



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY



Reference No. 24CRS02-08-18941

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2024- 24

TO : ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRARS/OICs AND
THE GENERAL PUBLIC

SUBJECT : Reiteration of Memorandum Circular No. 2020-14 dated
07 July 2020 re: Dissemination of Joint Memorandum
Circular No. 2020-01

DATE : 27 August 2024

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is one of the lead agencies of the government that was tasked to oversee the implementation of the Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) services, particularly the conduct of pre-marriage orientation and pre-marriage counselling sessions and dissemination of related policies and implementation guidelines to Local Civil Registrars and solemnizing officers. Following the 1st PMOC National Technical Working Group meeting held last 07 June 2024, the PSA issues this memorandum circular to reiterate the “Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counselling Program Implementing Guidelines of 2018” to strengthen its implementation to achieve the goal of the program.

Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 965, the Family Code of the Philippines, the Local Government Code of 1991, and the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (Republic Act No. 10354), a PMOC Program is implemented to prepare contracting parties or would-be-couples to effectively assume their roles as spouses and parents within the bounds of marriage.

In line with this, all the contracting parties must undergo orientation and counseling by accredited PMOC counselors even those who are exempted from marriage license and couples who shall be married in the *Kasalan ng Bayan*. A Certificate of Marriage Counseling shall be issued prior to the issuance of Marriage License and the solemnization of the marriage.



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Reference No. 24CRS02-08-18941

Subject: Reiteration of Memorandum Circular No. 2020-14 dated 07 July 2020 re: Dissemination of Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01

Date: 27 August 2024

In the absence of accredited PMOC counselors in a specific Local Government Unit (LGU), couples can seek certification from neighboring LGUs with accredited PMOC counselors which will be recognized and accepted by the LGU with no accredited counselors.

Furthermore, a copy of the Memorandum Circular No. 2020-14 issued by the PSA on 7 July 2020 and a copy of Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01 dated 15 June 2020 are attached hereto for your reference.

For your information and guidance.



CLAIRE DENNIS S. MAPA, PhD

Undersecretary

National Statistician and Civil Registrar General



CSM/MEG/ECQ

Attachments:

1. Memorandum Circular No. 2020-14 dated 07 July 2020
2. Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01 dated 15 June 2020



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Reference No. CRMD-2020-07-1321

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.2020- 14

TO : ALL PSA REGIONAL DIRECTORS/OICs
ALL PSA PROVINCIAL OFFICERS/OICs
ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRARS/OICs
ALL SHARIA CIRCUIT REGISTRARS/OICs

SUBJECT : Dissemination of Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01

DATE : 07 July 2020

The Philippine Statistics Authority is one of the lead agencies of the government that was tasked to oversee the implementation of the Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) services, particularly the conduct of pre-marriage orientation and pre-marriage counselling sessions through alternative and innovative modalities. On 15 June 2020, Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01 regarding Supplemental Guidelines to the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2018 or the "Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program Implementing Guidelines of 2018" became effective.

In this connection, we would like to disseminate the contents of the aforementioned policy issuance for the information of our field offices and other stakeholders. Copy of which is attached hereto for your reference.

For your information and proper guidance.

DENNIS S. MAPA, Ph.D.
Undersecretary
National Statistician and Civil Registrar General

MLM/FSS/MBG/RDF

Attachment:

1. *Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01*



Management
System
ISO 9001:2015
TUV Rheinland
Certificate No. 2200
ID: 0102510291



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Department of the Interior and Local Government
Department of Health
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Commission on Population and Development
Philippine Statistics Authority

Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01

To: All Provincial Governors, City/Municipal Mayors, Civil Registrars, PMOC Program Implementers, Parties to Intended Marriages, and Solemnizing Officers

Subject: SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES TO THE JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1, SERIES OF 2018 OR THE "REVISED PRE-MARRIAGE ORIENTATION AND COUNSELING (PMOC) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES OF 2018"

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

Pursuant to Presidential Decree 965, the 1987 Family Code, the Local Government Code, and the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (RA 10354), a Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program is implemented to prepare contracting parties or would-be-couples to effectively assume their roles as spouses and parents within the bounds of marriage.

To implement the program, the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2018 otherwise known as the "Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program Implementing Guidelines of 2018" is hereby supplemented with these guidelines to create a Steering Committee, amend the roles of the PMOC National Technical Working Group, expand the composition of the local PMOC Teams, and recognize the Solemnizing Officers as strong partner in the implementation of the program.

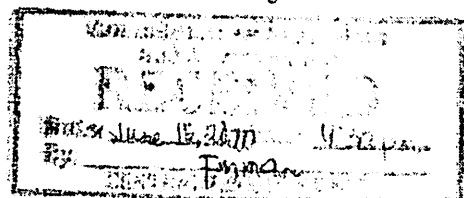
SECTION 2. CREATION OF STEERING COMMITTEE

- 2.1. There shall be constituted a PMOC Steering Committee composed of agency heads or its designated or authorized representative with the position or rank not lower than Assistant Secretary-level from the following national agencies:

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Members

Commission on Population and Development
Department of the Interior and Local Government
Department of Social Welfare and Development

Page 1 of 5



Department of Health
Philippine Statistics Authority

The Commission on Population and Development shall serve as and provide for Secretariat functions in the undertakings of the PMOC Steering Committee.

- 2.2. The PMOC Steering Committee shall have the following task and functions:
- 2.2.1. Develop and issue policies, guidelines and protocols for the efficient implementation of the PMOC Program;
 - 2.2.2. Appoint and designate a permanent representative to the PMOC NTWG with a position and rank not lower than a Director level;
 - 2.2.3. Delegate authority to PMOC NTWG to decide and act on PMOC related implementation issues and concerns;
 - 2.2.4. Approve and allot necessary budget for PMOC related activities; and
 - 2.2.5. Attend the bi-annual Steering Committee Meetings on the months of March and September of the year.

SECTION 3. NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

- 3.1 The PMOC NTWG shall oversee the implementation of the PMOC Program. The NTWG is composed of the permanent representatives of the five (5) agencies appointed by the Agency Heads or its designated Steering Committee member, as follows:

Chairperson	Commission on Population and Development
Vice-Chairperson	Department of the Interior and Local Government
Members	Department of Social Welfare and Development
	Department of Health
	Philippine Statistics Authority

The PMOC NTWG may, from time to time or if needed, invite/include technical officers of the member-agencies to provide inputs during NTWG discussions.

The Commission on Population and Development shall serve as and provide for Secretariat functions in the undertakings of the PMOC Steering Committee.

- 3.2 The NTWG shall have the following task and functions:
- 3.2.1 Manage the review, modification, development, consolidation, recommendation of policies and strategies and provision of other technical inputs in relation to the effective operationalization of the PMOC program;
 - 3.2.2 Coordinate and recommend the necessary resource allotment and actions of the agencies and organizations at the Steering Committee for the effective operationalization of the PMOC program;

- 3.2.3 Discuss and resolve arising issues in relation to the implementation of the PMOC program;
- 3.2.4 For the effective operationalization of the PMOC program, provide technical guidance through policy and program advisories directed to regional, and provincial PMOC TWGs as well as local PMOC teams;
- 3.2.5 Develop and adopt a PMOC manual with corresponding training program designs and periodically review and improve the same;
- 3.2.6 Set up a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the implementation of the PMOC program that includes the preparation of annual report of implementation to be submitted to the National PMOC TWG member agency/organization principals;
- 3.2.7 Develop and implement regulations for the certification/accreditation of non-government institutions as training providers on PMOC-related trainings;
- 3.2.8 Evaluate and certify the competency of non-government institutions – nationally based or those that cover more than one region as its area of operation – to provide PMOC-related trainings and subsequently issue their certificate of accreditation;
- 3.2.9 Perform and act on any additional task as may be required in the effective implementation of the PMOC program; and
- 3.2.10 Attend the NTWG regular quarterly meeting scheduled on the months of January, April, July, and October of the year. Furthermore, special NTWG meeting may also be conducted as needed following the agreement of the PMOC NTWG members during the conduct of the regular meetings.

SECTION 4. PMOC TEAM

- 4.1 The PMOC Team shall include the Local Civil Registrar's Office as a mandatory member as follows:

Team Leader	Appointed or Designated City/Municipal Population Officer
Mandatory Members	Representatives from the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City/Municipal Health and Nutrition Office • City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Office • Local Civil Registrar's Office
Pre-Marriage Counselor	Any PMOC Member or individual duly accredited by the DSWD as Pre-Marriage Counselor, who will provide pre-marriage counseling session pursuant to EO 209.
Optional Members	Representatives from the:

- Other relevant local offices such as but not limited to Agriculture, Education, GAD, etc.
- Civil Society Organization and Faith Based Organizations such as Solemnizing Officers

SECTION 5. AUTHORIZED SOLEMNIZING OFFICER AS MEMBER OF LOCAL PMOC TEAM

Article 16 of the 1987 Family Code requires all contracting parties, in which one or both parties are, between the ages of 18 - 25 years old must undergo pre-marriage counseling to be provided by: a) priest, imam or minister authorized to solemnize marriage, or by b) marriage counselor duly accredited by the proper government agency.

- 5.1 **Coverage.** For the purposes of this program implementing guidelines, solemnizing officers that will provide pre-marriage counseling refers to priest, imam or minister authorized to solemnize marriage as stated in Article 16 in reference to Article 7 (2).
- 5.2 **Qualifications.** The solemnizing officers shall have the following qualifications and eligibility requirements:
- 5.2.1 They have a valid Certification of Registration and Authority to Solemnize Marriage (CRASM) issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).
- 5.2.2 They have undergone the Pre-Marriage Orientation training provided and/or under the supervision of POPCOM.

All authorized solemnizing officers are encouraged to be an Accredited Pre-Marriage Counselor.

- 5.3 **Responsibilities.** The Solemnizing Officers shall have the following roles:
- 5.3.1 Conduct PM Counseling session for contracting parties, in which one or both parties belongs to the solemnizing officer's church or religious sect. If the solemnizing officer is accredited by the proper government agency, he/she can now provide pre-marriage counseling to contracting parties outside of their church or religious sect.
- 5.3.2 Provide the Certificate of Marriage Counseling (CMC) to contracting parties who have completed the PM counseling session in accordance with the standard format provided in the NTWG Resolution No. 1 series of 2019, a copy of which is hereby annexed.
- 5.3.3 As member of the local PMOC Team under Section 4.1 of this JMC, the solemnizing officer may also conduct PM Orientation and sign the Certificate of Compliance (COC).



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SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE

All rules and regulations, order, memoranda or circulars inconsistent with the provisions of this Joint Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

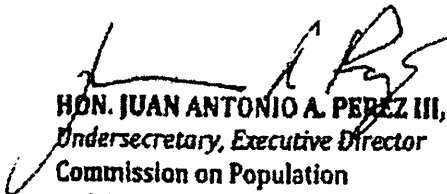
SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

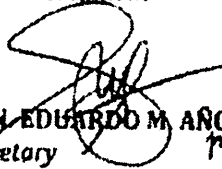
If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Joint Memorandum Circular is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY


This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette.


Approved and Issued by:



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Undersecretary, Executive Director
Commission on Population
and Development


HON. EDUARDO M. AÑO
Secretary
Department of the Interior and Local
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HON. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary
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HON. ROLANDO JOSELITO DELIZO BAUTISTA
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