

Moret Law, 1870

- Article 1. All children of slave mothers born after publication of this law are declared free.
2. All slaves born between 17 September 1868 and the publication of this law are acquired by the State by means of a 125 peseta payment to their owners.
 3. All slaves who have served under the Spanish flag, or in any way assisted troops during the Cuban insurrection, are declared free. . . . The State will pay an indemnity to slaveowners who remained loyal to the Spanish cause, but it will not pay indemnities to rebel slaveowners.
 4. Slaves aged 60 or more at the publication of this law will be declared free without compensating their owners
 5. All slaves belonging to the State for whatever reason are declared free, including those with emancipation papers who received State protection.
 6. Freedmen (*libertos*) discussed in articles 1-2 will remain under the apprenticeship (*patronato*) of their mothers' owners until payment of indemnities as stipulated in article 11.
 7. The apprenticeship referenced in the previous article imposes upon the *patrono* the obligation to maintain their clients, dress them, assist them in their illnesses, and give them a basic education necessary to exercise a trade or profession. The *patrono* acquires all custodial rights, including the right to take advantage of the freedman's labor without compensation until the age of 18.
 8. Upon reaching the age of 18, the freedman will earn half the daily wage of a free person in the same trade or profession. . . .
 9. At the age of 22, the freedman will acquire the full enjoyment of his rights, ending the apprenticeship (*patronato*)
 10. The apprenticeship also will end as a result of the following conditions: the freedman's marriage, after the age of 14 for girls and 18 for boys; verified abuse by the *patrono* or failure to carry out the obligations assigned in article 7; or when a *patrono* prostitutes or permits the prostitution of a freedman.
 11. The apprenticeship is transmissible by all methods known in law and renunciabile for just cause. Natural or legitimate parents who win their freedom may reinvidicar the apprenticeship by paying an indemnity to the *patrono* to compensate for the expenses incurred to benefit the freedman. . . .
 12. Within one month of the publication of this law, the Superior Civil Governor will provide lists of the slaves covered by articles 3 and 5.
 13. The freedmen (*libertos*) and freed slaves referenced in the preceding article will remain under the authority of the State, which is responsible for protecting them and giving them the means to earn their subsistence without infringing upon their liberty in any way. Those who prefer to return to Africa will be taken there. . . .