



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

FIRST DIVISION

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

*Please take notice that the Court, First Division, issued a Resolution dated March 9, 2022 which reads as follows:*

**“G.R. No. 241114 (*Republic of the Philippines v. Rosalina Natividad-Bernardo and Juanito Viernes Bernardo, Jr.*).** – This is a petition for review on *certiorari*<sup>1</sup> assailing the Amended Decision<sup>2</sup> dated August 1, 2018 of the Court of Appeals (CA) in CA-G.R. CV No. 109054. The Amended Decision of the CA reversed its Decision<sup>3</sup> dated April 13, 2018 and reinstated the Decision<sup>4</sup> dated June 10, 2016 of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Pasay City, Branch 113, in Civil Case No. R-PSY-15-20923-CV.

**The Antecedent Facts**

Respondent Rosalina Natividad Bernardo (Rosalina) and Juanito Viernes Bernardo, Jr. (Juanito) were married on October 19, 1993, in Lupao, Nueva Ecija.<sup>5</sup> They had no children and lived together until they separated in 2005.

On September 30, 2015, Rosalina filed a petition for declaration of nullity of marriage with the RTC of Pasay City.<sup>6</sup> Despite service of summons by publication, Juanito failed to file an answer and did not participate in the proceedings. Assistant City Prosecutor Juliet Susan C. Garcia filed a report of non-collusion of the parties after which pre-trial and trial ensued.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Rollo*, pp. 9-46.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 47-63. Penned by Associate Justice Marlene B. Gonzales-Sison with Associate Justices Ramon Paul L. Hernando (now a Member of this Court) and Renato C. Francisco concurring.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 64-81.

<sup>4</sup> *CA rollo*, pp. 10-23. Penned by Judge Caridad H. Grecia-Cuerdo.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 12.

<sup>6</sup> *Rollo*, p. 12.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 85.

Rosalina narrated that she was introduced to Juanito by her uncle in 1993. She was on vacation at the time from her work in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and staying at her parents' house in Nueva Ecija. Juanito claimed to be a truck driver in Manila on extended vacation.<sup>8</sup>

Juanito visited Rosalina at her parents' house several times after they were introduced. However, her parents strongly disapproved of him because they knew him to be lazy, a drunkard, and a gambler. They also knew that his family was from Nueva Vizcaya and they owned many farmlands but he refused to work. He instead spent his time in Nueva Ecija idly bumming around with his cousins, drinking, and gambling. Nevertheless, Rosalina was smitten by his charm and unaware of his daily activities.<sup>9</sup>

Juanito felt unwelcome at Rosalina's parents' house and therefore requested her to meet him at a place near his cousin's house in San Jose, Nueva Ecija. Upon meeting her, he suggested it would be better for them to talk at his cousin's house. They started walking there but when they passed by a bus station, she was surprised that he pulled her into a bus which she later learned was bound for Nueva Vizcaya. She was reluctant to go on the trip but was embarrassed to make a scene in the bus. She eventually agreed to continue because of Juanito's promise that he would just introduce her to his parents and they would return to Nueva Ecija right after.<sup>10</sup>

Upon reaching Nueva Vizcaya, Juanito brought Rosalina to his parents' house and introduced her to them. He then told her that they would spend the night there. She tried to return to Nueva Ecija but he prevented her from leaving the house. She was left with no choice but to spend the night there and they ended up having sexual intercourse.<sup>11</sup>

The following day, Rosalina attempted to return to Nueva Ecija but was again stopped by Juanito who assured her that he would marry her. They returned to Nueva Ecija after three days accompanied by Juanito's parents to undertake the customary "*pamamanhikan*." Rosalina's parents were against their marriage but had no choice on the matter. They were eventually married on October 19, 1993.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> CA *rollo*, p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> Id.

<sup>10</sup> Id.

<sup>11</sup> Id. at 12.

<sup>12</sup> Id.

Rosalina was no longer able to return to work in Abu Dhabi after the wedding. It also surfaced that Juanito lied about having a job as a truck driver in Manila and was actually unemployed. They initially lived in Rosalina's parents' house in Nueva Ecija and occasionally visited Juanito's parents in Nueva Vizcaya. During this time, Juanito refused to look for work and violently responded to prodding from Rosalina and his parents. They got by solely through Rosalina's savings from her previous employment overseas.<sup>13</sup>

After around a year, Rosalina's parents informed them about a job opening as a driver in a hardware store in Nueva Ecija. Rosalina convinced Juanito to apply for it since he has neither worked nor made any contribution to the marriage since their wedding. He reluctantly applied and was accepted.<sup>14</sup>

Rosalina's parents gifted them a small lot and helped them build a house near Juanito's place of employment. Unfortunately, Juanito lasted only three months in his job and was dismissed due to his frequent absences and tardiness. He explained to Rosalina that he was not used to reporting to work on a regular basis. This was the same behavior he exhibited even before the marriage when he refused to till his family's farmlands or take on any job despite the opportunities and assistance given by everyone around him.<sup>15</sup>

After Juanito's dismissal from employment, they moved to Nueva Vizcaya to live with his parents. Juanito was again incapable of contributing to the marital estate or caring for Rosalina's well-being during their stay there. He still refused to look for a job and relied on his parents for financial support. He spent his days sleeping, having drinking sprees with friends, and gambling.<sup>16</sup>

Rosalina felt uncomfortable being dependent on Juanito's parents. She asked for their permission to use some farmlands in the mountain to plant tomatoes to earn income. It was a difficult and long hike up the mountain but she persevered. Juanito seldom accompanied her and complained it was too hot. She did most of the work while he continued wasting his days sleeping and using his father's money to drink and play *mahjong*.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Id.

<sup>14</sup> Id.

<sup>15</sup> Id. at 12-13.

<sup>16</sup> Id. at 13.

<sup>17</sup> Id.

Juanito's laziness and addiction to alcohol and gambling became a source of constant fights between the couple. He would verbally and physically abuse Rosalina during these fights. He would slap her and twist her arm. He would refuse to let go of her arm until she cried for help from his parents. Rosalina tolerated this lifestyle and planted tomatoes in the mountain by herself for about five years.<sup>18</sup>

Rosalina's parents pitied their daughter's miserable condition and asked them to return to Nueva Ecija with an offer of a farm lot for them to till. The couple moved to Nueva Ecija but Juanito again refused to work on the land leaving Rosalina all by herself.<sup>19</sup>

Rosalina still continued to look for other ways to earn a living and get Juanito involved. She learned of an opportunity in Manila from a family looking for a driver and household help. After much debate, she convinced Juanito to apply with her for the jobs.<sup>20</sup>

They eventually both got accepted for the jobs and moved to Manila. Rosalina performed well and received their employer's praises and commendations. Juanito, on the other hand, caused many problems because of his laziness. His employment was continued only because of Rosalina's assurances that she would convince him to do better.<sup>21</sup>

After a few months, Rosalina received a job offer from her aunt in Japan. She discussed the opportunity with Juanito who immediately pushed for her to accept it without any regard for her safety or the effects of separation on their marriage. They agreed that she would resign and work in Japan, but Juanito would stay and continue with his driving job. She therefore returned to Nueva Ecija to fix her documentary requirements while Juanito stayed behind.<sup>22</sup>

Contrary to their agreement, Juanito resigned from his driving job soon after Rosalina left and followed to Nueva Ecija. He told her again that he really was not used to regular employment and that it would be better for him to just stay in Nueva Ecija.<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> Id.

<sup>19</sup> Id.

<sup>20</sup> Id. at 14.

<sup>21</sup> Id.

<sup>22</sup> Id.

<sup>23</sup> Id.

Rosalina's employment in Japan did not push through but her sister found her another job as a domestic helper in Hong Kong. Juanito again encouraged Rosalina to accept it and leave immediately without considering the stress and difficulties it would cause her. He merely told her that she needed to go and earn money to finish the construction of their house.<sup>24</sup>

Rosalina thus left for Hong Kong in April 1998 to work as a domestic helper. During her work stint, she sold Filipino food to fellow domestic helpers on Sundays to augment her income so she could send more money for Juanito's subsistence and the completion of their house.<sup>25</sup>

Regrettably, Juanito seldom attended to the construction of their house. Every time Rosalina called him, he was with his friends either drinking alcohol or playing *mahjong*. There were several occasions when he even travelled to Nueva Vizcaya to treat his friends to drinking sprees after receiving the remittances. They began to fight frequently because of his irresponsible and immature behavior and insensitivity to Rosalina's hardships in Hong Kong.<sup>26</sup>

Sometime in 1999, Rosalina sent a substantial amount of money to Juanito to redeem his parents' land which was mortgaged to pay for their wedding expenses. The agreement was for Juanito to till the farmland after it was redeemed to give him something productive to do and have an additional source of income. Rosalina also sent extra money to buy the seeds to be planted.<sup>27</sup>

Juanito led Rosalina to believe he was tilling the farmland but when harvest season came, he could not even tell her how many cavans of *palay* were produced. Rosalina discovered that Juanito lied to her and it was his brother-in-law who was working on the land and benefitting from it. Rosalina fumed in anger as she recalled her extreme hardships working in Hong Kong even on her days-off just so they could have a better life. All this was for naught as Juanito consistently deceived her.<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> Id.

<sup>25</sup> Id.

<sup>26</sup> Id. at 14-15.

<sup>27</sup> Id. at 15.

<sup>28</sup> Id.

Rosalina returned to the Philippines for a vacation in December 2000. She proceeded to Nueva Ecija and saw that their house had very minimal improvements contrary to Juanito's representations. Upon meeting with him, she was also surprised that he asked for her wallet and told her that he would keep it. He also prevented her from talking to her parents and siblings.<sup>29</sup>

Juanito forced Rosalina to go to Nueva Vizcaya with him to meet his family. When they arrived, Rosalina was shocked that he took out her wallet and distributed the money inside to his family and friends "as if he was running for a local election."<sup>30</sup> She confronted him about this but he slapped her and gave her the cold treatment for the next few days.<sup>31</sup>

When they returned to Nueva Ecija, Rosalina's mother saw that she was very pale and had lost a lot of weight, and thus advised her not to return to Hong Kong anymore. On the other hand, Juanito was unconcerned about her physical hardships and told her not to listen to her mother. He told her to return to Hong Kong so that she could earn enough money to finish the construction of their house. He eventually convinced her to return to Hong Kong with the promise that he would look for a job and both of them would strive to finance the completion of their house. He promised that this time would be different and he would help.<sup>32</sup>

Rosalina returned to work in Hong Kong in January 2001 and sent monthly allowances to Juanito while he was supposedly looking for a job. However, in April 2001, she discovered that he lied to her again and never attempted to look for a job. He instead continued with his old vices of sleeping idly, having drinking sprees, and gambling. In despair of his inability to understand his marital obligations and deliver on his promises, she stopped remitting money to him starting May 2001.<sup>33</sup>

In the latter part of May 2001, Juanito called up Rosalina and demanded her to return to the Philippines. He told her that he wanted to have a child and that if she did not return immediately, they should separate. Rosalina did not heed his demand and they fought intensely over the telephone ending with Juanito's threat to kill her. They

---

<sup>29</sup> Id.

<sup>30</sup> Id.

<sup>31</sup> Id.

<sup>32</sup> Id. at 16.

<sup>33</sup> Id.

stopped communicating afterwards. Rosalina also no longer spent vacations in Nueva Ecija for fear of her life.<sup>34</sup>

In September 2005, Rosalina's father died. Rosalina went on emergency leave to attend his interment in Nueva Ecija. She took the opportunity to visit their house and discovered that Juanito no longer lived there. He apparently left after selling all their furniture and appliances.<sup>35</sup>

After the interment, Rosalina asked Juanito's cousin to advise him to meet her at the barangay office. Juanito came and upon seeing her became furious and made a scene. That same evening, Rosalina summoned him to meet with her to talk at her sister's house. He arrived bringing her jewelry and told her that he would only give it if she came with him. She told him that she had had enough and no longer wanted to reconcile with him. He left the house with the jewelry and threatened to kill her when he gets the chance.<sup>36</sup>

In the morning of the following day, Juanito forced his way inside Rosalina's sister's house. The room occupied by Rosalina was locked so he climbed the wall to gain entry. Rosalina was luckily able to hide before he climbed up so he was not able to see her. Fearing for her life, Rosalina left Nueva Ecija escorted by her brother and flew to Hong Kong in the afternoon of the same day. Since then and until today, almost eighteen years later, they have not seen nor communicated with each other.<sup>37</sup>

Prior to filing the instant case, Rosalina submitted herself to a psychological evaluation by a Clinical Psychologist, Regina Velasco Beltran, M.A. (Dr. Beltran). During this process, the pertinent facts concerning Rosalina and Juanito's respective family backgrounds, crucial stages in their lives, and their relationship history from courtship until separation were discussed. Juanito was given the opportunity to participate in the evaluation but he failed to respond. Based on the expert evaluation, it was concluded that Juanito suffered from *Narcissistic Personality Disorder* which coexisted with *Dependent and Anti-Social Personality Disorder*. These disorders were found to be severe, incurable, and permanent in nature, and

---

<sup>34</sup> Id.

<sup>35</sup> Id.

<sup>36</sup> Id. at 17.

<sup>37</sup> Id.

ultimately rendered him psychologically incapable to perform the duties and responsibilities of marriage.<sup>38</sup>

### The RTC Ruling

The RTC rendered its Decision<sup>39</sup> granting the petition and declared the parties' marriage void *ab initio* on the ground of Juanito's psychological incapacity:

**WHEREFORE**, the herein petition is hereby **GRANTED**, ordering as follows:

1. The marriage contracted by **ROSALINA NATIVIDAD and JUANITO VIERNES BERNARDO, JR.**, on 19 October 1993 in Lupao, Nueva Ecija is hereby declared null and **void ab initio**;
2. The Municipal Civil Registrar of Lupao, Nueva Ecija and the National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippines Statistics Authority are hereby ordered to cause the annotation of this decision on the said marriage in the Book of Marriage under **Registry No. 93-141**;
3. Be it noted that the parties have no children and neither personal nor real properties were jointly acquired by them during their coverture.

**SO ORDERED.**<sup>40</sup>

The RTC concluded from Dr. Beltran's clinical findings that Juanito suffered from *Narcissistic Personality Disorder* which co-existed with *Dependent and Anti-Social Personality Disorder*.<sup>41</sup> It noted that this could be traced back to the family set-up and the faulty child-rearing practices he experienced in his developmental years.<sup>42</sup>

It additionally observed that Juanito's psychological disorder was permanent, incurable, and grave. It was said to be permanent since "it has juridical antecedence, [was] developmental in nature[,] and chronic in character."<sup>43</sup> It started from childhood and became deeply ingrained in his system or personality repertoire that no amount of intervention can change it. This disorder consequently

---

<sup>38</sup> Id. at 17-18.

<sup>39</sup> CA *rollo*, pp. 10-23.

<sup>40</sup> Id. at 23.

<sup>41</sup> Id. at 18.

<sup>42</sup> Id. at 20.

<sup>43</sup> Id. at 21.

rendered him incapacitated to comply with the essential marital obligations.<sup>44</sup>

The State, represented by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), filed a motion for reconsideration of the Decision,<sup>45</sup> to which Rosalina filed a Comment.<sup>46</sup> The RTC issued its Order<sup>47</sup> denying the motion for reconsideration for lack of merit.

Dissatisfied, the State appealed the Decision<sup>48</sup> and Order.<sup>49</sup>

The State filed a Brief for the Oppositor-Appellant<sup>50</sup> where it primarily argued that Rosalina failed to prove the gravity, juridical antecedence, and incurability of Juanito's alleged psychological incapacity. On the element of gravity, it was argued that assuming Juanito's indolence, alcoholism, and gambling were true, this did not necessarily demonstrate a grave psychological illness which rendered him incapable of performing his essential marital obligations. It was also claimed that the elements of juridical antecedence and incurability could not have been sufficiently established by Dr. Beltran's findings which were generic, conjectural, and incomplete. Her findings did not include any details or explanations as to how the incapacity arose. She did not even personally examine Juanito and based her assessment merely on subjective and self-serving information given by Rosalina.

Rosalina in response filed her Appellee's Brief.<sup>51</sup> She claimed that Juanito's maladaptive behavior which manifested during their marriage more than sufficiently proved his grave psychological illness that prevented him from assuming his marital obligations. This conclusion was supported by the Psychological Evaluation Report which traced his actions to personality disorders that developed prior to the marriage. Contrary to the State's assertion, the findings of the evaluation were not based only on Rosalina's statements, but also from Eduardo Bernardo (Eduardo), Juanito's first cousin. Regardless, it has been established in jurisprudence that the personal examination of Juanito is not a mandatory requirement.

---

<sup>44</sup> Id. at 21-22.

<sup>45</sup> Id. at 127-130.

<sup>46</sup> Id. at 132-142.

<sup>47</sup> Id. at 63-70.

<sup>48</sup> Id. at 10-23.

<sup>49</sup> Id. at 63-70.

<sup>50</sup> Id. at 34-49.

<sup>51</sup> Id. at 73-97.

### The CA Ruling

The CA rendered its Decision<sup>52</sup> granting the State's appeal and dismissing Rosalina's petition for declaration of nullity for insufficiency of evidence.

**WHEREFORE**, premises considered, the instant petition is **DISMISSED** for insufficiency of evidence. Accordingly, the Decision dated 10 June 2016 and Order dated 11 August 2016 of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 113, Pasay City, in Civil Case No. R-PSY-15-20923-CV, are hereby **REVERSED** and **SET ASIDE**.

**SO ORDERED.**<sup>53</sup>

It held that Dr. Beltran's evaluation of Juanito's psychological condition could not support a judicial finding of psychological incapacity since it was based only on information from Rosalina which was subjective and self-serving. It was observed that to make conclusions on Juanito's psychological condition based on information given by only one side is tantamount to admitting hearsay to establish the truth.<sup>54</sup>

Further, Rosalina harped on Juanito's indolence, irresponsibility, alcoholism, and addiction to gambling. However, even if true, these are grounds only for legal separation under Article 55 of the Family Code.<sup>55</sup>

Rosalina filed a Motion for Reconsideration<sup>56</sup> of the decision alleging that the CA failed to consider vital facts and evidence which proved the gravity, juridical antecedence, and incurability of Juanito's psychological incapacity. She emphasized that Juanito was physically abusive and made repeated threats to kill her. Moreover, Dr. Beltran's evaluation and findings were not based only on her statements, but also on information given by Eduardo who knew both of them before they got married.

The State filed a Comment<sup>57</sup> to the motion for reconsideration. It argued that the grounds raised by Rosalina in her motion regarding Juanito's irresponsibility and physical abuse are still not grounds to

---

<sup>52</sup> *Rollo*, pp. 64-81.

<sup>53</sup> *Id.* at 80.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.* at 78.

<sup>55</sup> *Id.* at 80.

<sup>56</sup> *CA rollo*, pp. 136-139.

<sup>57</sup> *Id.* at 162-164.

nullify the marriage bond and can be addressed sufficiently through the remedy of legal separation.

The CA rendered its assailed Amended Decision<sup>58</sup> granting Rosalina's motion for reconsideration and reversing its previous decision. It reinstated the Decision<sup>59</sup> of the RTC which nullified the parties' marriage on account of Juanito's psychological incapacity:

**WHEREFORE**, this Court **GRANTS** the Motion for Reconsideration; **REVERSES** and **SETS ASIDE** the Decision promulgated on 13 April 2018; and **REINSTATES** the Decision dated 10 June 2016 rendered by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 113, Pasay City, declaring the marriage between the petitioner-appellee and the respondent-[appellee] as **NULL** and **VOID AB INITIO** due to psychological incapacity of the respondent-[appellee] pursuant to Article 36 of the Family Code.

**SO ORDERED.**<sup>60</sup>

It held that the totality of evidence proved Juanito's psychological incapacity. Citing *Marcos v. Marcos*,<sup>61</sup> it pronounced that "there is no requirement for one to be declared psychologically incapacitated to be personally examined by a physician, because what is important is the presence of evidence that adequately establishes the party's psychological incapacity."<sup>62</sup> It quoted parts of the Psychological Evaluation Report which proved that it was not based solely on Rosalina's statements, but also on Eduardo who was a disinterested witness.

Undeterred, the State filed the instant petition.

### **The Petition**

The State in its petition for review on *certiorari*<sup>63</sup> essentially just reiterated its main argument that Rosalina failed to prove the gravity, juridical antecedence, and incurability of Juanito's alleged psychological incapacity. The CA should not have allegedly given probative value to the statements of Eduardo whose only credential was his unproven familial ties with Juanito.<sup>64</sup> The fact remains that

---

<sup>58</sup> *Rollo*, pp. 47-63.

<sup>59</sup> *CA rollo*, pp. 10-23.

<sup>60</sup> *Rollo*, p. 62.

<sup>61</sup> 397 Phil. 840 (2000).

<sup>62</sup> *Rollo*, p. 203.

<sup>63</sup> *Id.* at 9-46.

<sup>64</sup> *Id.* at 34.

Dr. Beltran failed to personally examine Juanito. Hence, the evidence appreciated by the CA to reverse its initial decision was based on hearsay. It asserted that the doctrine on totality of evidence cannot be used to circumvent the rules on evidence.<sup>65</sup>

Rosalina in response filed a Comment<sup>66</sup> to the petition claiming that the CA's Amended Decision was in accordance with law and jurisprudence. She cited the case of *Kalaw v. Fernandez*<sup>67</sup> to justify the weight given to Dr. Beltran's expert opinion and how the ruling was based on a second look at the totality of evidence. In addition to Juanito's established indolence, irresponsibility, alcoholism, and gambling, it was stressed that he was likewise deceitful, manipulative, and a compulsive liar with no regard for marital duties even before their marriage. Even worse, it was proven that he was physically abusive and made repeated threats to kill her.<sup>68</sup> All these abhorrent characteristics arose from personality disorders which developed from his younger years even before their marriage. It is evident that these have rendered him incapable of understanding and complying with his marital obligations.

The State filed a Reply<sup>69</sup> repeating its previous arguments that Dr. Beltran did not personally examine Juanito and that undue evidentiary weight was given to Eduardo's statements.

### **The Issue**

The issue in this case is whether or not the marriage of Rosalina and Juanito is void *ab initio* on the ground of the latter's psychological incapacity.

### **The Ruling of this Court**

The petition is denied.

Article 36 of the Family Code provides the ground of psychological incapacity to declare a marriage void *ab initio*:

Art. 36. A marriage contracted by any party who, at the time of the celebration, was psychologically incapacitated to comply with the essential marital obligations of marriage, shall

---

<sup>65</sup> Id. at 35-36.

<sup>66</sup> Id. at 84-112.

<sup>67</sup> 750 Phil. 482 (2015).

<sup>68</sup> *Rollo*, pp. 96-97.

<sup>69</sup> Id. at 122-129.

likewise be void even if such incapacity becomes manifest only after its solemnization.

The provision notably did not limit the definition of psychological incapacity. It has been determined from deliberations of the Family Code Revision Committee that this provision was adopted “with less specificity than expected” to “allow some resiliency in its application.”<sup>70</sup> It was desired that the courts interpret this provision on a case-to-case basis and guided by experience and relevant expert findings.<sup>71</sup>

It was recognized in *Ngo Te v. Gutierrez Yu-Te*<sup>72</sup> that “[i]n dissolving marital bonds on account of either party’s psychological incapacity, the Court is not demolishing the foundation of families, but it is actually protecting the sanctity of marriage, because it refuses to allow a person afflicted with a psychological disorder, who cannot comply with or assume the essential marital obligations, from remaining in that sacred bond.”<sup>73</sup>

This Court in the recent landmark case of *Tan-Andal v. Andal*<sup>74</sup> (*Andal*) established the prevailing guidelines on determining the existence of psychological incapacity as a ground to nullify marriage.

It was settled in *Andal* that psychological incapacity is neither a mental incapacity nor a personality disorder that requires proof through expert opinion. This previous interpretation of psychological incapacity contravened the intent of the law. The proper interpretation is to limit psychological incapacity to “psychic causes” which can be proven through durable and enduring aspects of a spouse’s personality, known as a “personality structure,” manifesting in clear acts of dysfunctionality that undermines the family. Significantly, proof may consist of testimonies of ordinary witnesses who have been present in the life of the spouses before they contracted marriage. It was pertinently explained:

In light of the foregoing, this Court now categorically abandons the second *Molina* guideline. Psychological incapacity is neither a mental incapacity nor a personality disorder that must be proven through expert opinion. **There must be proof, however, of the durable or enduring aspects of a person’s personality,**

<sup>70</sup> *Kalaw v. Fernandez*, supra note 67 at 495.

<sup>71</sup> *Id.* at 496.

<sup>72</sup> 598 Phil. 666 (2009).

<sup>73</sup> *Id.* at 698.

<sup>74</sup> G.R. No. 196359, May 11, 2021.

**called “personality structure,” which manifests itself through clear acts of dysfunctionality that undermines the family.** The spouse’s personality structure must make it impossible for him or her to understand and, more important, to comply with his or her essential marital obligations.

Proof of these aspects of personality need not be given by an expert. Ordinary witnesses who have been present in the life of the spouses before the latter contracted marriage may testify on behaviors that they have consistently observed from the supposedly incapacitated spouse. From there, the judge will decide if these behaviors are indicative of a true and serious incapacity to assume the essential marital obligations.

In this way, the Code Committee’s intent to limit the incapacity to “psychic causes” is fulfilled. Furthermore, there will be no need to label a person as having a mental disorder just to obtain a decree of nullity. A psychologically incapacitated person need not be shamed and pathologized for what could have been a simple mistake in one’s choice of intimate partner, a mistake too easy to make as when one sees through rose-colored glasses. A person’s psychological incapacity to fulfill his or her marital obligations should not be at the expense of one’s dignity, because it could very well be that he or she did not know that the incapacity existed in the first place.<sup>75</sup> (Emphasis and underscoring supplied)

However, the requirement to prove the juridical antecedence, incurability, and gravity of the psychological incapacity must still be complied with.<sup>76</sup>

It was emphasized in *Andal* that the element of juridical antecedence must be shown because it is an explicit requirement under the law. Article 36 of the Family Code provides that the spouse’s psychological incapacity must exist “at the time of the celebration [of the marriage]” and “even if such incapacity becomes manifest only after its solemnization.”<sup>77</sup> The proof of such juridical antecedence may consist of testimonies describing the spouse’s environment prior to the marriage which may have caused the particular behavior. It was pertinently held:

According to Dean Estrada-Claudio, “it is an accepted principle of all major and recognized theoretical schools within psychology that a person’s behavior is determined by the interaction of certain genetic predispositions and by his or her environment, working in iterative loops of influence.” From this,

---

<sup>75</sup> Id.

<sup>76</sup> *Santos v. Court of Appeals*, 310 Phil. 21, 39 (1995).

<sup>77</sup> *Tan-Andal v. Andal*, supra note 74.

proof of juridically antecedent psychological incapacity may consist of testimonies describing the environment where the supposedly incapacitated spouse lived that may have led to a particular behavior. For instance, violence against one's spouse and children can be a manifestation of juridically antecedent psychological incapacity when it is shown that the violent spouse grew up with domestic violence or had a history of abusive romantic relationships before the marriage.<sup>78</sup> (Underscoring supplied)

On the element of incurability, it should be understood in the legal sense and not in a medical sense. The psychological incapacity is thus not something that can be cured, but is more accurately deemed incurable in a legal sense when there is poor long-term prognosis:

Furthermore, not being an illness in a medical sense, psychological incapacity is not something to be cured. And even if it were a mental disorder, it cannot be described in terms of being curable or incurable. Dean Estrada-Claudio explained that true mental disorders follow a probable course or outcome, called "prognosis," that can either be self-limited or remain "stable across time and consistent in situations." If self-limited, the disorder is, in layperson's terms, curable." If it has poor long-term prognosis, the disorder is said to be "incurable."

That psychological incapacity is "incurable," but in a legal sense, is evident in the deliberations of the Code Committee. This was explained by Justice Eduardo P. Caguioa, when he said that "'incurable' has a different meaning in law and medicine."

Associate Justice Mario V. Lopez, in his concurring opinion, added that characterizing psychological incapacity as "incurable" is antithetical, because the law does not prohibit a person whose former marriage had been nullified under Article 36 to remarry. If psychological incapacity were truly incurable, then remarriage should not be allowed as it would only result in another void marriage.

Reading together the deliberations of the Code Committee and our rulings in *Santos* and *Molina*, we hold that the psychological incapacity contemplated in Article 36 of the Family Code is incurable, *not* in the medical, but in the legal sense; hence, the third *Molina* guideline is amended accordingly. This means that the incapacity is so enduring and persistent with respect to a specific partner, and contemplates a situation where the couple's respective personality structures are so incompatible and antagonistic that the only result of the union would be the inevitable and irreparable breakdown of the marriage. "[A]n

---

<sup>78</sup> Id.

undeniable pattern of such persisting failure [to be a present, loving, faithful, respectful, and supporting spouse] must be established so as to demonstrate that there is indeed a psychological anomaly or incongruity in the spouse relative to the other.”<sup>79</sup>

The element of gravity as appreciated in *Republic v. Molina*<sup>80</sup> was retained. It is understood to mean psychological incapacity caused by a genuinely serious psychic cause and not merely a spouse’s refusal, neglect, difficulty, or ill will to comply with his or her marital obligations.<sup>81</sup>

Nevertheless, the burden of proof to establish the nullity of the marriage is on the plaintiff. Any doubts should be resolved in favor of upholding the existence and continuation of the marriage.<sup>82</sup> This is rooted on the constitutional policy to respect the validity of marriage and the unity of the family.<sup>83</sup> The standard of proof required is clear and convincing evidence, which is more than preponderance of evidence but less than proof beyond reasonable doubt.<sup>84</sup>

Applying the foregoing, this Court finds that the CA did not commit reversible error in nullifying the parties’ marriage due to Juanito’s psychological incapacity.

The evidence adduced and testimonies on Juanito’s background and behaviors clearly and convincingly proved his personality structure that incapacitated him from understanding and complying with his essential marital obligations. This personality structure manifested in his acts of dysfunctionality which undermined and ultimately caused the total breakdown of their marriage.

Although Dr. Beltran’s testimony as an expert witness was no longer required, it provided significant input in this case to better understand and analyze Juanito’s personality structure. Contrary to the State’s claim, Dr. Beltran’s findings should not be entirely disregarded simply because she did not personally examine Juanito. It is established in jurisprudence that personal examination of the psychologically incapacitated spouse is not required.<sup>85</sup> It is likewise

---

<sup>79</sup> Id.

<sup>80</sup> 335 Phil. 664 (1997).

<sup>81</sup> Id. at 678.

<sup>82</sup> *Cahapisan-Santiago v. Santiago*, G.R. No. 241144, June 26, 2019.

<sup>83</sup> *Republic v. Molina*, supra note 80 at 676-677.

<sup>84</sup> *Tan-Andal v. Andal*, supra note 74.

<sup>85</sup> *Marcos v. Marcos*, supra note 61 at 847.

accepted practice in the field of psychiatry to “base a person’s psychiatric history on collateral information, or information from sources aside from the person evaluated. This is usually done if the patient is not available, incapable, or otherwise refuses to cooperate, as in this case.”<sup>86</sup>

Hence, based on Dr. Beltran’s Psychological Evaluation Report and evidence adduced, this Court concurs with the following summary of findings of the RTC on the behavioral manifestations of Juanito’s enduring personality structure:

- He has grandiose sense of self-importance and believes he is special (ex. He was never supportive of his wife, despite the effort exerted by her, as he always expects her to accommodate all his needs and wishes).
- He is demanding and shows arrogant behavior (ex. He wanted everything to go in his favor and had been insensitive to needs and feelings of his wife, for as long as he feels satisfied with his self-serving needs).
- He shows consistent irresponsibility (ex. He has no focus and no future plans for himself and family as well. He suffered from inability to assume his gender role; being head of his family, as he ever strived to look for a stable job but got contented of being easy go lucky and dependent to his wife for support).
- He has no self-confidence and assertiveness (ex. He suffers from inability to uphold his responsibility as head of the family, since he feels inadequate and cannot live without the support of other people like his family of origin and later his own wife).
- He requires excessive admiration (ex. He wanted to be given attention all the time, that when he feels unable to get the needed attention from his wife, he right away seek[s] it from his peers and cousins, hence their gimmicks and drinking spree[s]).
- He lacks empathy and is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others (ex. He shows lack of consideration and unkindness when he took advantage of his wife’s weakness and repeatedly abused her both verbally and physically, while he contented himself with his hedonistic activities).

---

<sup>86</sup> *Tan-Andal v. Andal*, supra note 74.

- He shows impulsivity and inability to plan ahead (ex. He is irresponsible and had prioritized spending his time doing drinking spree[s] with his set of “barkadas” than spend time with his family. Despite the fact that he was not earning, he still had the nerve to squander the [hard] earned money of his wife and was reluctant to give importance to his responsibilities as a husband).
- He renders disposition as he pleases without consideration to the feelings of his spouse (ex. He was insensitive to the feelings and needs of his wife, as he gives more importance to the satisfaction of his hedonistic needs. He was never appreciative of his wife’s effort and continues with his preferred lifestyle).
- He miserably failed to conform to social norm (ex. He does things in his own way without regard to social norm and standard; like having vices, drinking alcohol, chain smoking and being deceitful, manipulative and physically and verbally abuse his wife even with slight or no provocations at all).
- He manifests impulsivity and failure to plan ahead (ex. He shows reckless attitude in everything he decides on and do without consideration to its negative consequence on their marital life; like his hedonistic lifestyle which he did for his own satisfaction alone).
- He displays irritability and aggressiveness (ex. He is very temperamental and violent that he inflicts emotional and physical trauma or abused his wife even in front or witnessed by other people).
- He manifests deceitful and manipulative behavior (ex. Even at the start, he already deceived the Petitioner when he told her he was working as a driver. He also lied when he promised his wife that he’s going to mend his ways and give up his hedonistic lifestyle, but to no avail).
- He never feels sorry or remorseful of his shortcomings and misdeeds (ex. He doesn’t feel guilty or apologetic for his faulty acts and abusive behavior that he had inflicted towards his wife and own mother).<sup>87</sup>

The factual bases of these findings were narrated in Rosalina’s testimony and subjected to cross-examination by the State.<sup>88</sup>

---

<sup>87</sup> CA rollo, pp. 18-20.

<sup>88</sup> Rollo, pp. 59-60.

This was further corroborated by Eduardo in his interview with Dr. Beltran during the psychiatric evaluation of the parties. He is notably Juanito's first cousin who knew him since childhood and personally witnessed his behaviors growing up. He is also part of the group of family and friends who used to spend time with Juanito to drink and gamble. As Dr. Beltran recapitulated, Eduardo provided information on Juanito's history and behaviors throughout his developmental years until he married Rosalina:

*Eduardo* is married, owns and manages a small printing shop in Makati and a cousin of [Juanito]. Like the latter, he was born and raised in Nueva Vizcaya and only left the place when he got married to a Teacher based in Makati in 2012 and thereafter joined her in Makati and established his printing shop business.

*Eduardo* and [Juanito] attended the same elementary school. However, only *Eduardo* continued with his high school education. Nevertheless, they still hanged out and joined drinking sessions together with their other cousins and friends.

After finishing his high school studies, Eduardo, like the majority of his town mates did not enter college and merely helped their respective families in tilling their farm. *Eduardo* remarked that in Nueva Ecija, you will not starve as there are many farms available for tilling. Either you till your own farm or get paid for tilling the farm of the neighbors.

*Eduardo* recounted that he could not recall any instance that [Juanito] helped in tilling their farm or any other farm, despite the fact that his father owned a large parcel of agricultural land. He once mentioned that farming was not his cup of tea. Nonetheless, *Eduardo* still got along well with [Juanito] notwithstanding the differences in their points of view. In his mind, Eduardo blamed [Juanito's] parents for their son's outlook and attitude. His father was very lenient in disciplining his children while his mother was tolerant of her children's flaws and sometimes even covered up for their misdemeanor. When [Juanito] and his siblings reached the age of maturity, their parents tried to persuade them to look for a living or till their farm. Sadly, their nasty habits have been fully developed and there was nothing their parents can do to correct them. In addition, they did not fear their parents anymore as they were not used to being disciplined for their wrongdoings.

According to *Eduardo*, [Juanito] and his siblings got accustomed to asking for free commodities. They lived comfortably on dole-outs. Eduardo confessed that when he was several years younger, he likewise practiced what [Juanito] loved to do; drink liquor and gamble with their relatives and friends which often culminated in brawls among the intoxicated

participants. Later, he (Eduardo) realized the futility of these activities and altogether stopped joining such sessions.

*Eduardo* commented that he pitied [Rosalina] because she always looked for means to earn for their family's sustenance. Eduardo disclosed that it was he who gave [Rosalina] the idea of planting tomatoes at the vacant lots in the mountains of Nueva Vizcaya as he himself planted tomatoes, reaped a good harvest and earned quite a handsome income out of the produce. However, he rarely saw [Juanito] help [Rosalina] in planting tomatoes. It did not come as a surprise to him (Eduardo) therefore that [Rosalina] got weary of [Juanito's] laziness and decided to separate from him.<sup>89</sup>

The juridical antecedence of Juanito's personality structure was proven by the evidence regarding his family background and environment growing up before the marriage. The RTC observed that the root cause of his personality structure can be traced back to his developmental years and the family set-up and faulty child-rearing practices he was exposed to:

The root cause of the above disorders of the respondent **can be traced back from the type of family set-up and faulty child-rearing practices that he had been exposed to during his developmental years**. Apparently, he was oriented to inconsistent discipline, tolerance and lack of proper guidance from both parents. His father was perceived as weak-willed and lax in the manner on how he disciplined his children. Such was further accentuated by the permissive mother, who had tolerated and spoiled him being her favorite one.<sup>90</sup> (Emphasis and underscoring supplied)

It was found that Juanito's parents overly nurtured and spoiled him, and never taught him the value of hard work by making him dependent on dole-outs. This particular environment while he was growing up caused the dysfunctional aspects of his personality structure. Dr. Beltran explained in her testimony:

Q Madam Witness, you said that the respondent [Juanito] is suffering from Narcissistic Disorder which co-exists with Dependent and Anti-Social Personality Disorder?

A Yes ma'am.

Q What could have been the root cause of this personality disorder of the respondent?

A The root cause of the personality disorder of the respondent **could be due to the kind of upbringing that he was oriented to**

---

<sup>89</sup> Records, pp. 76-77.

<sup>90</sup> CA rollo, p. 20.

because accordingly the respondent was overly nurtured and spoiled by both parents because the father, he actually over nurtured and spoiled the respondent being his junior and also the mother in the same way spoiled the respondent so that he was unable to learn to work, he was so dependent to the dole-outs being given by the parents and the siblings up to the time he was being married he is still very dependent but very abusive if his demand is not given at once, ma'am.

Q How did it affect his marriage?

A It affected the marriage ma'am, because in the first place he never work[ed] to support the family and it was actually petitioner [Rosalina] who works for them to provide and while working, the respondent had squandered the hard earned money of the petitioner for his vices like gambling and drinking spree with his *barkadas*.<sup>91</sup>

Accordingly, it was concluded in the Psychological Evaluation Report that the peculiar aspects of Juanito's personality structure started from the early stages of his life and intensified only when the responsibilities and obligations during adulthood arose:

The respondent's [Juanito] psychological incapacity **had started in the early stages of his life**. Behavioral manifestations thereof were established in the marital history of the parties and from the interview of the collateral witness (first cousin of the Respondent), even before the Respondent contracted marriage with the Petitioner. **The respondent's psychological incapacity was intensified by the responsibilities and obligations that he has to carry-out in adulthood**. Thus, the respondent's psychological incapacity is already deep-seated in his personality development and mode of adjustment to his environment/relationship. Hence, considered to have juridical antecedence, as this had been present even before the celebration of his marriage, but had only take to manifest thereafter as intensified by the intricacies of the responsibilities entailed in marital life.<sup>92</sup>

It was also proven that Juanito's psychological incapacity was incurable in the legal sense. The pattern of his dysfunctional behaviors and attitude towards his marital duties throughout the twenty-nine years of their marriage clearly shows that he is incapable of understanding and complying with his responsibilities and role as a husband. Dr. Beltran explained that it was permanent and incurable because it was already deeply rooted in his personality.<sup>93</sup> The Psychological Evaluation Report thus deemed his psychological

<sup>91</sup> TSN, February 11, 2016, pp. 7-8.

<sup>92</sup> Records, pp. 84-85.

<sup>93</sup> *Rollo*, pp. 55-56.

disorder severe and incurable for being ego-syntonic in nature which causes him to remain unmotivated to get treatment and impermeable to recovery:

Based from the above psychological analysis, it is gleaned that **the psychological disorder of the Respondent is considered to be severe and incurable, since its symptoms are ego-syntonic in nature.** He feels comfortable with his behavior because it is acceptable to his ego, so he sees nothing wrong with what he is doing. Therefore, he remains **unmotivated for treatment and impermeable to recovery,** thus his psychological disorder is considered to be permanent in nature.<sup>94</sup> (Emphasis and underscoring supplied)

Finally, Juanito's psychological incapacity was shown to be severe and grave. Dr. Beltran in her Judicial Affidavit<sup>95</sup> explained how Juanito was overwhelmed with the demands and expectations of married life which led him to exhibit domineering, arrogant, and violent behavior towards Rosalina to cloak his inadequacies. This also caused him to be cruel, demanding, manipulative, grossly irresponsible, immature, and physically, emotionally, and psychologically abusive. Ultimately, this rendered him incapable to commit to the marriage and assume his share of responsibilities and obligations as a husband:

Q Please describe his personality further.

A When the respondent [Juanito] entered marital life, he was overwhelmed with the demands and expectations that it entails. However, instead of humbling himself, **he displayed domineering, arrogant, and violent behavior towards his wife to cloak his own inadequacies.** More so, he had **never expressed love and affection towards his wife** instead, he had been too **cruel, demanding and manipulative to the point of abusing her physically, emotionally and psychologically, in the process.** In addition, he is also **grossly irresponsible and immature,** as he took advantage of his wife's kindness and limitations.

Additionally, he showed absence of awareness and insight on his own actions and decisions though it had already caused emotional pain and trauma towards his wife. As such, instead of growing in love, intimacy and commitment, he had only pushed his loved one away from him. Worst, he has evidently chosen to become violent rather than resolving problems in their relation. Thus, leading to the collapse of his marriage for he didn't have the will to uphold his marital bond.

---

<sup>94</sup> Records, p. 84.

<sup>95</sup> Id. at 86-93.

- Q Is there something else in his personality you want to tell us?
- A Yes ma'am. The respondent obviously suffers from **inability to commit to his marriage**. He likewise suffers from **inability to assume his share of responsibilities and obligations as a husband**. This eventually led to the inevitable collapse of his family ties with his wife, for he did not have the will to uphold his marital covenant.

x x x x

- Q How would you characterize the gravity of the psychological disorder of the Respondent?
- A Respondent's disorder is **serious, permanent, incurable and grave enough to have caused the total breakdown of their marriage**.
- Q What made you say that the psychological disorder of the Respondent is incurable?
- A The psychological disorder of the respondent denominated as personality disorders is found to be incurable because a personality disorder, just like the respondent's disorders, develops during the critical formative years of the individual. As a matter of fact, behavioral manifestations thereof were already noted even before the respondent married the petitioner. It is already deeply rooted in the personality structure of the person suffering from it.
- Q Given proper medical or psychiatric attention, is there any possibility of curing this psychological disorder of the Respondent?
- A Even with the proper medical attention, the psychological disorder of the Respondent is chronic and incurable. It cannot be cured because a personality disorder is an enduring pattern of behaviors, traits and attitudes that are maladaptive and inflexible.

x x x x

- Q What is the basis of your recommendation?
- A The personality disorder of the Respondent is considered permanent in nature, **because it started during his early formative years and therefore became so deeply engrained in his personality structures**. The same has been existing prior to and at the time of the celebration of the marriage, although such incapacity becomes manifest only after the marriage's celebration. It is considered severe and grave in degree, because it had interfered, disrupted and hampered his normal functioning, related to heterosexual adjustments that affected the totality of their marital relationship.<sup>96</sup>

---

<sup>96</sup> Id. at 90-93.

The totality of evidence regarding Juanito's behaviors and actions throughout their marriage has proven that his failure to comply with his marital obligations was due to a serious psychic cause and not just his refusal, neglect, or ill will. Since the start of their marriage, Juanito failed to comply with his obligation to render mutual help and support to Rosalina<sup>97</sup> or contribute to the joint responsibility of supporting their family.<sup>98</sup>

For the entire twelve years they stayed together, Juanito did not engage in any gainful employment or undertaking to earn money to provide for their needs. He had very brief stints as a driver in a hardware store and a family in Manila but resigned because he allegedly could not work a regular job. Despite being in good health, he always refused to get a job and did not even help Rosalina till the farmlands in Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija for over five years. He even pressured her to take the job in Hong Kong as a domestic helper just so she could pay for the construction of their family home all by herself.

Juanito has always just leached off Rosalina's savings and hard-earned money to pay for his subsistence and addiction to alcohol and gambling. He deceived her to sending him a monthly allowance and diverted her remittances intended for building their house to treating his friends to drinking sprees and playing *mahjong*. Rosalina would discover what he was doing and would fight him but he remained unchanged. He repeatedly promised to change and get a job but never followed through.

The consistent pattern of Juanito's behaviors clearly demonstrated how he did not understand and comprehend his responsibilities as a husband. He did not feel the need to work to help and support Rosalina or materially contribute to benefit their marital estate. He had an erroneous sense of entitlement to receive unilateral support from Rosalina without a duty to reciprocate in any way. There were already hints of these personality traits while he was growing up but only worsened to such degree when he got married and was suddenly burdened with marital obligations.

More than failing to provide financial support, Juanito did not give Rosalina emotional and psychological support. He was selfish, insensitive, and did not care for Rosalina's welfare during their

---

<sup>97</sup> FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, Article 68.

<sup>98</sup> Id., Article 70.

marriage. He had no qualms leaving her to hike up to the mountain alone to plant tomatoes under harsh conditions for five years. He felt no guilt pressuring her to leave her family and work as a domestic helper in Hong Kong just to provide for his needs. As Rosalina testified, he showed no love and concern for her despite knowing all her hardships and sacrifices and seeing her pale and weakened physical condition. He never encouraged her or helped her through hard times she endured for their benefit. He only cared about himself and receiving money which he squandered on his vices.

Lastly, Juanito failed to comply with his marital obligation to respect Rosalina when he inflicted on her grave acts of physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. Rosalina recounted that he used to verbally and physically hurt her during their fights when she would confront him about his alcohol and gambling addiction. He would slap her, twist her arm, and would not let go until she cried in pain for his parents to intervene. In another occasion when she confronted him after he distributed all the money in her wallet to his family and friends, he slapped her face and gave her the cold treatment for a few days. When they fought after she decided to stop sending money in May 2001, he threatened to kill her the next time he had the chance. In 2005 when they met in Nueva Ecija, he again threatened to kill her. He even forced his way into her sister's house to look for her and harm her but she was luckily able to hide. This has caused her severe trauma and prevented her from visiting her family in Nueva Ecija until today for fear of her life.

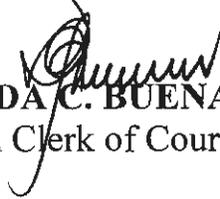
All told, durable and enduring elements of Juanito's personality structure that establish his psychological incapacity have been sufficiently proven with clear and convincing evidence. It is therefore in fulfillment of this Court's mandate to step in and nullify the parties' marriage to protect the sanctity of marriage and the institution of the family.

**WHEREFORE**, the petition for review on *certiorari* is **DENIED**. The Amended Decision dated August 1, 2018 of the Court of Appeals in CA-G.R. CV No. 109054, reinstating the Decision dated June 10, 2016 of the Regional Trial Court of Pasay City, Branch 113, in Civil Case No. R-PSY-15-20923-CV, is **AFFIRMED**.

The letter dated November 19, 2020 of Ms. Jane G. Sabido, Chief, Archives Section, Judicial Records Division, Court of Appeals, Manila, in compliance with the Resolution dated October 14, 2020, transmitting the rollo of CA-G.R. CV No. 109054 with 269 pages, one (1) folder of original records, and one (1) folder of the transcript of stenographic notes, is **NOTED**.

**SO ORDERED.”**

**By authority of the Court:**

  
**LIBRADA C. BUENA**  
Division Clerk of Court

by:

**MARIA TERESA B. SIBULO**  
Deputy Division Clerk of Court

**86**

SEP 01 2022

The Solicitor General  
Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village  
1229 Makati City

Court of Appeals (x)  
Manila  
(CA-G.R. CV No. 109054)

Public Information Office (x)  
Library Services (x)  
Supreme Court  
(For uploading pursuant to A.M. No. 12-7-1-SC)

Atty. Jeanie S. Pulido  
Counsel for Respondent Natividad-Bernardo  
G-07 Antel Seaview Tower  
2626 Roxas Blvd.  
1300 Pasay City

Philippine Judicial Academy (x)  
Supreme Court

The Presiding Judge  
Regional Trial Court, Branch 113  
1300 Pasay City  
(Civil Case No. R-PSY-15-20923-CV)

Judgment Division (x)  
Supreme Court

Juanito Viernes Bernardo, Jr.  
Respondent  
Balbalungao, Lupao  
3122 Nueva Ecija

UR

JLP

