



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Manila

CIRCULAR NO. 83-2001

TO: ALL JUDGES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS
SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE FOR MINOR OFFENDERS
WITHOUT NEED OF APPLICATION


In order to give special attention to minors who have been found guilty and who, after promulgation of sentence, are still detained in prison, Section 5(a) of Republic Act No. 8369 known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997" provides, to wit:

SEC. 5. *Jurisdiction of Family Courts.*---The Family Courts shall have exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and decide the following cases:

- a) Criminal cases where one or more of the accused is below eighteen (18) years of age but not less than nine (9) years of age, or where one or more of the victims is a minor at the time of the commission of the offense: *Provided*, That if the minor is found guilty, the court shall promulgate sentence and ascertain any civil liability which the accused may have incurred. The sentence, however, shall be suspended without need of application pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 603, otherwise known as the "Child and Youth Welfare Code"; xxx

For your guidance and reference.

November 9, 2001.


PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.
Court Administrator