente:
	Previous/Passée:
11.	Occupation/Profession:
12.	Education/Niveau d'éducation:
13.	Employer/Employeur:
14.	Gross monthly salary/Salaire mensuel:
15	Other income/Autre source de revenue:

16.	Health status/Etat de santé :
17.	Handicaps (if any)/Signaler toute forme d'handicape:
18.	Current medical treatment / Traitement medical actuel:
19.	Past medical treatment / Traitement medical passé:
20.	Previous conviction if any/Condamnation précédente s'il y en a eu:
21.	Jurisdiction/Tribunal de condamnation :
22.	Date / Date :
23.	Type of offence / Type de délit:
	(4) The decision shall symmetries such miletonism — but

Part II/Partie II

Dependents:	(include	legitima	te, natural,	adopted,
unacknowledged	and step chi	ildren livi	ng in and out o	of the same
household: related dependents)	tives etc)	exclude	spouse/partner	/and their
dependents)				

Personne à votre charge (incluant l'enfant légitime, naturel, adopté, non déclaré et beaux-fils, belles-filles habitant sous le même toit)

Name Nom	Relation to applicant Lien de parenté avec le postulant	Age Age	Education Education	Occupation Profession
Date	THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O	219	Transhe d'il	Ave Range
why. Pleas placed in f Si les en Veuillez pr	ren are not living in the hose specify whether any of foster care and the reason afants n'habitent pas chezeciser si un des enfants det donnez la raison.	the child thereof.	dren has been	a adopted or ez pourquoi.
Other hou famille:	sehold occupiers/D'auti	– res pers	onnes habit	ant avec la

The		endents)	dep
tione, naturel.	hwye (meluant Tentont leg	Peisonne a vour	
98000 91 2162 3	canx-fils, belies-fales habitan	ute, non déctare et t	None .
Foster child pr	eference: if given choice, I wo	ould prefer:	
	our l'enfant à être accueill		je
Age Range /Tr	anche d'âge :	is whange of address	
Sex/Sexe:	MONE OF CORES		
Other preferen	ce/Autre préférence :	on large succession to	

Part IV/Partie IV

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SPOUSE/PARTNER INFORMATION SUR LE CONJOINT/PARTENAIRE

Name of Spouse/Partner/Nom du conjoint/partenaire:
Address/Adresse:
(Please specify capacity in which occupying: single ownership/jointly owned unsufructary/leased)
(Veuillez préciser si le domicile vous appartient/propriété conjointe/usufruit/à bail)
Phone No. Office / Numéro de téléphone bureau :
Mobile/Cellulaire:
Email address/Adresse courriel :
Date of birth/Date de naissance :
Marital Status/Situation familiale:
Current/Présente :
Previous/Passée :
Occupation/Profession:
Education/Niveau d'éducation :
Employer/Employeur:
Gross monthly Salary / Salaire mensuel brut :
Other source of income/Autre source de revenue:
Health status / Etat de santé :
Handicaps (if any)/Signaler toute forme de handicap:

Past medical treatment/Traitement méd	dical passé:
Previous conviction if any/Condamna	ation précédente s'il y en a eu
Jurisdiction/Tribunal de condamnatio	Address///dresse: no
Date/Date:	(Please specify capacity in which unsufructary/leased)
Type of offence / Type de délit:	(Veuillez préciser si la donuella sous
Sie ee e	

Part V / Partie V

*Dependents if living separately: (include legitimate, natural, adopted, unacknowledged and step children living in and out of the same household: relatives etc)

Personnes à votre charge (incluant légitime, naturel, adopté, non déclaré et beaux-fils et belles filles, habitant ou pas, sous le même toît)

Name	Relation to applicant	Age	Education	Occupation
Nom	Lien de parenté avec le posti	ılant Age	Education	Profession
			MON	STHEY!
			1922970 FA 281	anbbA

^{*} Need to be filled only by the dependents of spouse or partner living separately

Other information which you may wish to furnish. *Informations additionnelles que vous souhaitez fournir.*

^{*} A remplir si les personnes à charge du conjoint ou partenaire habite séparément

Part VI/Partie VI

References (at least 2 and NOT related by blood, by marriage to the applicant and/or the spouse/partner)

Références (au moins 2, n'ayant aucun lien de parenté avec le postulant et/ou son conjoint/partenaire)

1.	Name/Nom:	
	Address/Adresse:	()10)
	Phone No. / No. de téléphone:	Vame
2.	Name/Nom:	
	Address/Adresse:	
	Phone No. / No. de telephone:	

Part VII/Partie VII

I/We declare that all above information is to the best of my/our knowledge true at the time of this declaration. I/We declare that I/We have never been found guilty of any acts of domestic violence/trouble with police nor have I/We been deprived partly or totally of my/our parental authority with respect to any of my/our children.

Je déclare/nous déclarons que les informations ci-dessous sont vraies au moment de la déclaration. Je déclare/nous déclarons n'avoir jamais été trouvé(e)(s) coupable de violence domestique ou toute autre forme de violence, ne jamais avoir eu des démèlés avec la police et ne jamais avoir été privé partiellement ou totalement de mon/notre autorité parentale à l'égard de n'importe lequel de mes/nos enfants.

Date	s odw blido odl lo setmen to	
(i)		
e in	Name	Signature
(ii)	dhy boliquos on lesses.	
	Name	Signature

SECOND SCHEDULE

(regulation 23(2))

Code of Conduct

This code of conduct shall apply to all registered placement homes. Any reference therein to a foster parent shall apply without any distinction to the need of family in a foster family and the manager of a Group foster home.

- A foster parent shall ensure that there is no discrimination in respect of the foster child within the household. He shall comply with all lawful directives given to him by the Departmental Head or his representative.
- 2. Any foster parent shall at all times inform the Departmental Head of any likely change of address, telephone or contact number of the child who is in placement. Such notification shall as far as is practicable take place at least 8 days before its occurrence.
- 3. The foster parent shall ensure that all services and duties as set out in the specific agreement are complied with at all times. These shall concern living conditions, privacy, education and discipline, health and hygiene, safety and religious and cultural practices. These will include *inter alia*:
 - (a) The child has a right to privacy as appropriate for his age;
 - (b) The child's right to education which may include the following:
 - Attending of school and adequate facilities for studying as are appropriate for the age and any special needs of the child;
 - As far as practicable attending of specialized institution for child with special needs, i.e disabled child;
 - Regular contact with teachers and other professionals who interact with the child;

- Child to be kept as far as practicable in current school;
- Follow up of homework and school report;
- Respect for religious and cultural identity
- Discipline is given in a positive way, the child is not subjected to corporal punishment, immobilization, force feeding, deprivation, humiliation or frightening.
- (c) The child's access to health safety and hygienic conditions which may include the following;
 - The child must be properly fed, i.e a balanced diet, same standard of food as the rest of the family;
 - First-aid kit available in the house;
 - Regular medical and dental check-ups and vaccinations;
 - Major illnesses: hospital, clinic and doctors (in case of serious illness or main surgery, the Departmental Head or anyone delegated by him must be informed immediately);
 - Treatment for disabled children;
 - Psychological follow-up if need be;
 - Duty to inculcate to the child minimum standards of personal hygiene such as daily shower, cleaning teeth, trimming of nails etc;
 - Community standards of cleanliness and appearance are maintained.
- (d) The foster parent's duty to ensure that the following safety rules prevail in the

home at all times;

- Make sure that harmful equipment or toxic liquids are not accessible to children;
- House should be safe, e.g babies regarding stairs, electrical sockets;
- Child should not be exposed to known risks in the house (gas, kettle, oven);
- (e) The possibility extended to the child to have access to his own religion and cultural identity in the respect of the following:
 - Child to be encouraged and supported to follow his own religion (degree of observance) and culture;
 - No attempt to change religion or influence to change. Respect for the child's religion;
 - Wish of child to change religion must be referred to the Rodrigues Family Welfare Committee.
- 4. A foster parent shall give access at all times to the visitor appointed to supervise the place. The foster parent shall give all facilities to the visitor to interview the child in private and shall not intervene in the visit.

The foster parent shall communicate to the child and to the educational institution that the child attends, the name, address and telephone number of the assigned. At the time of the placement, the visitor shall see the child at home or at the educational institution;

- (a) every week for the 6 weeks;
- (b) every fortnight for the next 2 months;
- (c) every month for the next 6 months.

Subsequently, the visitor shall see the child at least once every six months or on request from the child, the foster parent or the teacher/instructor.

- 5. The child shall not be asked to perform unreasonable household duties such as cooking for the whole family, cleaning of the house alone. Babysitting must be subject to age difference, maturity and physical ability and there should be no abuse.
- 6. No child who has been placed in foster care shall be in gainful employment without the prior written consent of the Departmental Head.
 - Such obligation shall not be applicable when the child is following a 'stage' in the course of a professional or industrial training.
- 7. Subject to any restraining order decided by the Court and directives given by the Departmental Head, foster parents shall allow the child's biological parents, grandparents, siblings and relatives to have access to the child in placement.

Such access shall be given in a manner which shall be the least disruptive to the child's emotional, social and educational balance.

The foster parent shall also ensure that the child has access to his friends and relations, taking into account the influence that such friends and relations may have on him.

- 8. Any finances, grants and pensions given by the relevant authority for the upkeep and maintenance of the child shall be used solely for the benefit of the child.
 - The visitor shall supervise whether the grant has been put to reasonable use by the parent.
- 9. The foster parent shall contract an insurance policy with a reputable insurance company, approved by the Departmental Head with a view to meeting any legal liabilities of the foster parent arising by reason of a placement.

THIRD SCHEDULE

(regulation 25)

Name of appellant:
Address:
Telephone No:
Date of refusal:
Grounds of appeal:
Date:
Signature:
Attachment (if any):

FOURTH SCHEDULE

(regulation 5(1))

The records shall include inter alia:

- 1. the child's name, sex and date of birth;
- 2. the name and addresses of the child's biological parents, grandparents whenever possible, siblings and relations;
- 3. a medical and social history of the child;
- 4. the reasons for the placement of the child;
- 5. reports of visits made to the child by the appointed visitor;
- 6. any Court order made in respect of the child;
- 7. a copy of the foster care agreement between the Departmental Head and the foster home;
- 8. a copy of the application for registration as foster home as filled in by the foster home.