



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Reference No. CRMD-2020-07-1320

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.2020- 15

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 Advisory 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 counseling sessions through alternative and innovative modalities. On 15 June 2020, Joint Advisory 2020-01 regarding Interim Guidelines on the Provision of Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Services during the Period of State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Country Due to COVID-19 Pandemic 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 Advisory 2020-01



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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 Advisory 2020-01

To: All Regional PMOC Technical Working Group (PMOC RTWG), Provincial Governors, City/Municipal Mayors, Civil Registrars, PMOC Program Implementers, Parties to Intended Marriages, and Solemnizing Officers

Subject: Interim Guidelines on the Provision of Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Services during the Period of State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Country Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

In compliance with Presidential Proclamation Nos. 922 and 929, placing the entire country under the State of Public Health Emergency and State of Calamity due to the outbreak of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), and with the intent to halt the spread of the corona virus, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) hereby recommend the provision of Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) services particularly the conduct of pre-marriage orientation (PMO) and pre-marriage counseling (PMC) sessions through alternative and innovative modalities.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

This Joint Advisory is issued to guide all local government units (LGUs) in providing Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Services to their constituents intending to get married (would-be couples) during the State of Public Health Emergency that is compliant to the *Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines*.

SECTION 2. RELATED ISSUANCES

- a. **Republic Act 11469:** The Bayanihan to Heal as One Act
- b. **Presidential Proclamation No. 922:** Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines
- c. **Presidential Proclamation No. 929:** Declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019
- d. **Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated March 13, 2020:** Stringent Social Distancing Measures and Further Guidelines for the Management of the COVID-19 Situation
- e. **DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-071:** Mandatory Wearing of Face Masks or other Protective Equipment in Public Areas
- f. **CSC Memorandum Circular No. 10 s. 2020:** Revised Interim Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements and Support Mechanisms for Workers in the Government During the Period of State of National Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- g. **DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0015:** Guidelines on the Risk-Based Public Health Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation
- h. **DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0056:** Interim Guidelines for 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease Response in the Workplace
- i. **IATF Resolution No. 35 series of 2020**
- j. **Executive Order No. 112:** Imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine in High-Risk Geographic Areas of the Philippines and A General Community Quarantine in the Rest of the Country, Adopting the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation Thereof, And for Other Purposes
- k. **IATF Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines**

SECTION 3. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The interim guidelines shall cover all local government units and PMOC Program Implementers throughout the country.

SECTION 4. ALTERNATIVE MODES OF PROVIDING THE PRE-MARRIAGE ORIENTATION AND COUNSELING (PMOC) SERVICES

a. Traditional Face to Face Sessions

Following JMC No. 01 series of 2018 (Revised PMOC Program Implementing Guidelines of 2018), the Pre-Marriage Orientation (PMO) and Pre-Marriage Counseling (PMC) Sessions will be conducted following the existing protocol as well as session content and methodologies albeit on a limited number of would-be couples to observe physical distancing. The strict use of face mask or other protective equipment must also be followed.

The PMO session can be provided to a maximum of four (4) couples and strictly observing physical distancing of at least three feet or one meter apart among the

participants and the PMOC service provider/s throughout the session. To minimize transmission of the virus, inter-active sessions should not include physical interaction such as, but not limited to, holding hands, sharing of writing materials, physical closeness, etc.

The PMO session should still be conducted at a minimum of four hours while PMC session should be conducted at a minimum of three hours, both sessions to be made within the same calendar day.

b. Detached/Non-Interactive Face to Face Sessions

Under this modality, PMO and PMC sessions will be conducted through a lecture with minimal or no interaction between couples, their co-participants and PMOC service provider/s. This can also be made through audio-video presentation (AVP).

This mode will also be provided to a limited number of would-be couples, not more than four couples, to strictly observe physical distancing of at least three feet or one meter apart among participants and PMOC service provider/s. The strict use of face mask or other protective equipment must also be followed.

Since interaction is limited under this mode, the PMO session can be made at a minimum of two hours while the PMC session at a minimum of one and a half hours and with both sessions conducted within the same calendar day.

c. Online Sessions

Under this mode, the provision of PMO and PMC Sessions will be made through online facilities (internet-based). Would-be couples will participate in either:

c.1. An Online Interactive Discussion - The PMOC service provider conducts the session live to the would-be-couples where there is opportunity for participatory activities and immediate responses to queries of the couples; or

c.2 Non-Interactive Lectures - The PMOC service provider uses audio-video presentation (such as recorded sessions, powerpoint, etc.) for the would-be couples to view.

To facilitate the online sessions, reading materials maybe given to the would-be couples prior to the actual conduct of the session. These reading materials will be posted to official website and/or social media channels of PMOC NTWG member agencies and of the local government units and other PMOC service providers.

In an online session, would-be couples are participating outside of the PMOC session hall and in their respective homes. The standard 15 couples for the PMO and 6 couples for the PMC can be accommodated under this mode.

Under this mode, the PMO session can be made at a minimum of two hours while the PMC session at a minimum of one and a half hours.

d. Other Alternative Arrangements

Other mode of conducting PMO and PMC sessions consisting of a combination of the above enumerated arrangements or other modes appropriate/applicable to the locality.

SECTION 5. ISSUANCE AND VALIDITY OF PMOC CERTIFICATES

All PMOC Certificates, a) Certificate of Compliance for attendance to PMO session and b) Certificate of Marriage Counseling for attendance to PMC session, issued to would-be couples during the State of Public Health Emergency shall be valid until the issuance of a Marriage License.

In the event that issued marriage license to a would-be couple expires without being utilized due to the difficulty brought by the public health emergency prompting the couple to re-apply for the same, the previously issued PMOC certificates may still be used by the would-be couple without the need to attend the PMOC sessions. In cases like these, the PMOC Certificates are considered valid for a period of one year from its issuance.

SECTION 6. ADHERENCE TO MINIMUM PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS IN PROVIDING PMOC SERVICES

The provision of the Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Services must always comply to the minimum public health standards.

- a. **Temperature check and other health examination** – For face to face sessions, all attending couples must be checked for fever, cough and other symptoms of COVID-19 through temperature checks and simple survey. Couples with one or both parties exhibiting symptoms must be referred to the health office and must re-schedule their attendance to the session.
- b. **Personal Protection and Hygiene** – Personal cleanliness and hygiene must be observed. Strict observation of “no facemask: no entry” in public facilities must be enforced. Hand sanitizers or handwashing facilities must be provided on the venues of the PMO and PMC sessions. Reminders on respiratory etiquette (covering of mouth when coughing) must be posted within the session halls.
- c. **Strict compliance to physical distancing** – Keeping a distance of at least three feet or one meter among participants and PMOC service providers must be strictly enforced. Modification of the session hall’s layout to ensure observance of physical distancing requirements must be made.
- d. **Cleanliness of facilities** – Frequently touched surfaces such as tables and chairs must be disinfected regularly. Session halls must have available garbage bins for used tissues and other trash.

- e. **Safety use of equipment** – For PMOC service providers, the sharing of microphones and other equipment must be limited or refrained from. If possible, the use of microphones is discouraged.

SECTION 7. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE FROM REGIONAL PMOC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (PMOC RTWG)

- a. The PMOC RTWG shall meet to further discuss the implementation of PMOC services in their respective areas.
 - a.1. The PMOC RTWG shall formulate their localized rules governing the alternative modalities of providing PMO and PMC sessions as adopted and implemented in their areas.
 - a.2. The PMOC RTWG shall immediately respond to operational issues and challenges faced by LGUs in implementing the PMOC Program during the State of Public Health emergency. Operational issues that may affect national implementation or warranting policy issuances should be elevated to the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) for its action.
 - a.3. The PMOC RTWG shall develop and conduct strict monitoring of PMOC Service provision during the State of Public Health Emergency to ensure the quality of the services provided.
- b. The PMOC RTWG shall maintain close and active coordination with their counterpart Regional IATF for updates on measures to be taken against COVID-19 in their respective areas.

SECTION 8. REITERATION OF TEAM APPROACH

Implementation of the PMOC Program and provision of services shall maintain the team approach. The PMOC Team must meet for the preparation of the PMO and PMC Sessions.

However, to comply with the Civil Service Commission's guidelines on alternative work arrangement among public employees to reduce the transmission of the virus, prevailing work arrangement of the LGU will be respected.

PMOC Teams may assign individual members to conduct the PMO and PMC sessions on a rotational basis.


SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

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

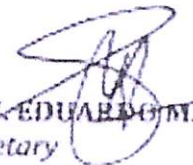
SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY


This Joint Advisory shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

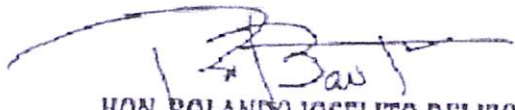
Approved and Issued by:



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