

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007

Salient features of the Act are given below:

1. Senior citizens is one who is 60 and above
2. Parents, though not yet sixty, are also covered for maintenance / welfare under this act.
3. "Children" includes son, daughter and grand children excluding minors.
4. In the case of senior citizens or parents who can not maintain themselves from their own income or property, their children are obligated to maintain them – provide food, shelter, medical attendance and clothing;
5. In the case of childless parents / senior citizens, relatives who are eligible to inherit their property (self earned or inherited, tangible or intangible) are obligated to take care of parents.
6. If such obligation (paras 4 & 5) is not forthcoming on its own, the senior citizen or parent may apply to the tribunal for an order against their children for a regular monthly allowance to be paid
7. The amount of such monthly allowance can be a maximum of Rs 10000/□
8. The monthly allowance quantum may be revised by the tribunal from time to time.
9. The tribunal may pass interim order before deciding on the final sum also.
10. The tribunal should dispose off cases within 90 days; A thirty day's extension of time may be taken by the tribunal in exceptional cases
11. Senior citizen or an NGO authorized by him may apply to the tribunal; The tribunal may take up suo moto cases as well
12. Social Welfare officer in the district / RDO is the Maintenance officer. Maintenance officer may represent the senior citizen if so requested.
13. A conciliation officer may also be asked by the tribunal to talk to both parties for an amicable settlement
14. If a person who is responsible to take care of a senior citizen, abandons the senior citizen, then the offender may be tried in a court of law and fined rs 5000/□ or jailed for three months or both. Abandonment is a cognizable offence and bailable.

15. No lawyer is allowed to represent either party before the tribunal.
16. No civil court can entertain any appeal in matters connected by this act.
17. If either party is dissatisfied they may approach the Appellate Tribunal for further reddresal.
18. The Act provides for construction, maintenance, running of Old age homes for indigent senior citizens.
19. The act also says rules may specify the standards and various types of services to be provided by old age homes which are necessary for medical care and means of entertainment to the inhabitants of such homes.
20. It also makes the State govt responsible for the security, protection and safety of property of senior citizens.

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