



MAY 06 2009

DepED ORDER
No. **45**, s. 2009

**INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PERSONAL SAFETY LESSONS (PSL) IN BOTH
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE**

To: Bureau Directors
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. Consistent with Section 13, Article 11 of the Philippine Constitution as reiterated in Section 32 of Republic Act No. 7610 otherwise known as "An Act Providing for Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse Exploitation and Discrimination, this Department hereby mandates the institutionalization of the use of the Personal Safety Lessons (PSL) in both elementary and secondary schools nationwide with the view of creating a friendly environment at the school level.
2. Children are at a constant risk to the threats of a cruel and violent environment due to their tender age and weak physical attributes. They are often the victims of abuse and exploitation. It is incumbent upon the Department to provide the children with special protection and ensure that they will grow up healthy individuals and eventually become productive citizens that can contribute to the country's development.
3. The Personal Safety Lessons shall serve as the guiding principles for the children's personal safety and protective behavior. They also enhance their social skills, self-esteem and the vital knowledge of their rights, as provided in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), codified within the context of the Filipino culture.
4. The enclosed guidelines are hereby issued to serve as the primary and guiding parameters in the implementation of PSL in all schools in the country.
5. The Regional Office shall monitor the PSL implementation and submit a consolidated report to the Office of the Undersecretary for Programs and Projects not later than two months after the opening of every school year.
6. All previous Memoranda, Orders, Circulars and/or guidelines inconsistent with this Order are deemed amended and superseded.
7. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Order is directed.

R. - P. Bacani
RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary
Officer-in-Charge

Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

DECS Memorandum: No. 249, s. 2001

Allotment:: 1- -(D.O. 50-97

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CURRICULUM

Learning Area, ARALING PANLIPUNAN

Learning Area, SIBIKA AT KULTURA/ HEOGRAPIYA, KASAYSAYAN AT SIBIKA

PUPILS

SAFETY EDUCATION

SCHOOLS

STUDENTS

R-Maricar/DO-Personal Safety Lessons
04-28-09

Enclosure to DepED Order 45, s. 2009

**GUIDELINES ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF
PERSONAL SAFETY LESSON (PSL) IN BOTH
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE**

I. GENERAL POLICY

The teaching of PSL in all public elementary and secondary schools under the Department of Education shall be strongly encouraged and supported to ensure the interest and welfare of the pupils/students.

The PSL shall be integrated in Sibika at Kultura/Heograpiya, Kasaysayan at Sibika (SK/HEKASI) in the elementary level and Araling Panlipunan (AP) in the secondary level. Likewise in the Character Education and Values Education respectively where a point of entry in the curricula is possible.

All teachers handling the above-mentioned subjects where PSL shall be integrated are required to attend PSL training prior to the teaching of PSL. Only PSL trained teachers are allowed to teach PSL considering the breath and dimension of the concept and skills to be developed among the teachers.

A pool of PSL trainers within the DepEd shall be developed to train SK/HEKASI and AP teachers on PSL nationwide. Only PSL experienced teachers and school administrators (principal and supervisors) are qualified to become PSL trainers, considering the complexity of child sex abuse.

The PSL is a program bounded by the noble principle of child protection to build a safe and just world for all children. Henceforth, a multidisciplinary team (MDT) that consists of representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Local Government Units (LGU), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Education (DepEd), and Department of Justice (DOJ) in the locale, shall be organized to support the schools (reporting and managing cases of child sex abuse) in the course of PSL implementation.

A PSL ad hoc committee at the national level shall be created to monitor the national implementation of PSL that includes but not limited to the following: 1) formulation of the general policies relevant to the implementation of PSL by the schools, and 2) overseeing of the upgrading (ongoing revisions) of the PSL materials to keep them relevant to the current curricula, trends and issues of child protection locally and internationally.

The Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA), a non profit organization is hereby recognized as the leading agency in providing information and technology on child-centered prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse in the schools.

DepEd Division Offices and CPTCSA shall work together to raise necessary funding for the implementation of PSL.

II. PSL IMPLEMENTATION SCHEME:

Considering the amount of resources needed (human and financial), the PSL institutionalization shall be implemented gradually at the city/municipal and provincial levels with the following national implementation scheme:

- 1) The overall implementation of PSL shall be monitored by the PSL adhoc committee which shall be composed of DepEd, DSWD, CWC, DILG, and CPTCSA with DepEd as the committee chair.
- 2) A general orientation about the PSL program and its national implementation shall be conducted at the regional level immediately after the release of the PSL institutionalization Order.
- 3) A separate orientation with the Local Government Units shall be conducted to seek financial support for the implementation of PSL at their respective locale.
- 4) The accreditation of the existing 72 CPTCSA trained PSL trainers across the country shall be conducted to create the first batch of certified PSL trainers.
- 5) Refresher course training sessions for the first batch of certified PSL trainers shall be conducted by CPTCSA prior to the first year of PSL national implementation.
- 6) PSL trainers training shall be conducted continuously by CPTCSA at least twice a year.
- 7) PSL teachers training in regions where PSL has already been implemented (3,4A, 5, 6,7, 8,9 CAR and NCR) shall be conducted by DepEd's PSL certified trainers.
- 8) PSL teachers training in regions 1, 2, 4B, 10, 11, 12, CARAGA and ARMM where PSL has not yet been introduced shall be conducted by CPTCSA. New batches of PSL trainers shall come from these areas.

III. LIMITATION on the IMPLEMENTATION of SCHOOL OFFICIALS and PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

DepEd recognizes that copyright over the Personal Safety Lessons and works derived therefore (the copyright) is the exclusive property of the CPTCSA (with respect to the materials it independently developed). Henceforth, CPTCSA is hereby authorized to develop, reproduce and publish training/ and or teaching materials for the Personal Safety Lessons.