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Organic Law of the National Child Welfare Agency (Patronato Nacional de la Infancia)

ORGANIC LAW OF THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS CHAPTER I

Of the nature and principles ARTICLE 1.-

Nature

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia is an autonomous institution with decentralized administration and its own budget. Its main purpose is to provide special and comprehensive protection to minors and their families, as a natural element and pillar of society. Its domicile will be in the capital of the Republic. It shall be the obligation of the State to provide the Patronato Nacional de la

The Foundation shall be provided with all the resources necessary for the proper fulfillment of its purposes.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 2.- Principles

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia shall be the governing institution in matters of childhood, adolescence and family and shall be governed by the following principles: a) The priority obligation of the Costa Rican State to recognize, defend and guarantee the rights of children, adolescents and children with disabilities. adolescence and the family.

b) The best interest of the minor.

c) The protection of the family as a natural and fundamental element of society, as the ideal means for integral development.

of the human being.

d) The comprehensive protection of children and adolescents, as well as the recognition of their rights and guarantees established in the Political Constitution, the norms of international law and the relevant laws.

e) The dignity of the human person and the spirit of solidarity as basic elements that will guide the institutional work.

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CHAPTER II

ARTICLE 3.- PURPOSES AND DUTIES ARTICLE

3.

The National Children's Trust shall have the following purposes:
a) Strengthen and protect children, adolescents and the family
within the best traditional values of being Costa Rican.
b) To guide and assist in the tasks of training and education of
parents, for the fulfillment of their duties and rights inherent to
parental authority.

c) To guide and assist in the tasks of training and education, for the

fulfillment and satisfaction of the rights and duties of

minors.

d) To guarantee minors the right to grow and develop and to have the right to

develop within a family, whether biological or adoptive.

e) To provide technical assistance and protection to children, adolescents and families at risk.f) Promote the values and moral principles that inspire the right to life, the family, education, peaceful coexistence, the mutual respect, culture, growth and dignified progress for all the inhabitants of the Republic.

g) Stimulate citizen solidarity and a sense of collective responsibility to strengthen, promote and guarantee the rights and duties of children and adolescents.

h) Promote the organized participation of civil society, parents,
state institutions and social organizations in the processes of
study, analysis and decision making regarding children,
adolescents and the family, in order to guarantee compliance
with the rights and duties of minors.

i) To strengthen, promote and supervise the initiatives and participation of non-governmental organizations in the comprehensive care of children, adolescents and families.j) Promote family integration through education and citizen training, in order to achieve a harmonious and democratic coexistence.

k) Maintain permanent inter-institutional coordination, with the participation of organized society, in order to execute and overseeing child and adolescent policies. I) To dictate and implement, in coordination with civil society and state institutions, policies on children, adolescents and the family.
m) Organize communities to cooperate in the design of local diagnoses and the implementation of preventive and comprehensive care programs for minors.

n) To plan, execute and supervise prevention programs jointly with the respective institutions, with the purpose of eradicating, in minors, all forms of delinquency, prostitution, mistreatment, sexual abuse, drug addiction, alcoholism, abandonment or other causes that harm their integrity.

ñ) Promote training and education programs for parents, on their

responsibilities and duties, as well as

To promote, together with other institutions, programs and

activities that inculcate and reaffirm the practice of spiritual,

moral, social and family values.

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ARTICLE 4.- Powers. The attributions of the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia shall be:

a) Manage the updating and enactment of the laws necessary for the effective fulfillment of the rights of children, adolescents and families.

b) To promote and encourage the recognition of civic duties and those inherent to the rights of citizenship.

minors.

c) Promote and disseminate the rights established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

d) To monitor and audit compliance with the rights of minors and periodically evaluate public policies on children and adolescents.

e) To carry out diagnoses and research on the economic, social, psychological, legal and cultural reality of children, adolescents and the family and to disseminate the results of these studies.

f) To provide supervision and advice on children, adolescents and family matters to public and private organizations as well as to the civil society that may require it.

g) Establish trusts to finance innovative programs and models for the benefit of minors and their families.

h) Promote compliance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

i) To train governmental, non-governmental and municipal bodies and, in general, civil society, on the principles of the aforementioned Convention and compliance with the policies dictated by its Board of Directors.

j) Collaborate with the entities in the promotion and execution of specific projects and programs related to children and adolescents.

k) To intervene as a party in judicial and administrative proceedings involving any minor who requires such intervention, in order to guarantee the full enjoyment of his or her rights.

l) To legally represent minors who are not under parental authority or guardianship, as well as those who are under the parental authority of a person not fit to ensure the guarantee of their rights.

(Sinalevi's Note: By means of Article 2 paragraph VII) of the law that approves the Family Procedural Code, No. 9747 of October 23, 2019, the previous paragraph will be amended. Pursuant to Transitory III of the aforementioned law said amendment will come into force as of October 1, 2022, therefore, as of that date the new text will be the following: "I) Legally represent minors who are not under the attributes of parental responsibility or guardianship, as well as those who are under those attributes of a person not fit to ensure them the guarantee of their rights").

m) To provisionally dispose of the custody and upbringing of minors, in order to protect their best interests.

n) To issue reasoned binding resolutions in cases of conflict, until such time as the courts reach a final decision on the matter.

ñ) To administer the assets of minors when they lack legal representation or when, having legal representation, there are reasonable grounds for doubt as to the proper administration of the assets in accordance with the legislation in force.

o) Promote national and international adoption, and grant consent for the adoption of minors through the National Adoption Council, as the central administrative authority, according to the regulations in force within and outside Costa Rica.

p) Resolve applications for the operation of public and private organizations whose purpose is to develop activities related to the care of minors.

q) To enter into national and international cooperation agreements to support and strengthen the fulfillment of the Entity's objectives.

r) Accept donations, inheritances, bequests and assignments of rights, as well as any other transaction that benefits the assets of the Institution.

s) To administer the fund provided by the Executive Branch to assist, throughout the country, the child population at risk.

t) To issue the internal regulations necessary for the proper fulfillment of its objectives.

u) The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (PANI) will coordinate and chair the Redcudi Advisory Commission.

(The above paragraph was added by Article 3 of the law for the reactivation and strengthening of the national network of child care and development, No. 9941 of February 15, 2021).

(As amended by Article 6 of Law No. 10038 of September 29, 2021)

v) The other powers established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the legislation in force on the subject.

(The numbering of the previous paragraph was thus modified by article 3 of the law for the reactivation and reinforcement of the national child care and development network, No. 9941 of February 15, 2021, which transferred it from the former paragraph u) to paragraph v).

Article sheet

TITLE II

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE

BODIES CHAPTER I

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARTICLE 5.- Integration

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia shall be governed by a Board of

Directors composed of the following five members:

a) An Executive President, appointed by the Governing Council,

who shall preside over the Board. He shall remain in office for a

period of four years, and shall not receive a per diem for his

participation in the meetings of the Board.

b) Four persons appointed for a term of four years by the Governing Council. They may be re-elected only once. Whoever replaces a member shall be appointed for the remainder of the term of the previous appointment.

A Vice President, appointed from the Board of Directors, who shall replace the Executive President during his temporary absences.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 6.- Requirements of the members The members of the Board of Directors must be Costa Rican, of recognized moral solvency and at least five years of proven experience in the field of children, adolescents and families.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 7.- Impediments to be a member

He/she may not be appointed as a member of the Board of Directors:

a) Whoever is related to another member of the Board of

Directors by blood or affinity up to and including the third

degree.

b) Whoever is an official of the Institution.

c) The one declared in a state of bankruptcy or insolvency.

d) Whoever, by a final judgment, is disqualified from

holding a public office.

e) Whoever, by a final judgment, has been convicted of a crime that

harms the integrity of a minor.

ARTICLE 8.- Election of new members New members shall be elected within thirty days prior to the expiration of the respective term.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 9.- Causes for dismissal

The Governing Council shall remove members of the Board of Directors from office, at the request of the Board of Directors or on its own initiative, when:

a) Incur in any of the prohibitions established by law.

b) Abandon their duties or fail to attend three consecutive

sessions for unjustified causes, both circumstances in the

judgment of the Board.

c) Incurred in criminal liability, provided there is a final judgment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the absence of this instance, at the

discretion of a qualified majority of the Board of Directors, they may

be suspended from their functions until such time as there is a final judgment.

In such cases, the Governing Council shall appoint the new members for

the remainder of the corresponding term, within fifteen days of the

Board's communication.

In the case of the suspensions referred to in paragraph c) of the

The Governing Council shall replace the member of the Governing Council with a member of the Governing Council.

http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param2=NR TC&nValue1=1&nValue2=41328&strTipM=TC the Board of Directors for the period of the suspension.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 10.- Responsibility of the members In the exercise of their duties, the members of the Board of Directors shall shall be civilly and criminally liable. Before assuming their functions, they shall provide a surety bond, the amount of which shall be established periodically by the Governing Council.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 11.- Powers

The Board of Directors shall have the following powers:

a) To coordinate, in accordance with the provisions of this
 law and other regulations, national policies on children,
 adolescents and family matters and to ensure their
 compliance; likewise, to establish institutional policies related
 to minors.

b) To manage the financial and technical resources necessary to achieve the purposes of the Institution.

c) Approve the ordinary and extraordinary budgets of the

Entity, as well as their modifications.

d) Appoint the internal auditor, and the technical and

administrative managers, as well as apply the disciplinary

regime to them.

e) To issue, interpret, amend and repeal the internal regulations

necessary for the correct operation and soundness of the company

administration.

f) To authorize the creation of programs and projects of the Entity, as well as to supervise their execution.

g) Authorize the creation of Boards for the protection of children and adolescents.

 h) Appoint the members of the National Adoption Council as the central administrative authority in adoption matters, and of the Regional Councils for the Adoption and Relocation of Minors.

i) To create the offices and services required for the achievement of its purposes.

j) Approve the operating plans and programs, the annual report and financial statements.

k) To award tenders and delegate those determined by the Board.Proceed likewise with any other type of administrative contract.

 To request from the Legislative Assembly the corresponding authorization to sell, alienate, assign or donate real estate.

m) Exercise the functions that correspond to a collegiate body, in accordance with the technical norms that, regarding administration public, as established by the legal system.

n) To exercise disciplinary authority over the officers of the

Institution and to delegate it when circumstances so warrant.

ñ) Approve the agreements that the Institution enters into with other

institutions, both public and private.

ARTICLE 12.- Sessions Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in private, unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors. A regular meeting shall be held weekly and as many extraordinary meetings as necessary. All meetings shall be convened ex officio by its Chairman. Extraordinary meetings shall be requested by the Chief Executive Officer or the Chairman of the Board. three members, in writing and at least twelve hours in advance. Only the matters contained in the official notice shall be discussed at such meetings.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 13.- Quorum

Three members shall constitute a quorum. Resolutions shall be adopted by an absolute majority of the votes present. In the case of appointments or the application of the disciplinary regime to personnel appointed by the Board of Directors, a qualified majority shall be required.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 14.- Per diems

The directors of the Board of Directors shall receive a per diem allowance in the following amounts shall be fixed by the Governing Council in accordance with the law. A

maximum of eight sessions per month shall be remunerated.

ARTICLE 15.- Duties of the Secretary The Secretary of the Board of Directors shall have the following duties:

- a) Prepare the agenda for each of the sessions.
- b) Review draft minutes and resolutions for approval.
- c) To sign the administrative resolutions issued by the Board.

d) Send, with due notice, to the members of the Board and to those participating in each meeting, invitations, information or proposals on the matters to be discussed.

e) Receive and review correspondence from the Board of Directors.

f) Any other functions that the laws and regulations may require.

Article sheet

CHAPTER II

INTERNAL AUDIT

ARTICLE 16.- Internal audit unit

The Institution shall have an internal audit unit, headed by the

internal auditor and reporting to the Board of Directors.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 17.- Appointment

The Board of Directors shall appoint, by qualified majority, an auditor,

for an indefinite term and irremovably, in accordance with the Organic

Law of the Comptroller General of the Republic.

The auditor must be a certified public accountant and an active

member of the auditor's association. His/her functions and powers shall

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be in accordance with the provisions of the following

in the Organic Law of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic and its respective manuals.

Article sheet

CHAPTER III

OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY ARTICLE 18.- Guiding rules The management of the Executive President shall be governed by the following rules: a) He/she shall be the most senior officer and may delegate functions to managers. He/she shall be essentially responsible for ensuring that the correct execution of the decisions of the Board of Directors, as well as to coordinate the action of the Board of Trustees with other State institutions. He shall also perform the other functions reserved by law for the President of the Board of Directors and others assigned to him by the Board itself. b) Represent the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia judicially and

extrajudicially, with powers of attorney general without the power of attorney.

limit of sum. Their legal capacity shall be verified by the publication of their appointment in the official gazette.

c) He/she shall be responsible for appointing and removing the officials he/she appoints, granting them leaves of absence and

imposing sanctions, in accordance with the laws and regulations. He may not appoint persons related to him by blood or affinity up to and including the third degree. d) He/she shall not be entitled to a per diem as a member of the Board of Directors; he/she shall only earn the salary determined by law. He/she shall be a full-time prohibited official; therefore, he/she may not hold any other public office or engage in any other remunerated activity, public or private, except for teaching in institutions of higher education, provided that it is not incompatible with his/her duties.

e) He/she may be freely removed by the Governing Council, in which case he/she shall be entitled to the worker's compensation that he/she is entitled to.

corresponding. In order to determine it, the rules established by labor legislation shall be followed.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 19.- Requirements

The Executive President shall be a professional of recognized moral solvency, with no less than five years of professional practice and proven experience in the field of children, adolescents and families.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 20.- Impediments

No person may be appointed auditor or officer of the Board of Trustees who has been a member of the Board of Directors during the immediately preceding twelve months, or who is related, by blood or affinity up to and including the third degree of kinship, to any member of the Board of Directors during the immediately preceding twelve months.

member of the Board of Directors.

Article sheet

CHAPTER IV

MANAGEMENT SECTION I

OF THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT

ARTICLE 21.- Managements

To ensure the efficient operation of the National Board of Trustees The Executive Presidency will also be supported by an Administration Management and a Technical Management.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 22.- Requirements of the Administration Manager The Administration Manager shall meet the following requirements: a) Be a professional in Administration, with at least a bachelor's degree and an active member of his or her college.

b) At least five years of experience in the practice of the specialty.

c) Have experience in the management of human, financial and IT resources.

d) Be of recognized moral solvency.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 23.- Powers

The duties of the Administration Manager shall be as follows a) To administratively direct the Institution, following the policies dictated by the Board of Directors and the directives of the Executive President. However, in particular cases, the President may assume said direction in whole or in part.

b) To plan, organize, coordinate, direct, control and evaluate actions aimed at securing human, financial and material resources to achieve the Institution's objectives.

c) To ensure, in close coordination with the Technical Manager and the Executive President, the correct distribution of institutional resources and their rational use, in order to guarantee the efficient execution of the programs, projects and activities to be developed by the Patronato for the benefit of children, adolescents and families.

d) Recommend to the Board of Directors of the Board of
 Trustees, through the Executive President, the implementation of
 new strategies, methodologies, norms and work procedures,
 tending to improve the institutional operation.

Article sheet

SECTION II

OF THE TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

ARTICLE 24.- Requirements

http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param2=NR TC&nValue1=1&nValue2=41328&strTipM=TC The Technical Manager shall meet the following requirements: a) Be a professional with at least a bachelor's degree in the area of Social Sciences and be a member of the respective professional association.

b) Have a minimum of five years of experience in child and family issues.

c) Be of recognized moral solvency.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 25.- Powers

The Technical Manager shall have the following attributions: a) He/she shall exercise the technical direction of the institutional programs and services directed to children, adolescents and families, according to the policies dictated by the Board of Directors and the directives of the Executive President. However, in particular cases, the President may assume such direction in whole or in part. b) He/she will keep a strict control over the technical operation of the entity by organizing resources in the best way, in order to guarantee the efficiency of the programs and services. c) Implement, with the Executive President, the guidelines and policies emanating from the Board of Directors, related to the technical operation of the Institution, through planned systems, in order to fully comply with the objectives and goals. d) In close coordination with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Executive Officer, he/she shall ensure the correct distribution of the

The purpose is to ensure the efficient performance of the programs and the executing offices.

e) Recommend to the Board of Directors, through the Executive President, the manuals of procedures necessary for the proper technical and professional performance of the areas assigned to programs and services.

Article sheet

CHAPTER V

OF LOCAL OFFICES AND BOARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS SECTION I OF LOCAL OFFICES ARTICLE 26.- Legal representatives In those parts of the national territory where the Board of Directors authorizes the creation of local offices, the Executive Presidency shall appoint a legal representative, who shall assume the judicial and extrajudicial representation of the Board of Trustees in the jurisdictions, without prejudice to the general representation exercised by the Executive President.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 27.- Requirements

The legal representative must be a professional in law and

active member of its college. Within his jurisdiction, he may act with independence of judgment; but hierarchically he shall be subject to the Executive Presidency, without prejudice to the subordination exercised by the head in administrative matters.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 28.- Required professionals

The local offices will be staffed by professionals in the fields of law, social work, psychology, administration and others, according to the needs of each locality.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 29.- Integration of the Boards In each local office, there will be a local office protection board. The Board of Trustees is the support body for the execution of the plans, programs and projects of the Patronato in the jurisdiction.

Article sheet

SECTION II

OF THE BOARDS FOR THE

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND

ADOLESCENTS

ARTICLE 30.- Boards for the protection of children and

adolescents The Boards for the protection of children and

adolescents shall be

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The Board shall be composed of a representative of the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia, who shall chair it; a representative of the municipality of the canton; a representative of the educational sector, resident in the community and appointed by the respective Regional Directorate, and three community representatives of recognized moral solvency. The latter shall be popularly elected in accordance with the rules and procedures established in the Regulations of this law.

Except for the representative of the Board of Trustees, the other members shall be appointed for two-year terms; they shall be eligible for re-election and shall serve ad honorem.

The representative of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the Executive President of the Institution, based on lists to be submitted by the local offices.

(Tacitly extended by article 179 of the Code on Children and Adolescents). No. 7739 of January 6, 1998, which indicates that each board shall also have a representative of the adolescent population of the community, who must be over fifteen years of age and shall act with voice and vote).

Article sheet

ARTICLE 31.- Financing

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia will provide the Boards with the financial resources required for their operation and the execution of specific programs, without prejudice to the own resources assigned to them.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 32.- Powers. The Boards for the protection of children and adolescents shall report hierarchically to the Board of Directors and shall have the following attributions:

a) Coordinate, adapt and execute the application at the community level of the comprehensive protection policies dictated for children and adolescents.

b) Collaborate with the local offices of the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia in the implementation of jointly designed plans, projects and programs.

c) To oversee compliance with protection policies and the provision of services by local public entities and the execution of programs by individuals. To this end, they shall submit quarterly reports to the Board of Directors of the Board of Trustees.

d) Facilitate the local application of non-custodial sanctions for adolescent offenders.

e) Report on cases within its competence and refer them to the judicial authority.

f) To report crimes against children and adolescents to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

g) Verify, in the locality, the requirements and working conditions of minors who exceptionally require work.

h) Monitor the development of paid work performed by minors in the community.

i) Advise and train local inhabitants to comply with the policies for children and adolescents.

j) To dictate the regulations for its proper functioning.

k) Manage the funds allocated to them.

(Sinalevi's note: See paragraph 180 of the Childhood and Adolescence Code N°7739 of January 6, 1998, which establishes other functions of the boards for the protection of children and adolescents).

Article sheet

ARTICLE 33.- Sessions

The Child and Adolescent Protection Boards shall meet in ordinary session at

least once a week and in extraordinary session when convened by its

Chairman or at the request of at least four members.

of its members.

The Boards shall meet with two thirds of the total number of its members.

members.

The members may not be substituted or represented at the

meetings; their participation shall be mandatory, therefore, they

must justify their absences to the Chairman of the Board.

Article sheet

TITLE III

OF THE SOURCES OF INCOME

SINGLE CHAPTER

ARTICLE 34.- Sources of financing

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia will rely on these sources of funding to fully comply with its objectives and develop its programs in an optimal manner:

a) The State shall transfer five percent (5%) of the income tax collected in the previous fiscal year to the Patronato in a single transfer, in the month of January of each year. Of the total of these resources, twenty percent (20%) shall be endowed to the National Child Care and Development Network.

(Thus added the previous subsection by Article 3° of the law for the reactivation and reinforcement of the national network of child care and development, No. 9941 of February 15, 2021. Previously this subsection had been repealed by article 31 aside c) of title IV of the Law for the Strengthening of Public Finances, No. 9635 of December 3, 2018).

b) The National Directorate of Social Development and Family Allowances shall transfer a minimum percentage of four percent (4%) of the Social Development and Family Allowances Fund to the Board of Trustees. The exact amount shall be determined by the justification of the Patronage based on the specific projects and programs to be elaborated. The Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic shall oversee compliance with this rule.

c) The amount allocated in accordance with article 234, paragraph a) of the Law of Traffic on Public Roads and Road Safety.

d) Revenues from donations and national and international loans, in accordance with the law.

e) Income from services and productive activities of the institution, which shall be included in the budget of the Board of Trustees.

(As amended by Article 249 of the Law on Traffic on Public Roads and Road Safety, No. 9078 of October 4, 2012).

TITLE IV

FINAL AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS SINGLE

CHAPTER

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 35.- Benefits

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia will enjoy the following benefits:

a) Exemption from payment of stamps and registration fees.

b) Exemption from national, direct or indirect taxes and duties.

c) Exoneration from the obligation to provide security for costs and deposits to guarantee liens, in litigation matters

where it is an active or passive party.

d) Unseizability of its assets, deposits, income and funds.

e) Franchise in postal, telegraphic and radiographic services.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 36.- Search warrants

When the facts and circumstances so warrant, the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia, through its legal representatives, may apply to the competent judge for search warrants, in order to comply with its obligations to safeguard the physical and psychological stability of the children. emotional support of minors. The orders shall be granted within twenty-four hours of the request and, if the If the judicial authority denies them, the decision must be sufficiently reasoned. The judicial and administrative police authorities, competent by reason of territory, shall be obliged to provide efficient cooperation for raids, with priority over any other

matter. Failure to comply with the above will give rise to disciplinary

liability for the employee, in accordance with the law.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 37.- Obligation to collaborate

In order to duly comply with the provisions of Article 55 of the Constitution, the institutions and governmental bodies are obliged to cooperate, in the areas of their competence, with the National Children's Trust in the comprehensive care of children and adolescents when requested to do so in order to achieve the full compliance of its purposes. The organs and institutions of the State shall collaborate with the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia, in the areas of its competence when requested by the Institution, in order to achieve the full compliance of its purposes.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 38.- Transfer of funds

The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia will be authorized to transfer funds from its budget to public and private organizations and individuals, with the authorization and supervision of the Comptroller General of the Republic. These resources will be used exclusively to implement and execute programs for the benefit of children, adolescents and families.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 39.- Hiring of services In order to ensure the efficient fulfillment of the purposes set forth in the present law, the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia shall may contract services that, for reasons of opportunity and convenience, cannot be rendered directly by its officers.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 40.- Regulations

The Executive Branch shall issue a general regulation to this law within the following terms The term of three months, counted from its effective date, cannot be extended.

Article sheet

ARTICLE 41.- Repeals

The Organic Law of the National Child Welfare Agency, No. 3286 of

May 28, 1964 and any other law or regulation that opposes it are hereby

repealed.

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ARTICLE 42.- Public order This

law is of public order.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

TRANSITORY I.- With the purpose of respecting the principle of alternation, for one time only, the appointments of the members of the Board of Directors shall be made in the following manner: a) Directors whose appointments expire on December 12, 1996 and May 2, 1998 will be extended until December 30, 1998. June 1998.

b) Directors whose appointments expire on June 13, 1998 andJune 12, 1999 will be extended until June 30, 2000.Whoever replaces a member in office shall be appointed for the remainder of the term of the previous appointment.

TRANSITORY II.- The sources of financing established in Article 34 of the present law shall be granted in their entirety as of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in progress at the time of its entry into force. this law. During this transition period, the Ministry of Finance, the General Directorate of Social Development and Family Allowances, the Budgetary Authority and the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic shall issue the technical and financial regulations necessary to guarantee to the National Children's Trust Fund a budget allocation no less than that received in the year prior to the The amount of the taxable income, as well as the amount of the taxable income, shall be increased by at least twenty-five percent (25%). TRANSITORY III.- Within a term of two years from the effective date of this law, the National Children's Trust shall make the adjustments in budgetary, financial, legal, administrative and operational matters, in order to fully assume the purposes and attributions established by this law. Effective as of its publication.

Article sheet

Date of generation: 07/09/2022 12:01:40 p.m.