



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

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 224-2023

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

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON THE DIRECTIVE SET FORTH IN
OCA CIRCULAR NO. 136-2021 DATED 10 NOVEMBER
2021 (RE: PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE CONTAINING
SEXUAL ABUSE PHOTOGRAPHS AND RECORDINGS)

It has come to the attention of this Office that there are courts that do not conduct videoconference hearings (VCHs) in cases involving women and children in compliance with the directive set forth in OCA Circular No. 136-2021 dated 10 November 2021 (Re: Presentation of Evidence Containing Sexual Abuse Photographs and Recordings).

OCA Circular No. 136-2021 provides that “[i]n line with the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations, and taking into paramount consideration the welfare of women and children, all judges and branch clerks of court of the first and second level courts are hereby directed to ensure that evidence containing sensitive photographs and recordings, including sexual abuse images and sound recordings involving women and children, shall [be] only be presented through in-court proceedings and NOT through videoconferencing.”

Please be advised that considering that the subject circular primarily refers to the presentation of evidence containing sensitive photographs and recordings in cases involving women and children, trial courts are not precluded from conducting VCHs in cases involving women and children provided that the proceedings being conducted through VCHs do not involve the presentation of said evidence and that the welfare of women and children are considered and protected.

For guidance and strict observance.

21 June 2023



RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator



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OCA CIRCULAR NO. 136-2021

- TO : ALL JUDGES AND BRANCH CLERKS OF COURT OF
THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS**
- RE : PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE CONTAINING
SEXUAL ABUSE PHOTOGRAPHS AND RECORDINGS**

In line with the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations, and taking into paramount consideration the welfare of women and children, all judges and branch clerks of court of the first and second level courts are hereby directed to ensure that evidence containing sensitive photographs and recordings, including sexual abuse images and sound recordings involving women and children, shall be only be presented through in-court proceedings and NOT through videoconferencing.

For strict compliance.

10 November 2021


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator