



Republic of the Philippines  
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**  
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September 15, 2004

**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**

No. 23, series of 2004

**TO :** ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, SELF-GOVERNING BOARDS, STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

**SUBJECT :** INCLUSION OF ADOPTIVE AND STEP PARENTS AS LEGAL DEPENDENTS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 4(f), ARTICLE II OF RA 7875

Section 4 (f) of Republic Act 7875 prescribes that legal dependents of a member includes parents who are sixty (60) years old or above and not an enrolled member.

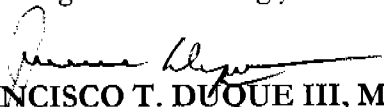
With the above-cited definition of "Parents" as expounded in the National Health Insurance Act of 1995, the Corporation hereby adopts the policy to include step-parents and adoptive parents of members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) within such context.

To ensure effective implementation of this Circular, the following terms are hereby defined, to wit:

- A. Step Parent – Any individual who automatically assumes such position vis-à-vis the biological child/ren of his/her spouse whose marriage is either extinguished by the death of the previous spouse or through annulment of marriage.
- B. Adoptive Parent – Any individual who automatically assumes parental authority by operation of the legal adoption process.
- C. Biological Parent– Any individual who has direct genetic relationship with the child rather than by adoption or marriage.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Please be guided accordingly.

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**  
President and Chief Executive Officer