



Republic of the Philippines  
**SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**  
City Government of Pasig

Ordinance No. 04  
Series of 2017

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING HOME BIRTHS IN PASIG CITY, PROHIBITING TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS TO DELIVER NEWBORNS AND REQUIRING ALL PROFESSIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS TO DELIVER NEWBORNS ONLY IN HEALTH FACILITIES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.**

Authored By: Councilor Rosalio D. Martires  
Co-Authored By: Councilors Rodrigo B. Asilo, Ferdinand A. Avis, Regino S. Balderrama, Orlando R. Benito, Rhichie Gerard T. Brown, Mario C. Concepcion, Jr., Corazon M. Raymundo, Gregorio P. Rupisan, Jr., Alejandro E. Santiago, Wilfredo F. Sityar, Victor Ma. Regis N. Sotto, and LIGA Pres. Celestino U. Chua

**WHEREAS**, in developing countries like the Philippines, the direct causes of maternal mortality are similar, such as hemorrhage, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, unsafe abortion, and obstructed labor. These causes constitute the majority of obstetric complications resulting in maternal and fetal fatality. While numerous deaths are unclassified, it is clear that hypertension, hemorrhage and unsafe abortion are the three major causes of maternal mortality. These conditions can be prevented, and can be addressed through adequate medical care such as the presence of skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric and newborn care, when necessary, and access to family planning services;

**WHEREAS**, according to UNICEF, one of the major factors in the maternal or fetal deaths in the Philippines is the common Filipino practice of deliveries outside a health facility. Eight (8) out of ten (10) births in rural and urban poor areas are delivered outside a health facility and in the absence of medical professionals like doctors, nurses, and midwives. Most of these deliveries are home-based and attended by traditional birth attendants, commonly known as "hilot";

**WHEREAS**, a home delivery exposes the mother and her newborn to pregnancy and delivery complications, hence the necessity to promote facility delivery by skilled birth attendants.

**WHEREAS**, home births comprised 18% of deliveries in 2015 in the National capital Region, and 13% in Pasig City.

**WHEREAS**, despite the decrease in maternal mortality ratio from 1990 to 2015, the Philippines was unable to reach the MDG target set at 52/100,000 live births in 2015. Target Number 3 of Sustainable Development Goals provides for the acceleration in reducing maternal mortality ratio to less than 70/100,000 live births and neonatal mortality to as low as 12/1,000 live births by 2030.

**WHEREAS**, the City Government should give attention to the health and well-being of mothers and neonates. It has to implement various health reforms aimed at rapidly reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. These efforts should





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include local legislations on maternal health coupled with an active information campaign, training health and personnel, building and sustaining health facilities in urban areas.

**WHEREAS**, there is a compelling need to prevent full-term pregnant women from seeking the services of "hilots" to prevent and manage well any complication that may arise especially when delivery occurs at home where there are no adequate emergency facilities and equipment, both conditions can endanger the lives of the mother and child.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:**

**SECTION 1.** Home birth is hereby prohibited within the territorial jurisdiction of Pasig City.

**SECTION 2.** All Traditional Birth Attendants are hereby prohibited to deliver babies while all professional health practitioners are hereby required to deliver babies only in health facilities.

**SECTION 3.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the following shall mean:

1. Skilled Health Professionals – are providers such as midwives, doctors, or nurses who were educated, licensed, and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage pregnancies, childbirth, and the immediate newborn period, and in the identification, management and referral of complications in mothers and newborns.
2. Hilot or Traditional Birth Attendant – referred to as an unskilled attendant who is not educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage normal pregnancies.
3. Health Facility – shall mean hospital, health clinic, health infirmary, health center, and lying in clinics, birthing home with obstetrical and pediatric services whether public or private.

**SECTION 4.** All deliveries of pregnant women shall be exclusively referred to licensed health facilities and handled by skilled health professionals provided that the city or barangay shall endeavour to provide of facilitate assistance with transportation in cases of emergency.

Where home births are unavoidable, such as when immediate transport to the health facility is not possible, and giving birth is imminent where attendance of the professionals and fulfillment of their duties as midwives and health professionals is already present or when giving birth is





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imminent during calamity or disaster, the presence of these exceptional circumstances shall be incontrovertible; provided that the mother is referred to a licensed health facility the soonest possible time after the passing of the exceptional circumstance.

**SECTION 5.** Pasig City Health Department is hereby designated as the implementing agency of this Ordinance. This department may seek the assistance of other city government departments and offices in the proper implementation of this ordinance. Pasig City Health Department shall also extend livelihood training programs to Traditional Birth Attendants in order for them to have alternative source of income.

**SECTION 6.** Repealing Clause. All ordinances, administrative circulars and executive orders or parts thereof which are inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or amended.

**SECTION 7.** Any person who shall violate any provision of this ordinance shall be meted a penalty of:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – P1,000.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – P3,000.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – P5,000.00 and succeeding offenses

**SECTION 9.** This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of **February 2017** at Pasig City.

**VICTOR MA. REGIS N. SOTTO**  
Councilor

*[Handwritten signature]*  
**GREGORIO P. RUPISAN JR.**  
Councilor

*[Handwritten signature]*  
**RODRIGO A. ASILO**  
Councilor

*[Handwritten signature]*  
**MARIO C. CONCEPCION, JR.**  
Councilor

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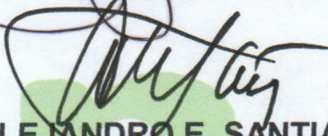
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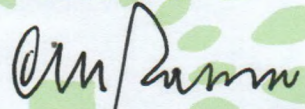
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RHICHIE GERARD T. BROWN  
Councilor

  
ORLANDO R. BENITO  
Councilor

  
ALEJANDRO E. SANTIAGO  
Councilor

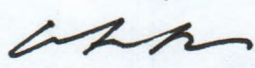
  
CORAZON M. RAYMUNDO  
Councilor

  
REGINO S. BALDERRAMA  
Councilor

  
ROSALIO D. MARTIRES  
Councilor

  
CELESTINO G. CHUA  
LIGA President

  
FERDINAND A. AVIS  
Councilor  
Minority Floor Leader

  
WILFREDO F. SITYAR  
Councilor  
Majority Floor Leader





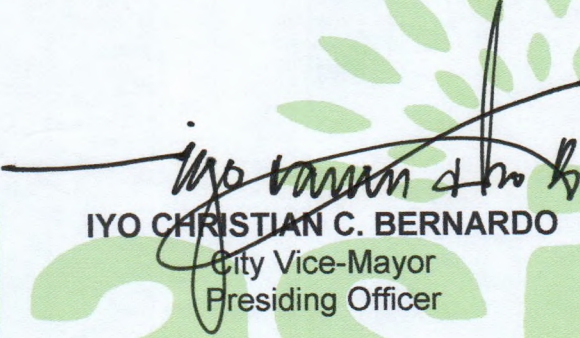
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Attested by:

  
IYO CHRISTIAN C. BERNARDO  
City Vice-Mayor  
Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

  
ROBERT C. EUSEBIO  
City Mayor

Attested by:

  
REYNALDO R. SAN BUENAVENTURA III  
Acting City Council Secretary