

## **Abstract**

*‘Beyond Bars: Barriers and Success Factors of Diversion Program for Children in Conflict with the Law in the Philippines’*

An Abstract of the Thesis by  
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Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) are under the age of eighteen who are alleged, accused, or adjudged of having committed a criminal offence. The diversion program, as mandated by Republic Act No. 9344, also known as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in the Philippines, offers these children an alternative to formal court proceedings by focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration rather than punishment. Interventions may include counselling, education, skills training, values formation and community service, and may take place in community settings or residential facilities such as the Bahay Pag-Asa (House of Hope). The House of Hope is a temporary residential facility for Children in Conflict with the Law, which is managed by the local government or the Department of Social Welfare and Development. It serves as a rehabilitation centre where CICL undergo structured interventions. Community-based diversion programs aim to prevent CICL from being institutionalised by providing interventions at the local and barangay levels.

The study aims to examine the challenges encountered by Children in Conflict with the Law in both accessing and completing the diversion programs. It also seeks to identify the factors that contribute to their success in these programs. To gather comprehensive insights, the researcher conducts interviews, either in-person or online, with CICL (including those who are now adults and were once involved in the system), as well as with duty bearers, which include social workers and program facilitators.