

JUDICIAL RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIVORCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

There is no divorce in the Philippines, but when a divorce is validly obtained abroad and initiated by the foreign spouse, the Filipino spouse shall have the capacity to remarry under Philippine law.

The foreign divorce decree must be judicially enforced or confirmed in the Philippines by filing the proper civil action at the Regional Trial Court in the Philippines (RTC-Phil). The court decision shall be registered in the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO) where the concerned RTC-Phil functions.

The registered document shall be submitted to the Local Civil Registrar where the marriage is registered. If the marriage was registered overseas, the registered document shall be submitted to the City Civil Registry Office at the Manila City Hall (CCRO Manila).

The following documents shall be submitted to CCRO Manila in annotating a civil registry document:

- Original or Certified True Copy of the foreign judgment or order duly registered at the City Civil Registry Office at the Manila City Hall (CCRO Manila).
- Original or Certified True Copy of the Certificate of Finality of the decision of Regional Trial Court (RTC-Phil).
- Certificate of Registration of the decision of Regional Trial Court (RTC-Phil) at the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO) where the concerned RTC-Phil functions.

After the annotation at the Local Civil Registrar's Office (LCRO), the annotated documents and its requirements must be submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar-General (OCRG) in Manila.

For additional information on legal services, legal aid or hiring the services of a lawyer in the Philippines, kindly check the websites of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) or the Public Attorneys' Office (PAO) in Manila.

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