

DUTIES OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS



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Protection of the Rights of Children Act

It is the fundamental duty of parents to look after, educate and raise the child with his or her best interests prioritized. Parents and guardians of a Child must consider the changing capabilities of the Child when making all decisions related to the Child. This would mean to be making decision that would take into account the extent to which the child is able to learn, gain knowledge, and understand things as the Child grows up and matures.

In general, a parents' duties are:

- (a) protecting and safeguarding the rights of the Child;
- (b) provide food, shelter, clean water and other safeguards in order for the child to grow up in the best of health;
- (c) providing the Child with the necessary vaccines, healthcare, and doing all things necessary to facilitate the Child's mental and physical well-being, their protection and development;
- (d) when parents have to be temporarily away from the Child, the parent should appoint a responsible person capable of protecting the Child's interest to look after the Child.

Parents also hold a special right to present before the law on behalf of the Child.

(Note: the responsibilities of the parents are also applicable to person/persons entrusted by the parents to look after the Child)

Health

Parents must register a Child's birth in accordance to law. Failure to do so would amount to negligence and action will be taken against the parents.

It is the duty of the parents to vaccinate Children in order to provide them with the healthcare and services stipulated in subsection (c) of this Section. Parents do not have the right to refuse to vaccinate their Children.

Education

It is compulsory for Children's parents and the State to educate Children living in the Maldives about elementary education, primary education and upbringing. This includes registering and sending their children to school regularly.

With regards to discipline, no form of violent, cruel and inhumane punishments should be enforced on the children.

Social

The Child's parents or persons who have been assigned the Child's guardianship at any particular time will have the utmost responsibility of providing the Child with the standard of living required for the Child's growth, to the best of their ability and financial capacity. .