



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

**OCA CIRCULAR NO. 325-2023**

**TO : THE COURT OF APPEALS, SANDIGANBAYAN, COURT OF TAX APPEALS, REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, SHARIAH DISTRICT COURTS, METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, SHARIAH CIRCUIT COURTS, THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE PROSECUTOR, PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**SUBJECT : LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW OF ATTY. WINIFRED L. CRUZ**

In its Resolution dated 22 August 2022 in A.C. No. 11042, titled "*Efren D. Gamboa v. Atty. Winifred L. Cruz*," the Court (Second Division), among others, (a) found respondent GUILTY of violating of the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice; Canon 1, Rule 1.01 of the Code of Professional Responsibility; and the Lawyers Oath and (b) SUSPENDED him from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months.

The Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC), in its 1<sup>st</sup> Indorsement dated 13 September 2023, furnished the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) with a copy of the above stated Resolution on the Suspension of Atty. Cruz, for circularization to all courts. In its 1<sup>st</sup> Indorsement also dated 13 September 2023, the OBC likewise transmitted to the OCA the Sworn Statement dated 11 August 2023 filed by Atty. Cruz.

Pursuant to the guidelines outlined by the Court in its Decision dated 10 January 2023 in A.C. No. 11032, titled "*Re: Order dated 01 October 2015 in Criminal Case No. 15-318727-34, Regional Trial Court (RTC), Branch 49, Manila, against Atty. Severo L. Brillantes*" governing the lifting of the penalty of suspension imposed against members of the Bar, the order of suspension shall be automatically lifted upon submission by the respondent lawyer of such Sworn Statement that he or she has completed the service of suspension<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Item 6, OCA Circular No. 84-2023 dated 27 February 2023 (*Requirements on Lifting of the Penalty of Suspension Imposed Against Members of the Bar*)

Accordingly, insofar as the Court's Resolution dated 22 August 2022 in A.C. No. 11042 is concerned, the therein imposed suspension from the practice of law of Atty. Winifred L. Cruz is deemed LIFTED.

15 September 2023



JENNY LIND R. ALDECOA-DELORINO

Deputy Court Administrator

and

Officer-in-Charge

Office of the Court Administrator

*(Per Memorandum Order No. 107-2023*

*dated 08 September 2023)*