**References to Natural Family Planning in the RPRH Law RA 10354**

*(FAVORING THE PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NFP SERVICES AND PROGRAMS)*

The RH Law (Republic Act No. 10354)

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SEC. 3. Guiding Principles for Implementation. – This Act declares the following as guiding principles:

(e) The State shall promote and provide information and access, without bias, to all methods of family planning, **including effective natural and modern methods** which have been proven medically safe, legal, non-abortifacient, and effective in accordance with scientific and evidence-based medical research standards such as those registered and approved by the FDA for the poor and marginalized as identified through the NHTS-PR and other government measures of identifying marginalization: Provided, That the State shall also **provide funding support** to **planning promote modern natural methods of family**, especially the Billings Ovulation Method, consistent with the needs of acceptors and their religious convictions;

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(e) Family planning refers to a program which enables couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and to have access to a full range of safe, affordable, effective, non-abortifacient **modem natural** and artificial methods of planning pregnancy.

(l) Modern methods of family planning refers to safe, effective, non-abortifacient and legal methods, **whether natural or artificial**, that are registered with the FDA, to plan pregnancy.

(m) **Natural family planning** refers to a variety of methods used to plan or prevent pregnancy based on identifying the woman’s fertile days.

SEC. 7. Access to Family Planning. – All accredited public health facilities shall provide a full range of modern family planning methods, which shall also include medical consultations, supplies and necessary and reasonable procedures for poor and marginalized couples **having infertility issues who desire to have children:** Provided, That family planning services shall likewise be extended by private health facilities to paying patients with the option to grant free care and services to indigents, except in the case of non-maternity specialty hospitals and **hospitals owned and operated by a religious group**, but they have the option to provide such full range of modern family planning methods: Provided, further, That these hospitals shall immediately refer the person seeking such care and services to another health facility which is conveniently accessible: Provided, finally, That the person is not in an emergency condition or serious case as defined in Republic Act No. 8344.

**No person shall be denied information and access to family planning services, whether natural or artificial:** Provided, that minors will not be allowed access to modern methods of family planning without written consent from their parents or guardian/s except when the minor is already a parent or has had a miscarriage.

SEC. 19. Duties and Responsibilities. – (a) Pursuant to the herein declared policy, the DOH shall serve as the lead agency for the implementation of this Act and shall integrate in their regular operations the following functions:

SEC. 25. Appropriations. – The amounts appropriated in the current annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) for reproductive health and natural and artificial family planning and responsible parenthood under the DOH and other concerned agencies shall be allocated and utilized for the implementation of this Act. Such additional sums necessary to provide for the upgrading of faculties necessary to meet BEMONC and CEMONC standards; the training and deployment of skilled health providers; natural and artificial family planning commodity requirements as outlined in Section 10, and for other reproductive health and responsible parenthood services, shall be included in the subsequent years’ general appropriations. The **Gender and Development (GAD) funds of LGUs and national agencies may be a source of funding** for the implementation of this Act.

Def of terms: Family planning information and services which shall include as **a first priority making women of reproductive age fully aware of their respective cycles to make them aware of when fertilization is highly probable, as well as highly improbable; .**