

**A CRITICAL STUDY ON THE LAWS GOVERNING ABANDONED PARENTS IN
MALAYSIA**

By

Willson Peter (2010821508)
Nor Abilla Mahat (2010894598)

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Bachelor in Legal Studies (Hons)

**Universiti Teknologi MARA
Faculty of Law**

December 2012

The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, we would like to thank to our supervisor of this project, Madam Nurrulhuda Ahmad for the valuable guidance and advice. She inspired us greatly to work in this project. Her willingness to motivate us contributed tremendously to our project. We also would take this opportunity to thank our beloved family, especially our parents, as well as to our friends as their never ending support, love, and understandings throughout the course of completing this project deserve an honourable mention. Without helps of the particulars that mentioned above, we would face many difficulties while doing this. We hope that this research project will be beneficial to other researchers who are pursuing their research in the same area as well as providing information to the public.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to give a clear view about the current laws in Malaysia in administrating matters relating to the abandoned parents. This study will focus on the issue of inefficiency of these laws in protecting the rights of the abandoned parents as well as calling for the implementation of a specific act to govern this issue. This study also discloses the comparison between the laws relating to the abandoned parents in Malaysia to two other countries, namely Singapore and the United States. The aim of this study is to assist the legislator on improving the existing law to ensure that every aspect that may cause possible threat is well covered.

TABLE OF CONTENT

Acknowledgement	ii
Abstract	iii
Contents	iv
List of Cases	

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Research Background	1
1.2	Problems Statement	4
1.3	Research Objectives	4
1.4	Research Methodology	5
1.5	Scope	5
1.6	Limitations	6
1.7	Significance	6
1.8	Literature Review	7
	1.8.1 Conceptual Framework	7
	1.8.2 Legal Framework	8

CHAPTER TWO: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF RESEARCH

2.0	Introduction	11
2.1	Theory of Filial Maturity	11
	2.1.1 Definition	11
	2.1.2 Opposing ideas	12
	2.1.3 Advantages	13
2.2	Theory of Filial Responsibility	14

2.2.1	Definition	14
2.2.2	Importance of Filial Responsibility	15
2.3	Conclusion	16

CHAPTER THREE: LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES IN MALAYSIA

3.0	Introduction	17
3.1	Background of Laws in Malaysia	17
3.1.1	Malaysian Destitute Persons Act 1977	18
3.1.2	Islamic Family Law Act 1984	18
3.1.3	Policies and International Law	20
3.2	Conclusion	23

CHAPTER FOUR: LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN SINGAPORE AND UNITED STATES

4.0	Introduction	24
4.1	Background of Laws in Singapore	24
4.1.1	The Maintenance of Parent Act in Singapore	24
4.1.2	The Amendments to Maintenance of Parents Act	26
4.1.3	Legal Issues	28
4.2	Background of Laws in United States	29
4.2.1	The Filial Responsibility Statutes in United States	29
4.2.2	The Pennsylvania Filial Responsibility Law	31
4.3	Conclusion	33