

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

Suppliment tal-Gazzetta tal-Gvern ta' Malta, Nru. 21,290, 26 ta' Lulju, 2024

Taqsim A

MALTA

ATT Nru XXIX tal-2024

ATT maħruġ b'ligi mill-Parlament ta' Malta.

ATT li jemenda l-Att dwar l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Adozzjoni, Kap. 495 u ligijiet varji dwar minuri.

ACT No. XXIX of 2024

AN ACT enacted by the Parliament of Malta.

AN ACT to amend the Adoption Administration Act, Cap. 495 and various laws relating to minors.

Nagħti l-kunsens tiegħi.

(L.S.)

MYRIAM SPITERI DEBONO
President

26 ta' Lulju, 2024

ATT Nru XXIX tal-2024

ATT li jemenda l-Att dwar l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Adozzjoni, Kap. 495 u ligijiet varji dwar minuri.

Il-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità tal-istess, ħarġet b'liġi dan li ġej:-

1. It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att huwa l-Att tal-2024 li jemenda l-Att dwar l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Adozzjoni u Ligijiet Varji dwar Minuri.

Titolu fil-qosor.

TAQSIMA I
EMENDI GHALL-ATT DWAR L-AMMINISTRAZZJONI TAL-ADOZZJONI

2. Din it-Taqsima temenda l-Att dwar l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Adozzjoni u għandha tinqara u tinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Att dwar l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Adozzjoni, hawn iżjed 'il quddiem f'din it-Taqsima msejjaħ l-"Att prinċipali".

Emendi għall-Att dwar l-Amministrazzjoni tal-Adozzjoni. Kap. 495.

3. L-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jigi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali.

(a) it-tifsira "adozzjoni" għandha tiġi sostitwita bit-

tifsira ġdida li ġejja:

Kap. 16.
Kap. 602.

""adozzjoni" tfisser adozzjoni lokali jew bejn pajjiż u ieħor magħmula skont id-dispożizzjonijiet tal-Kodiċi Ċivili, id-dispożizzjonijiet tal-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Minuri (Ħarsien Alternattiv), id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u kwalunkwe regolamenti magħmula taħthom;"

(b) fit-tifsira "adozzjoni miftuħa" il-kliem "jzommu kuntatt" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "jzommu kuntatt, li jista' jkun fiżiku, virtwali jew permezz ta' korrispondenza"; u

(ċ) minnufih wara t-tifsira "qorti" għandha tiġi miżjuda din it-tifsira ġdida li ġejja:

Kap. 16.

""Servizz tal-Adozzjoni fi ħdan id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġġ)" tfisser is-servizz tal-adozzjoni offrut mill-aġenzija nazzjonali li hija akkreditata mill-Awtorità Ċentrali, skont il-Konvenzjoni tal-Aja sabiex twettaq adozzjonijiet lokali u dawk bejn pajjiż u ieħor;"

Emenda tal-artikolu 4 tal-Att prinċipali.

4. Il-paragrafu (g) tas-subartikolu (1) tal-artikolu 4 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bil-paragrafu ġdid li ġej:

Kap. 16.
Kap. 602.

"(g) li jagħmel rakkomandazzjonijiet lill-Ministru għal implimentazzjoni aktar effettiva tat-Titolu III tal-Ewwel Ktieb tal-Kodiċi Ċivili, tad-dispożizzjonijiet tal-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Minuri (Ħarsien Alternattiv), u tad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, u ta' kwalunkwe regolamenti magħmula taħtu;"

Emenda tal-artikolu 7 tal-Att prinċipali.

5. Fis-subartikolu (3) tal-artikolu 7 tal-Att prinċipali l-kliem "ntalbu d-dettalji tagħha." għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "ntalbu d-dettalji tagħha, liema kunsens jista' jinkiseb fi kwalunkwe stadju tal-proċeduri."

Żieda ta' artikolu ġdid fl-Att prinċipali.

6. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 9 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi miżjud dan l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

"L-Awtorità Ċentrali tiżgura li jiffasslu Rapport ta' wara l-Adozzjoni.

9A. L-Awtorità Ċentrali għandha tiżgura li jiffasslu r-Rapporti ta' wara l-Adozzjoni u jiġu mibgħuta lill-awtoritajiet relattivi."

Emenda tal-artikolu 22 tal-Att prinċipali.

7. L-artikolu 22 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) il-paragrafu (g) tas-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi mħassar; u

(b) is-subartikoli (4) u (5) tiegħu għandhom jiġu mħassra.

8. Is-subartikolu (2) tal-artikolu 23 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

Emenda tal-artikolu 23 tal-Att prinċipali.

"(2) Fil-każ ta' adozzjoni lokali, ir-Rapporti ta' wara l-Adozzjoni għandhom jitfasslu kull sena għal perjodu ta' mhux inqas minn tliet (3) snin jew sakemm il-persuna li tkun ġiet addottata tagħlaq tmintax (18)-il sena, skont liema data tiġi l-ewwel."

9. L-artikolu 24 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit b'dan l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

Sostituzzjoni tal-artikolu 24 tal-Att prinċipali.

"Tqabbil. 24. Fil-każ ta' addozzjonijiet lokali, id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh), bhala l-aġenzija nazzjonali, għandu jqabbel ġenituri adottivi prospettivi ma' minuri mogħtija għall-adozzjoni, fejn tali tqabbil ikun fl-aħjar interess tal-minuri:

Iżda s-Servizz tal-Adozzjoni fi hdan id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) għandu jzomm lista tal-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi kollha approvati mill-Bord għall-Adozzjoni, li jesprimu l-interess tagħhom sabiex ikunu inklużi fil-lista għal adozzjonijiet lokali:

Iżda wkoll ġenituri adottivi prospettivi approvati jistgħu jikkuntattjaw lis-Servizz tal-Adozzjoni fi hdan id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) direttament jew jistgħu jiġu riferuti minn kwalunkwe aġenzija tal-adozzjoni akkreditata f'Malta sabiex jitpogġew fuq l-imsemmija lista."

10. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 24 tal-Att prinċipali, għandom jiġu miżjuda dawn l-artikoli ġodda li ġejjin:

Żieda ta' artikoli ġodda fl-Att prinċipali.

"Tqeghid temporanju f'kura alternattiva.

24A. Malli jkun avżat mid-Direttur għall-Ħarsien tat-Tfal li ġenitur ikollu l-intenzjoni li jċedi l-kura ta' minuri u jagħti l-minuri għall-adozzjoni, id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) jista' jqiegħed lill-minuri f'kura alternattiva bhala tqeghid temporanju, li fil-każ ta' tarbija ta' twelid għandu jkun għal perjodu ta' mhux inqas minn tmien (8) ġimghat.

Identifikazzjoni u tqabbil ma' ġenituri adottivi prospettivi approvati.

24B. (1) Fejn il-ġenituri jibqgħu bil-ħsieb li l-minuri jinghata għall-adozzjoni, id-Direttur għall-Ħarsien tat-Tfal għandu minnufih jinforma lis-Servizz tal-Adozzjoni fi ħdan id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) li għandu minnufih jidentifika l-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi kollha rreġistrati u approvati li l-profil u l-preferenzi tagħhom jaqblu ma' dawk tal-minuri.

(2) Is-Servizz tal-Adozzjoni fi ħdan id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) għandu, wara li jidentifika l-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi kollha rreġistrati u approvati li l-profil tagħhom jaqbel ma' dak tal-minuri, isejjah laqgħa ma' tal-inqas tliet (3) professjonisti ġejjin minn oqsma differenti li għandhom jinkludu:

- (a) terapista tal-familja;
- (b) psikologu;
- (ċ) ħaddiem soċjali fil-grad ta' 'senior social worker'; jew
- (d) persuna li hi professjonista li taħdem fi ħdan il-Fondazzjoni għas-Servizzi ta' Ħarsien Soċjali, li għandha tal-inqas tliet (3) snin esperjenza professjonali f'ħidma ma' tfal f'kura alternattiva, u li ma taħdimx mas-Servizz tal-Adozzjoni fi ħdan id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) jew ma' kwalunkwe aġenzija tal-adozzjoni akkreditata.

(3) Meta jiġu identifikati l-iktar ġenituri adottivi prospettivi adegwati, id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) għandu jinforma lill-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi identifikati b'dan it-tqabbil.

(4) Fejn il-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi identifikati jirrifjutaw it-tqabbil, id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) għandu jagħmel kuntatt mal-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi identifikati li jmiss.

(5) Fejn l-ebda mill-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi identifikati ma jaċċettaw it-tqabbil, id-Direttur Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) għandu javża lis-Servizz tal-Adozzjoni fi ħdan id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) b'dan u l-proċess tat-tqabbil għandu jerga' jibda mill-bidu.

(6) Meta l-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi identifikati jaċċettaw it-tqabbil, għandha tibda t-tranzizzjoni tal-minuri mal-ġenituri adottivi prospettivi hekk skont il-pjan imfassal mill-professjonisti.

(7) Kull laqgħa dwar il-faži tat-tqabbil għandha ssir fi tmint (8) ijiem tax-xogħol minn meta jkun avżat id-Direttur ikkonċernat, u l-proċess kollu ma għandux jieħu iktar minn tletin (30) ġurnata tax-xogħol sabiex jiġi konkluz.

Superviżjoni mill-Awtorità Ċentrali waqt it-tqabbil.

24Ċ. (1) Il-proċess ipprovdut fl-artikolu 24B għandu jiġi osservat mill-Awtorità Ċentrali f'kull waqt, li għandha tinnomina żewġ (2) professjonisti sabiex josservaw l-imsemmi proċess.

(2) L-Awtorità Ċentrali tista' twaqqaf il-proċess fi kwalunkwe stadju, meta jkun hemm suspett raġonevoli li mhux qiegħed jiġihares l-aħjar interess tal-minuri.

Taqsimha VIA Ġenituri Adottivi

Drittijiet u responsabbiltà -jiet tal-ġenituri adottivi.

24D. Bla ħsara għad-drittijiet u r-responsabbiltajiet tal-ġenituri adottivi skont dan l-Att jew kwalunkwe liġi oħra, ġenituri adottivi għandhom:

(a) jikkoperaw bi sħiħ mal-ħaddiem soċjali ewlieni li jkun qiegħed ifassal ir-Rapporti ta' wara l-Adozzjoni;

(b) f'każijiet ta' adozzjoni miftuħa, jiffaċilitaw il-kuntatt kif speċifikat fil-ftehim ta' adozzjoni miftuħa;

(ċ) jirċievu għajnuna u support professjonali adegwat;

(d) jipprovdu informazzjoni, kif magħrufa minnhom, lill-persuna adottata dwar l-istorja ta' ħajjithom, b'mod li huwa jista' jifhem, skont l-età u l-maturità tal-persuna adottata;

(e) japplikaw kwalunkwe rakkomandazzjonijiet u linji gwida mogħtija mill-professjonisti fl-aħjar interess tal-persuna adottata;

(f) jipparteċipaw u jikkoperaw waqt il-proċeduri sabiex jiġi mfassal l-ftehim ta' adozzjoni miftuħa."

11. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 26 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi miżjud dan l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

Żieda ta' artikolu ġdid fl-Att prinċipali.

"Rapporti dwar adozzjonijiet privati.

26A. (1) L-Awtorità Ċentrali għandha tkun responsabbli sabiex tirċievi rapporti dwar adozzjonijiet privati u tgħaddihom lill-Pulizija Eżekuttiva għall-investigazzjoni.

(2) L-aġenziji akkreditati kollha għandhom ikunu marbuta li jirrappurtaw kwalunkwe adozzjonijiet privati li jiġu għall-attenzjoni tagħhom lill-Awtorità Ċentrali."

TAQSIMA II EMENDA GĦALL-ATT DWAR IS-SAĦĦA

Emenda għall-Att dwar is-Saħħa. Kap. 528.

12. Din it-Taqsima temenda l-Att dwar is-Saħħa u għandha tinqara u tinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Att dwar is-Saħħa, hawn iżjed 'il quddiem f'din it-Taqsima msejjaħ l-"Att prinċipali".

Emenda tal-artikolu 27 tal-Att prinċipali.

13. L-artikolu 27 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) fis-subartikolu (2) tiegħu l-kliem "sittax-il sena" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "erbatax (14)-il sena" kull fejn jokkorru; u

(b) fis-subartikolu (4) tiegħu, il-kliem "trattament psikjatriku u għall-counselling" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "trattament psikjatriku, counselling, terapija, xogħol soċjali u youth work".

TAQSIMA III EMENDI GĦALL-ATT DWAR IL-PROTEZZJONI TAL-MINURI (ĦARSJEN ALTERNATTIV)

Emendi għall-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Minuri (Ħarsien Alternattiv). Kap. 602.

14. Din it-Taqsima temenda l-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Minuri (Ħarsien Alternattiv) u għandha tinqara u tinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Minuri (Ħarsien Alternattiv), hawn iżjed 'il quddiem f'din it-Taqsima msejjaħ l-"Att prinċipali".

Emenda għall-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali.

15. Fl-artikolu 2 tal-Att prinċipali, minnufih wara t-tifsira "Ċentru Terapewtiku u Sikur" għandhom jiġi miżjuda dawn it-tifsiriet ġodda li ġejjin:

"Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh)" tfisser id-Direttorat Kura Alternattiva (Tfal u Żgħażaġh) li jiġbor fih is-servizzi offruti lit-tfal f'kura alternattiva, is-servizz tal-adozzjoni u s-servizzi għaż-żgħażaġh;

"Direttur għall-Ħarsien tat-Tfal" tfisser id-Direttur għall-Ħarsien tat-Tfal li jinvestiga rapporti dwar tfal u jieħu l-azzjoni meħtieġa skont dan l-Att, fl-aħjar interess tat-tfal;"

Emenda tal-artikolu 31 tal-Att prinċipali.

16. L-artikolu 31 tal-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) il-paragrafi (b) u (g) tas-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandhom jiġu mhassra; u

(b) minnufih wara s-subartikolu (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi miżjud dan is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

"(1A) Il-Bord ta' Reviżjoni jista' jikkonsulta ma' kwalunkwe professjonisti indipendenti oħra, skont il-ħtieġa u l-każ inkwistjoni."

Mgħoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru 258 tal-15 ta' Lulju, 2024.

DAVID AGIUS
Deputy Speaker

ELEANOR SCERRI
Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

A 604

I assent.

(L.S.)

MYRIAM SPITERI DEBONO
President

26th July, 2024

ACT No. XXIX of 2024

AN ACT to amend the Adoption Administration Act, Cap. 495 and various laws relating to minors.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament, assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

Short title.

1. The short title of this Act is the Adoption Administration and Various Laws relating to Minors (Amendment) Act, 2024.

PART I
AMENDMENTS TO THE ADOPTION ADMINISTRATION
ACT

Amendments to
the Adoption
Administration
Act.
Cap. 495.

2. This Part amends the Adoption Administration Act and it shall be read and construed as one with the Adoption Administration Act, hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "principal Act".

Amendment of
article 2 of the
principal Act.

3. Article 2 of the principal act shall be amended as follows:

(a) the definition "adoption" shall be substituted by the

following new definition:

Cap. 16.
Cap. 602. "'adoption" means a local or an intercountry adoption made in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code, the provisions of the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act, the provisions of this Act and any regulations made thereunder;";

(b) immediately after the definition "Adoption Board" there shall be added the following new definition:

Cap. 16. "'Adoption Service within the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth)" means the adoption service offered by the national agency which is accredited by the Central Authority in accordance with the Hague Convention to carry out local and inter-country adoptions;"; and

(c) in the definition "open adoption" the words "maintains contact" shall be substituted by the words "maintains contact, which may be physical, virtual or through correspondence".

4. Paragraph (g) of sub-article (1) of article 4 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following new paragraph: Amendment of article 4 of the principal Act.

Cap. 16.
Cap. 602. "(g) making recommendations to the Minister for a more effective implementation of Title III of Book First of the Civil Code, the provisions of the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act and the provisions of this Act and of any regulations made thereunder;".

5. In sub-article (3) of article 7 of the principal Act the words "details are requested." shall be substituted by the words "details are requested, which consent may be obtained at any point in the proceedings.". Amendment of article 7 of the principal Act.

6. Immediately after article 9 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new article: Addition of a new article to the principal Act

"The Central Authority to ensure that Post Adoption Reports are drawn up. 9A. The Central Authority shall ensure that Post Adoption Reports are drawn up and sent to the relative authorities.".

7. Article 22 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of article 22 of the principal Act.

(a) paragraph (g) of sub-article (1) thereof shall be deleted; and

A 606

(b) sub-articles (4) and (5) thereof shall be deleted.

Amendment of article 23 of the principal Act.

8. Sub-article (2) of article 23 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following new sub-article:

"(2) In the case of a local adoption, the Post Adoption Reports shall be drawn up every year for a period of not less than three (3) years or until the adopted person turns eighteen (18) years, whichever date is the earliest."

Substitution of article 24 of the principal Act.

9. Article 24 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Matching.

24. In the case of local adoptions, the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth), as the national agency, shall match prospective adoptive parents with minors given up for adoption, where such matching is in the minor's best interests:

Provided that the Adoption Service within the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth) shall keep a list of all prospective adoptive parents approved by the Adoption Board, who express their interest to be included in the list for local adoptions:

Provided further that approved prospective adoptive parents may contact the Adoption Service within the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth) directly or may be referred by any accredited adoption agency in Malta to be placed on the said list."

Addition of new articles to the principal Act.

10. Immediately after article 24 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new articles:

"Temporary placement in alternative care.

24A. Upon being notified by the Director (Child Protection) that a parent intends to relinquish the care of a minor and give the minor up for adoption, the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth) may place the minor in alternative care as a temporary placement, which in the case of a newborn, shall be for a period of not less than eight (8) weeks.

Identifying and matching with approved prospective adoptive parents.

24B. (1) Where the parents retain the view that the minor is to be given up for adoption, the Director (Child Protection) shall immediately inform the Adoption Service within the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth) who shall immediately identify all registered and approved prospective adoptive parents whose profile and preferences match those of the minor.

(2) The Adoption Service within the Directorate for Alternative Care (Children and Youth) shall, after identifying all registered and approved prospective adoptive parents whose profile matches that of the minor, convene a meeting with at least three (3) professionals coming from different fields that shall include:

- (a) a family therapist;
- (b) a psychologist;
- (c) a social worker in the grade of 'senior social worker'; or
- (d) a person who is a professional who works within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, with at least three (3) years professional experience in working with children in alternative care, and who does not work with the Adoption Service within the Directorate for Alternative Care (Children and Youth) or with any accredited adoption agency.

(3) When the most suitable prospective adoptive parents are identified, the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth) shall inform the identified prospective adoptive parents of the match.

(4) Where the prospective adoptive parents identified refuse the match, the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth) shall contact the next identified prospective adoptive parents.

(5) Where none of the identified prospective adoptive parents identified accept the match, the Director Alternative Care (Children and Youth) shall notify the Adoption Service within the Directorate of Alternative Care (Children and Youth) and the said matching process shall start from the beginning.

(6) When the identified prospective adoptive parents accept the match, the transition of the minor with the prospective adoptive parents shall commence according to the plan drawn up by the professionals.

(7) Each matching phase meeting shall take place within eight (8) working days from the notification of the concerned Director, and the whole process shall not take longer than thirty (30) working days to be concluded.

A 608

Supervision by the Central Authority during matching.

24C. (1) The process provided in article 24B shall be observed by the Central Authority at all times, who shall nominate two (2) professionals to observe the said process.

(2) The Central Authority may halt the process at any stage, upon reasonable suspect that the best interest of the minor is not being adhered to.

Part VIA

Adoptive Parents

Rights and responsibilities of the adoptive parents.

24D. Without prejudice to the rights and responsibilities of adoptive parents under this Act or any other law, adoptive parents shall:

(a) cooperate fully with the key social worker drawing up Post Adoption Reports;

(b) in cases of open adoption, facilitate contact as specified in the agreement of open adoption;

(c) receive adequate professional assistance and support;

(d) provide information, as known by them, to the adopted person about their life story, in a manner that he may understand, according to the age and maturity of the adopted person;

(e) apply any recommendations and guidelines given by professionals in the best interest of the adopted person;

(f) participate and cooperate during proceedings to draw up the agreement of open adoption."

Addition of new article to the principal Act.

11. Immediately after article 26 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new article:

"Reports on private adoptions.

26A. (1) The Central Authority shall be responsible to receive reports about private adoptions and forward them to the Executive Police for investigation.

(2) All accredited agencies shall be bound to report any private adoptions which come to their attention to the Central Authority."

PART II

AMENDMENT TO THE HEALTH ACT

Amendment to the Health Act. Cap. 528.

12. This Part amends the Health Act and it shall be read and construed as one with the Health Act, hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "principal Act".

- 13.** Article 27 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of article 27 of the principal Act.

(a) in sub-article (2) thereof, the words "sixteen years" shall be substituted by the words "fourteen (14) years", wherever they occur; and

(b) in sub-article (4) thereof, the words "psychiatric treatment and to counselling" shall be substituted by the words "psychiatric treatment, counselling, therapy, social work and youth work".

**PART III
AMENDMENTS TO THE MINOR PROTECTION
(ALTERNATIVE CARE) ACT**

- 14.** This Part amends the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act and it shall be read and construed as one with the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act, hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "principal Act". Amendments to the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act. Cap. 602.

- 15.** In article 2 of the principal Act, immediately after the definition "cross-border foster care" there shall be added the following new definitions: Amendment of article 2 of the principal Act.

" "Director (Child Protection)" means the Director (Child Protection) who investigates reports concerning children and takes necessary action in accordance with this Act in the children's best interest;

"Directorate Alternative Care (Children and Youth)" means the Directorate Alternative Care (Children and Youth) which gathers within it services offered to children in alternative care, adoption services and youth services;"

- 16.** Article 31 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of article 31 of the principal Act.

(a) paragraphs (b) and (g) of sub-article (1) thereof shall be deleted; and

(b) immediately after sub-article (1) thereof there shall be added the following new sub-article:

"(1A)The Review Board may consult with any other independent professionals, in accordance to the necessity and the case in question."

A 610

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 258 of the
15th July, 2024.

DAVID AGIUS
Deputy Speaker

ELEANOR SCERRI
Clerk of the House of Representatives