



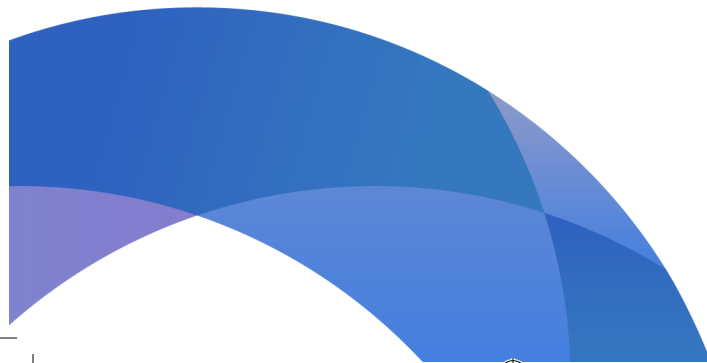
THE CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT





OVERVIEW OF THE CCPA

- The Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) received final approval from Parliament in 2004.
- The Act is a definitive move to strengthen the legislative framework for the care and protection of children in keeping with Jamaica's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- The CCPA introduces new standards for the treatment of children.
- The Act removes the fragmentation of legislation relating to the welfare of children.
- It replaces the Juvenile Act, and is used in conjunction with other Acts such as The Offences Against the Person Act.





PRINCIPLES OF THE CCPA



- Parental responsibility and governmental support for the welfare of children.
- Community responsibility for the reporting of abuses against children.
- Increased penalties for violations of the rights of children and other offences under the Act.
- Embraces the concept of the best interests of the child.
- The safety of the child.
- The child's physical and emotional needs and level of development.
- The importance of continuity in the child's care.
- The child's religious and spiritual views among other factors.
- The views of the child when decisions relating to his/her care and well-being are being made.
- Children are entitled to be protected from abuse, neglect, harm, and maltreatment.
- The family is the preferred environment for the care and upbringing of children.





PROVISIONS

UNDER THE CCPA

- Office of The Children's Advocate to act in legal matters on behalf of children.
- The establishment of a central Children's Registry for the reporting of abuse of children.
- Formulation of standard principles to be upheld in dealing with matters affecting children.

Any person who is vested with the responsibility of caring and safe-guarding the well-being of a child, and commits an offence against the child, shall be presumed to have violated the child.

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