



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

**OCA CIRCULAR NO. 157- 2022**

**TO : ALL JUDGES, BRANCH CLERKS  
OF COURT AND OFFICERS-IN-  
CHARGE/ACTING CLERKS OF COURT  
OF THE FAMILY COURTS**

**SUBJECT: COMPILATION OF THE LAWS OF  
FOREIGN COUNTRIES ON MARRIAGE  
AND DIVORCE**

The growing migration, foreign employment and cross-border travel of Filipinos have resulted in significant numbers of intermarriages with foreign nationals. However, some of these marriages end up as the subject of divorce decrees obtained overseas. As a consequence, there is an increasing number of petitions filed before Philippine courts for recognition and enforcement of foreign decree of divorce.

Recently, the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) experienced a sudden influx of requests for certified true copies of divorce laws of foreign countries which the parties intend to use as supporting document to their petitions for recognition of a foreign decree of divorce.

To address this matter, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), upon request of the OCA, furnished the OCA with a compilation of several foreign laws on marriage and divorce, for reference and use of the judiciary, particularly the Family Court Judges, whether statutory or designated Family Courts, in resolving petitions for recognition and enforcement of foreign decree of divorce.

The text of these laws, and/or their English translations, were officially transmitted to the Philippine Embassies and Consulates by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of other agencies of the concerned foreign governments through Notes Verbale or official letters enclosing the text of these laws or indicating the official website or online link containing the authentic copies. In some states within the United States of America, the text of the laws provided were authenticated by the Secretary of State or by other competent officials having custody of authentic copies of these laws.

In view thereof, the Family Courts are advised to take judicial notice of this compilation of the laws of foreign countries on marriage and divorce in the resolution of cases requiring the presentation of the laws of foreign countries on marriage and divorce. This could be accessed at <https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/foreign-divorce-laws/>.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

23 June 2022



**RAUL B. VILLANUEVA**  
Court Administrator