

# LAW PROPOSAL

## Better rights for single-parent families now

**Multi-kid families' parents** according to the law are the ones who have parental care for at least four children from one or more marriages, legalised, legally recognised or adopted, who are unemployed and have not reached the age of 23 or are studying at recognised tertiary schools of university and technological education and recognised educational institutions in the country or abroad or fulfilling their military obligations and have not completed the twenty-fifth year of age. Children with any disability equal to 67% or more are included in this group.

A parent without a spouse, who has parental custody and custody of his children and is the only person liable for the maintenance thereof lies in this category if he has three children of the same or different marriages or legally recognised or adopted or born out of marriage, who are unmarried and have not reached the age of twenty-three or who are studying at recognised higher educational institutions of university and technological education and recognised educational institutions domestic or other, or fulfilling their military duty.

**The term "Single parent family"** means the family in which there are minor children (under 18) who have only one parent, either because the other parent died or due to divorce or because the parent was never married. The two forms that the single parent family can take are; the single-parent family with a mother as the only parent (which is also the majority of single-parent families in Greece) and the single-parent family with the only parent being the father.

**Problems.** Unemployment is affecting single parent families as there is no second income in the family. Government care facilities are unable to cover childcare needs for free or at low cost. The possibility of finding work is double as difficult in terms of caring for children who have a single parent but also particularly hard working hours in the private sector. The Minimum Guaranteed Income process does not meet the immediate and pressing needs of the single parent family, that are still being examined since 2014. The legal assistance for the dissolution of marriage and ensuring children's rights (parental care and feeding) has been nullified and essentially canceled, resulting in cancelation of the rights to obtain the allowance and children's rights enshrined in international conventions. The single parent, de facto, is obliged to cover most of the economic and educational needs of the children. These responsibilities, combined with the absence of the second income in the family budget make the single-parent families one of the most vulnerable groups, at risk of inadequate financial resources and social exclusion. The effects of financial difficulties that he /she faces depend, both from the contribution of the former partner and from family and other social networks help, as well as from welfare regulations and state facilities, such as benefits, loans, etc. The difficulties in finding work, the high costs and childcare and hard work schedules are just some of the potential problems of single parent.

**Rights / allowances.** The single parent support allowance is determined by the number of dependent children at € 40 per month for each dependent child. It is established especially for dependent children, from the third child and on, the special allowance of (€ 500) per year for each child if the family, provided that the income amounts to 45.000€ per year. Citizens and their family members are entitled to reduced tickets for moving with public transport.

**All in all,** taking into consideration all the difficulties and problems that a single-parent family faces in everyday basis, i think that it is only logical to demand some measures that could aid these families and ease their pain. Of course the government has some measures and i am surely not suggesting that «multi-kid» families have an easy everyday routine, but we believe that single-parent families have been neglected and should be offered more concern and help and at-least have equal aid with multi-kid ones, something that can happen through laws that only the government can establish.

*The Greek team*