



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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MEMORANDUM

TO : Regional Directors of the Jail Bureau
Provincial Jail Administrators
Jail Wardens

ATTN : BJMPRO and Jail COVID-19 Task Forces

SUBJECT : **BJMP COVID-19 ADVISORY #29: GUIDELINES ON JAIL VISITATION AND TELE-HEARING**

DATE : JUN 03 2020

REFERENCES:

1. Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 41 s. 2020 re: Court Operations Beginning June 1, 2020, dated May 29, 2020;
2. IATF Resolution No. 41, dated May 27, 2020 re: Areas under General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine until June 15, 2020;
3. IATF Resolution No. 36, dated April 7, 2020 re: Extension of Enhanced Community Quarantine until April 30, 2020;
4. R.A. No. 11469 or the *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*;
5. BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #5 dated March 19, 2020;
6. Presidential Proclamation No. 929 s. 2020;
7. Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated March 16, 2020 re: Community Quarantine Over the Entire Luzon and Further Guidelines for the Management of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation;
8. Presidential Proclamation No. 922 s. 2020; and
9. IATF Resolution No. 29 s. 2020.

RATIONALE:

10. The Jail Bureau, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the calibrated level of community quarantine nationwide, hereby establishes temporary guidelines for jail visitation and tele-hearing whether their localities are categorized as Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ), General Community Quarantine (GCQ), and Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS/GUIDELINES:

11. JAIL VISITATION

- a) Wardens must inform all Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL), their family/visitors, legal counsel, religious leader, and medical doctor concerning the standing no visitation policy of the Jail Bureau and its objective.
- b) Wardens must intensify E-Dalaw and other modes of communication available. The designated area, appropriate hardware, internet connection, and telecommunication paraphernalia should be established and made operational.
- c) Welfare and Development Officer shall arrange the schedule of E-dalaw to accommodate all PDL and their relatives.


- d) PDL shall wear a mask and observe physical distancing inside the designated E-dalaw room.
- e) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and designated area shall be disinfected before and after use of PDL.

12. TELE-HEARING

- a) Wardens, with support from the Regional Office and LGUs, shall establish an area or room inside jails where tele-hearing can be conducted following Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 41 s. 2020, where case trials of PDL shall be made remotely from jail facilities through tele-hearing or videoconferencing.
- b) Tele-hearing room shall be equipped with necessary apparatus or gadgets and high-quality internet connectivity following the minimum requirements for videoconferencing technology under A.M. No. 19-05-05-SC re: Proposed Guidelines on the Use of Videoconferencing Technology for the Remote Appearance or Testimony of certain Persons Deprived of Liberty in Jails and National Penitentiaries, dated June 25, 2019.
- c) The paralegal officer shall coordinate with the court with regard to the schedule of the court hearing of PDL through tele-hearing.
- d) Tele-hearing room shall be disinfected before and after a tele-hearing.
- e) PDL shall observe physical distancing and wear a face mask.
- f) Jail personnel supervising the tele-hearing shall wear a face mask, face shield and gloves.

13. Be guided accordingly.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF, BJMP:


MA ANNIE A ESPINOSA
Jail Senior Superintendent
Director for Operations
Co-Chairperson,
National COVID-19 Task Force