

RE : Supreme Court (“SC”) *Administrative Circular No. 43 and 43A-2020*
Court Operations from 3 to 14 August 2020 and
Addendum to Administrative Circular 43-2020

DATE ISSUED : 2 and 3 August 2020.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

- Due to the reported surge in the Covid-19 cases and the latest government declaration placing the entire Metro Manila under the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (“MECQ”) from 4 to 18 August 2020 , the Supreme Court issued SC Administrative Circular 43 and 43A-2020 providing **new** guidelines for Court operations.



Among the **new** guidelines are the following :

- **ALL Courts** in the National Capital Region, as well as those areas under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (“ECQ”) and MECQ shall be **PHYSICALLY CLOSED** and shall only be reached through their respective hotline numbers, e-mail addresses and Facebook accounts from **3 August to 18 August 2020**.

COURT SESSION AND HEARINGS

- All sessions of the Supreme Court shall be made via *video conference* hearings.
- The Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan and Court of Tax Appeals shall continue to resolve and decide cases before them. **Regular** hearings shall be conducted via *video conference*.
- Regional Trial Courts, Family Courts and First Level Courts may conduct hearings through *video conference* in both criminal and civil cases upon **Joint Motion** of the parties, or upon *Order* of the Court.

FILING OF PLEADINGS AND OTHER COURT SUBMISSIONS

- The reglementary periods of filing of *Petitions, Appeals, Complaints, Motions* as well as other pleadings and submissions before the Courts shall be **SUSPENDED beginning 4 August 2020**. Courts shall **RESUME on 19 August 2020**, without prejudice to those who have already filed pleadings and documents within the reglementary periods.

PRESCRIPTIVE PERIODS

- Prescriptive periods for Court actions shall likewise be **SUSPENDED beginning 4 August 2020**. The same shall **RESUME on 19 August 2020**.



HERE'S AN EXAMPLE :



- Atty. Juan dela Cruz has a client who was convicted of *estafa* in the RTC Makati. He wants to file an *Appeal* and the deadline for doing so is on 6 August 2020. Because of the current MECQ status in NCR, Atty dela Cruz has the following options:
 - He may file his *Appeal* during the original reglementary period or until 6 August 2020; or
 - He may file his *Appeal* on 19 August 2020 or upon lifting the suspension of the reglementary period.

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