



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 71-2021

**TO : ALL JUDGES, CLERKS OF COURT AND
BRANCH CLERKS OF COURT OF THE FIRST
AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS**

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE FINES PROVIDED IN
SECTION 25, PARAGRAPHS A, B, AND C OF
THE REVISED RULES OF COURT**


Pursuant to the 16 March 2021 Resolution in **A.M. No. 21-03-17-SC** (*Amendments to the Fines Provided in Rule 140 of the Revised Rules of Court*), the Court *En Banc* **RESOLVED** to **AMEND** Section 25, paragraphs A, B, and C of the Revised Rules of Court, the full text of which is appended herewith as Annex "A".

Published in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and the *Manila Bulletin* on 15 May 2021, the Resolution **took effect on 31 May 2021**.

Any prior circular from the Office of the Court Administrator on this matter which is contrary to the foregoing is hereby superseded.

For your information, guidance, and strict compliance.

03 June 2021


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

A.M. No. 21-03-17-SC

**AMENDMENTS TO THE FINES PROVIDED IN RULE 140
OF THE REVISED RULES OF COURT**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in a Memorandum dated 15 March 2021, Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez recommended the increase in the fines provided in Section 25, paragraphs A and B, Rule 140 of the Revised Rules of Court, in order to be consistent and commensurate with the prevailing Salary Schedule of judges and personnel of the Judiciary, who are subject to disciplinary actions under the said Rule;

WHEREAS, in paragraph A of Rule 140, two (2) of the sanctions are either a "suspension from office without salary and other benefits for more than three (3) but not exceeding six (6) months," or "a fine of more than ₱20,000.00 but not exceeding ₱40,000.00;" while in paragraph B, the two (2) options are either a "suspension from office without salary and other benefits for not less than one (1) month nor more than three (3) months," or "a fine of more than ₱10,000.00 but not exceeding ₱20,000.00;"

WHEREAS, in paragraph C of Rule 140, one of the sanctions is "a fine of not less than ₱1,000.00 but not exceeding ₱10,000.00;"

WHEREAS, to harmonize the fine imposed with the period of suspension from office, and considering the depreciation of the value of the Philippine Peso, the amount of the fines should be increased;

NOW, THEREFORE, acting on the recommendation of the Office of the Court Administrator, the Court Resolved to **AMEND** Section 25, paragraphs A, B and C, Rule 140 of the Revised Rules of Court, to read as follows:

“Section 25. Sanctions.

A. If the respondent is guilty of a serious charge, any of the following sanctions may be imposed:

1. Dismissal from the service, forfeiture of all or part of the benefits as the Court may determine, and disqualification from reinstatement or appointment to any public office, including government-owned or controlled corporations. *Provided, however,* that the forfeiture of benefits shall in no case include accrued leave credit;
2. Suspension from office without salary and other benefits for more than three (3) but not exceeding six (6) months; or
3. A fine of more than **₱100,000.00 but not exceeding ₱200,000.00.**

B. If the respondent is guilty of a less serious charge, any of the following sanctions shall be imposed:

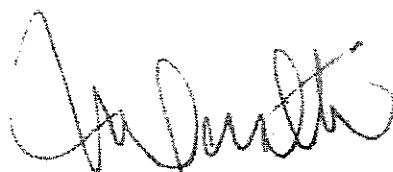
1. Suspension from office without salary and other benefits for not less than one (1) month nor more than three (3) months; or
2. A fine of not **less than ₱35,000.00 but not exceeding ₱100,000.00.**

C. If the respondent is guilty of a light charge, any of the following sanctions shall be imposed:

1. A fine of not less than ₱1,000.00 but not exceeding **₱35,000.00** and/or
2. Censure;
3. Reprimand;
4. Admonition with warning.”


These amendments to Section 25, paragraphs A, B and C of Rule 140 of the Revised Rules of Court shall take effect on 31 May 2021 following their publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

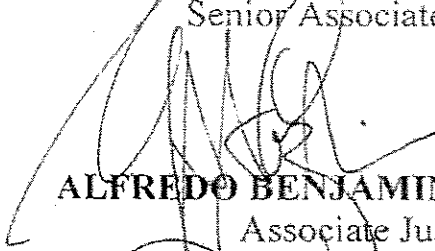
16 March 2021





DIOSDADO M. PERALTA
Chief Justice


ESTELA M. PERLAS-BERNABE
Senior Associate Justice


MARVIC M.V.F. LEONEN
Associate Justice


ALFREDO BENJAMIN S. CAGUIOA
Associate Justice

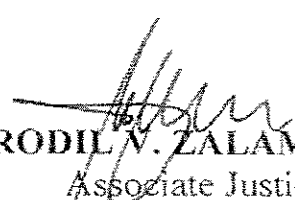

ALEXANDER G. GESMUNDO
Associate Justice

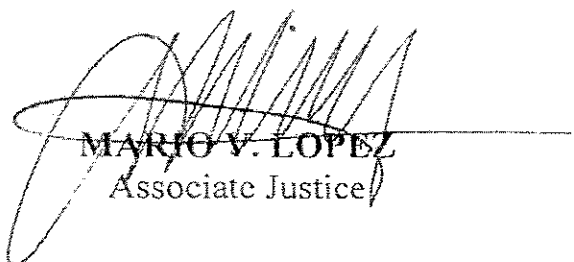

RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO
Associate Justice



ROSMARY D. CARANDANG
Associate Justice


AMY C. LAZARO-JAVIER
Associate Justice



HENRI JEAN PAUL B. INTING
Associate Justice


RODIL N. ZALAMEDA
Associate Justice


MARIO V. LOPEZ
Associate Justice


EDGARDO L. DELOS SANTOS
Associate Justice


SAMUEL H. GAERLAN
Associate Justice


RICARDO R. ROSARIO
Associate Justice


JHOSEP V. LOPEZ
Associate Justice