



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 133A-2021

TO : ALL JUDGES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS

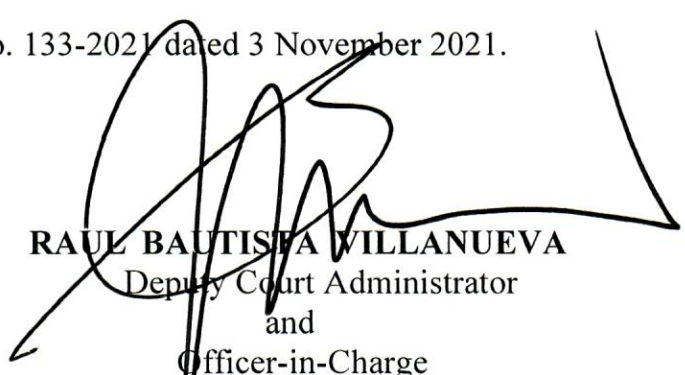
SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF VIDEOCONFERENCING WITH RESPECT TO REMOTE APPEARANCE FROM ABROAD

In OCA Circular Nos. 18-2021, dated 1 February 2021, and 56-2021, dated May 2021, the implementation of the Guidelines on the Conduct of Videoconferencing¹ with respect to remote appearance from abroad was suspended until 1 April 2021 and 30 June 2021, respectively, upon the request of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., due to the “need to consider concerns raised by [the] various Foreign Service Posts,” such as the “extraterritorial application of Philippine laws” and “operational concerns by reasons of COVID-19 and other circumstances.”

Considering that the two (2) moratoriums have lapsed, motions for videoconferencing from Philippine embassies or consulates may now be acted upon, provided “that the concerned embassy or consulate of the Philippines has allowed the use of its facilities for videoconferencing,” pursuant to Item IV (3), A.M. No. 20-12-01-SC,² taking into account their views on the applicable laws and regulations of, and agreement with, their respective host countries, and operational concerns by reason of COVID-19 and other circumstances. In any case, the videoconferencing hearings must be scheduled during the working hours of the Philippine courts, with proper coordination with the concerned embassy or consulate, at the expense of the moving party, if any. **Furthermore, in the conduct of the said videoconferencing hearings, priority in the court calendars must be given by the Judges to those cases where witnesses/parties will remotely appear from abroad.**

This Circular amends OCA Circular No. 133-2021 dated 3 November 2021.

7 December 2021



RAUL BAUTISTA VILLANUEVA
Deputy Court Administrator
and
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Court Administrator
(Per Memorandum Order No. 108-2021
dated 17 November 2021)

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¹ A.M. No. 20-12-01-SC, dated 9 December 2020, and incorporated in OCA Circular No. 209-2020 dated 29 December 2020 (Court En Banc Resolution dated 9 December 2020 in A.M. No. 20-12-01-SC [Re: Proposed Guidelines on the Conduct of Videoconferencing]).

² *Id.*