

Kogi State Child's Rights Law

Simplified Version



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Introduction - Protect The Child Foundation



Protect the Child Foundation is a child-focused organization dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of every child. We work to ensure that the children are safe, educated, and empowered to reach their full potential. This simplified version of the Child's Rights Law was developed so even the youngest children can understand their rights and responsibilities. Our goal is to make the law child-friendly, clear and accessible, ensuring that no child is left behind.

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Protect The Child Foundation (PTCF) is a non governmental, humanitarian and policy organisation focused on advancing The Rights of women, children and Persons with Disabilities. This simplified version of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law of Kogi State, 2022 was produced by Protect The Child Foundation under the Project Ebulejonu with the support of the French Embassy Fund.t



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Protect The Child Foundation



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Part II - Rights and Responsibilities of a Child



In Nigeria, a **child** is any person **below 18 years old**. Anyone under 18 is legally protected by the **Child's Rights Law**.



After 18, the person is **considered** an **adult** (age of majority)



Every decision about a child must **think** first about what is **best** for the **child**.



Children must always be given **protection** and **care** for their well-being.

Part II - Rights and Responsibilities of a Child



Children have the right to **life**, to **grow**, and to be **healthy**.



Every child must have a **name** and be officially registered.



Children can **rest, play**, and **enjoy** culture and art.



Children have the right to **family, love**, and **care**.



Children have the right to **good health, food, clean water**, and **medicine**.



Children **must** go to **school** - education is **free** and compulsory.

Part II - Rights and Responsibilities of a Child

Every child has a **right to inherit** from their parents and cannot be denied because of gender or family background.

Every child **deserves respect** and must not be abused, enslaved, or treated cruelly.

Using a child for **drugs, begging, or any form of exploitation** is a crime punishable by **fine or jail**.



Children with disabilities must get **extra care** and **support**.

A child has a duty to **respect** their parents and all elders.

A child has a duty to **respect** Nigeria's national symbols (like the flag and the anthem)

Part III - Protection of the Rights of the Child



No **child marriage** or **betrothal**.



No **tattoos, cuts,** or **harmful marks** on children.



No using children for **drugs, crimes,** or **slavery**.



No child **trafficking, prostitution,** or **pornography**.



No child should do **hard** or **dangerous work**.

No sexual activity
with a **child** - it is a
crime with **serious**
punishment.

No **harmful books**,
films, or **media** for
children.

Part III - Protection of the Rights of the Child

Government can
step in if a child
is in **danger** of
harm.



Children can be
taken to **safety
homes** if needed.



Government can
order protection to
keep children **safe**.

Children in
danger must be
helped quickly.

Part V - Children in Need of Care and Protection



Children **without** parents or whose parents cannot **care** for them must be **protected**.

Showing or selling bad or **sexual images of children** is illegal and punishable by **fine or jail**.

Parents must still contribute to the child's **welfare** if able.

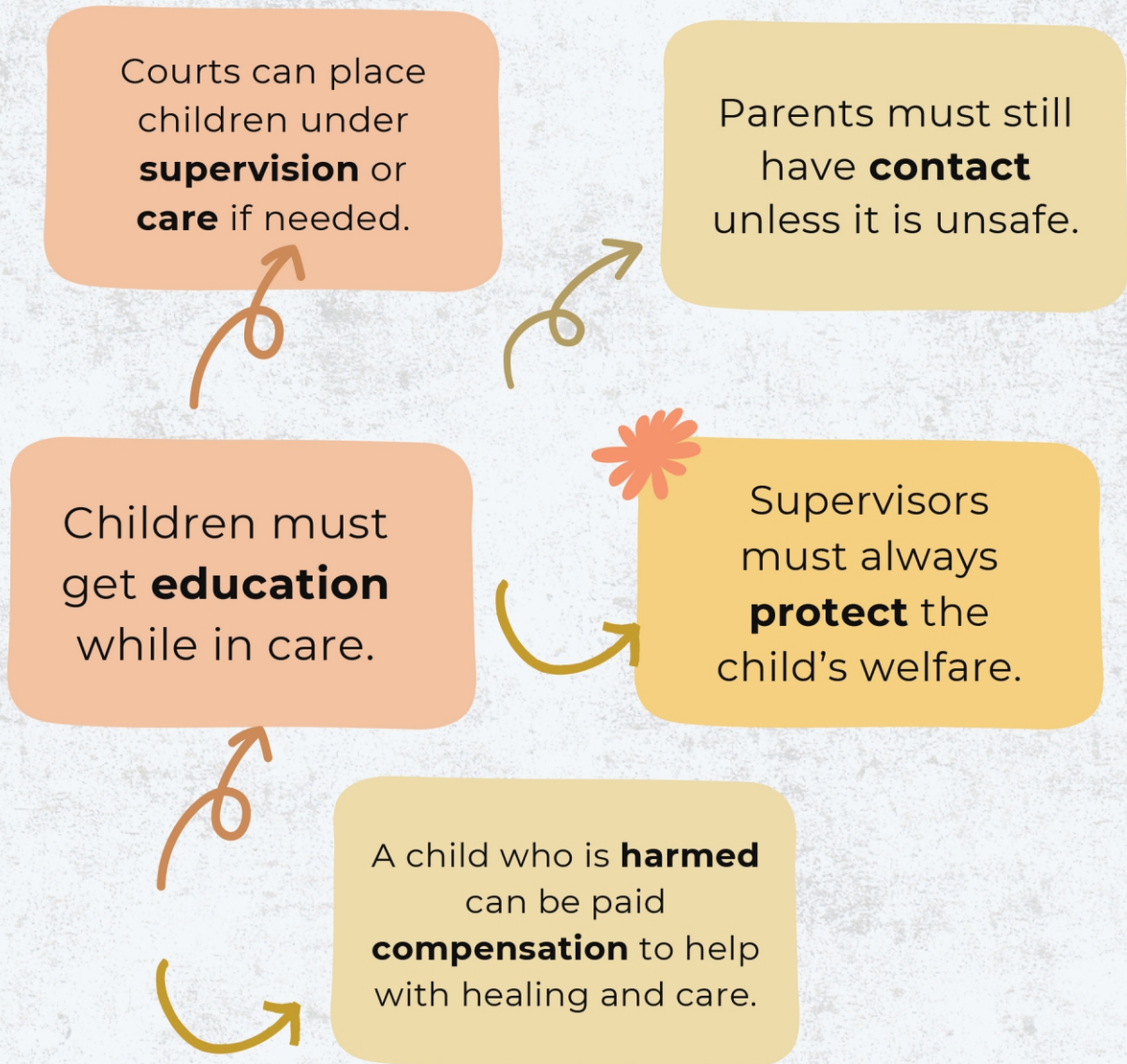
A parent or guardian who refuses to enrol a child in school **commits an offence** and can be **punished by law**.



The government can order **support** for children in **need**.

It is **illegal** to make **tribal marks or tattoos on a child**. Offenders can be **finned or jailed**.

Part VI -Care and Supervision

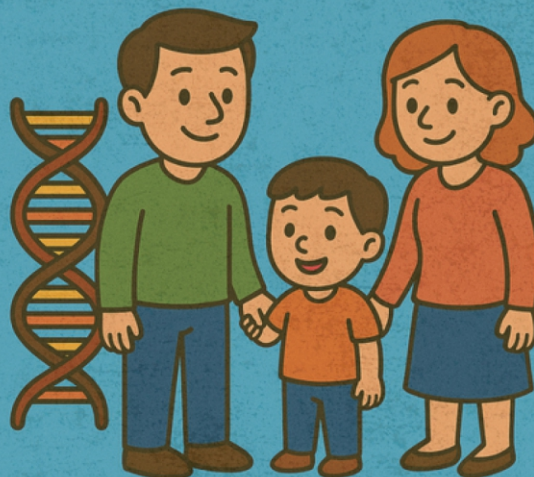


Courts can use blood or DNA tests to **know** who a child's parents are.

Tests must **respect** the child's **rights**.



FINDING PARENTS



Part VI -Care and Supervision

Parents or guardians must take **care** of children.

Courts decide custody based on the child's best **interest**.

Children's wishes and religion should be **respected**.

BEST CUSTODY



It is a crime to keep a child **unlawfully**.

Part IX - Guardianship

- Guardians must **care** for children and their property.
- Guardians must act in the best **interest** of the child
- Courts can **approve** or **remove** guardians if needed..

GUARDIANS PROTECT



Part X - Wardship



- Courts can take special **responsibility** for children in **danger**.
- Children under wardship must be **cared** for and **protected**.



Part XI - Fostering

- Children can live with foster parents if their parents **cannot care** for them.
- Foster parents must be **approved** and **care** properly for the child.
- Government can remove a child from foster care if not **safe**.



Part XII - Adoption

Children without parents can be adopted into **safe** families.

Adopted children must be treated like **real** family members.



Courts must **approve** adoption to **protect** the child.

No one can **buy** or **sell** children for adoption.

Part XIII - The Family Court

- Family courts **handle** all child-related cases.
- Courts must always think of the child's **best** interest.
- Children **must** have lawyers and fair hearings.



Part XIV - Child Minding a Day Care



Day care centers **must** be registered and **safe**.

Government can **inspect** and close **unsafe** centers.



Part XV - Government Support for Children and Families

- Government must **provide** services for children in **need**.
- Government must provide **housing, health, and education support**.
- Government must **help** children **without** families.



Part XVI - Community Homes



Children can live in community homes run by **government** or **organizations**.



Homes must be **safe** and **supervised**.

Part XVII - Registered Children's Homes

Children's home must be **registered** with the government.



Only **approved** people can run children's homes.

Part XVIII - Supervision Functions

Government must **inspect** children's homes and services.



Government must **fund** research and **run** child welfare.

Part XIX - Child Justice System

Children who break the law must be judged in child courts, not **adult** courts.



Children must have **privacy** during trials.

Children must not be punished **harshly**.



Focus must be on helping children **change**, not only punishment

Part XX - Supervision Orders

Courts can order children to be **supervised**.



Supervisors must guide children to **better** life.

Government can run
special centers for
children in conflict with
the law.



Children must be
helped to return to
society after leaving
such centers.

Part XXII -Child Rights Committee

Government must
set up **committees**
at state and local
levels to **protect**
children.



Committees must
ensure that
children's **rights**
are **respected**
everywhere.

Children must **respect**
parents, elders, and
help their families and
communities.



Every child has the **right**
to **enjoy** all the
fundamental human
rights provided in
Chapter 4 of the Nigerian
Constitution.

VALIDATION NOTE

This Simplified Version of the Kogi State Child's Rights Law, 2009 was designed and produced by Protect The Child Foundation under its Project Ebulejonu with the support of the French Embassy Fund. This Simplified law was thoroughly reviewed and validated by key stakeholders during a one-day Validation Meeting organized by Protect The Child Foundation held on 29th October, 2025.

The validation exercise brought together representatives from :

The Nigeria Police, Ministry of Justice(Directorate of Gender-Based Violence), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Eradication, Kogi State Universal Basic Education Board, Office of the Public Defender and Citizens Rights Commission, Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Union of Journalists, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), African Women Lawyers Association, Persons with Disabilities Association, Child Protection Network, Concerned Youth and Teens Forum of Nigeria, Nigeria Girl Guide Association, Christian Association of Nigeria and Jamatul Nasril Islam Kogi State Chapter

After careful review and collation of inputs, participants confirmed that this simplified version accurately reflects the key provisions, intent and spirit of the original law as passed by the Kogi State House of Assembly. It was also affirmed that the document is suitable for public use, sensitization and community awareness to promote protection of women, children and persons with disabilities across Kogi State, Nigeria.

This validated version therefore serves as an official, user-friendly booklet to enhance understanding and enforcement of the law.

Validated this **29th day of October, 2025** in **Lokoja, Kogi State**, Nigeria.

Elizabeth Achimugu

Elizabeth Ebulejonu Achimugu Esq
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