

RE : Supreme Court (“SC”) *Administrative Circular No. 36-2020*
Areas placed under general community quarantine from 1 to 15 May 2020

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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

- The Supreme Court laid down the *guidelines for court operations* for the areas placed under General Community Quarantine (“GCQ”).
- Areas under covered by the GCQ are the following:
 - CAR (except Benguet);
 - Region I (except Pangasinan);
 - Region II;
 - Region III - Aurora;
 - Region IV-B (except Oriental and Ocidental Mindoro);
 - Region V (except Albay and Catanduanes);
 - Region VI (except Aklan, Capiz and Iloilo);
 - Region VII (except Cebu and Cebu City);
 - Region VIII;
 - Region IX, X and XI (except Davao del Norte, Davao City and Davao de Oro);
 - Region XII and ARMM.




Among the *guidelines for court operations* are the following:

- All court branches in the abovementioned GCQ areas shall be open beginning 4 May 2020 but shall function with a **SKELETON-STAFF** to assist the Judge, who shall **ONLY ACT** on **URGENT MATTERS**.
- **ALL HEARINGS** shall remain **SUSPENDED** until 15 May 2020, except hearings on **urgent** matters. The Judges in the GCQ areas shall be given the discretion to set the hearing on **urgent** matters.

- Judges, court personnel and lawyers who are more than fifty-nine (59) years of age and/or who have medical conditions which them vulnerable to COVID-19 infection are **not allowed** to report or attend hearings, except for **urgent** matters.
- Courts in **GCQ** areas **SHALL OPERATE FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM.** **All Night courts** and **Saturday Courts** shall remain **SUSPENDED** until **15 May 2020**.
- *Criminal Complaints and Information, posting of bail* and the *submission of other urgent pleadings* in the GCQ areas may be a **FILED ONLINE** until 15 May 2020.
- The **FILING** of *Petitions and Appeals, Complaints, Motions, Pleadings and other Court submissions* that fall due up to 15 May 2020 shall be **EXTENDED** for thirty (30) calendar days, counted from 16 May 2020. Nevertheless, *Pleadings and other Court submissions* may still be filed on or before 15 May 2020 through electronic means, if available.
- **PRESCRIPTIVE PERIODS** are also extended for thirty (30) calendar days, the same to be counted from 16 May 2020.
- **DECISIONS** and **ORDERS** before and during the **GCQ** may be promulgated and released during the period, provided that **NO HEARINGS** are necessary.




HERE'S AN EXAMPLE :

-  ➤ If Juan dela Cruz was apprehended on 5 May 2020 because he committed a crime within the areas covered by the **GCQ**, , he can post bail by:
 - Posting bail directly in courts from 9:00 am to 3:00pm on weekdays ; or
 - Posting bail **ONLINE** by **facsimile** or by any **electronic means** (e.g. e-mail), if available.

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