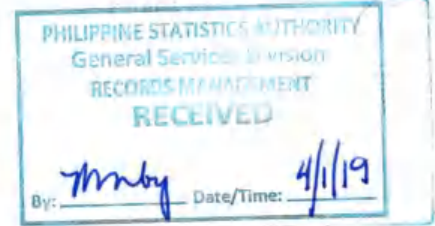




REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY**

Ref. No. 19CRS-03-613



**MERORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2019- 05**

TO : ALL CITY/MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRARS/OICs

SUBJECT : Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counselling (PMOC) Program  
Implementing Guidelines of 2018

DATE : 07 March 2019

Pursuant to Presidential Decree 965, the Family Code of the Philippines (as amended), The Local Government Code, and the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (R.A. 10354), all contracting parties or would-be-couples applying for a marriage license are required to attend and participate in a Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counselling session. In compliance with the mandate of the said laws, program on pre-marriage orientation and counselling was institutionalized in all Local Government Units (LGUs). However, there are as many models of implementation as there are LGUs. Likewise, based on the assessment of the program done by the Commission on Population in 2010, critical operational issues continue to beset the program significantly affecting the quality of information being disseminated through these sessions.

In this connection, there is a need to harmonize the implementation of existing policies on Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counselling (PMOC) and strengthen the objectives of the program to prepare the contracting parties to effectively assume their roles as spouses and parents within the bounds of marriage. Likewise, there is a need to streamline and standardize processes in the conduct of the PMOC to optimize the true intention of the program. For this purpose, a Joint Memorandum Circular was entered into by the Department of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Commission on Population, and Philippine Statistics Authority that sets guidelines for compliance of national implementing agencies and local government units. Copy of the Joint Memorandum is hereto attached as part of this issuance.

For your information and guidance.

*Lisa Grace S. Bersales*

**LISA GRACE S. BERSALES, Ph.D.**  
Undersecretary  
National Statistician and Civil Registrar General

*[Signature]*  
DAAS/RCT/MBG/RDF



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Department of the Interior and Local Government  
Department of Health  
Department of Social Welfare and Development  
Commission on Population  
Philippine Statistics Authority

**Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1  
Series of 2018**

**To: All Provincial Governors, City/ Municipal Mayors, Civil Registrars,  
PMC Program Implementers and Parties to Intended Marriages**

**Subject: Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) Program  
Implementing Guidelines of 2018**

**1.0. RATIONALE**

Presidential Decree 965, the 1987 Family Code, the Local Government Code, and the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (RA 10354) require all contracting parties or would-be-couples applying for a marriage license to attend and participate in a Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling session before they are issued such license. This program has long been institutionalized in all local government units (LGUs). At present, however, there are as many models of implementation as there are LGUs. Moreover, based on the assessment of the program done by the Commission on Population in 2010, critical operational issues continue to beset the program significantly affecting the quality of information being disseminated through these sessions.

Within this context, there is a need to harmonize the implementation of existing policies on Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling (PMOC) and strengthen the objectives of the program to prepare contracting parties to effectively assume their roles as spouses and parents within the bounds of marriage. There is also a need to streamline and standardize processes in the conduct of the PMOC to optimize the true intention of the program. For this purpose, these guidelines are set for compliance of national implementing agencies and local government units.

**2.0. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- a. Contracting parties - refers to the engaged or would-be-spouses who, in order to obtain a marriage license, are required to undergo the pre-marriage orientation and/or counseling.

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- b. Pre-Marriage Orientation (PM Orientation) – in compliance to RA 10354, it refers to the session that all contracting parties must attend before the issuance of a marriage license regardless of the age of the parties. This session provides adequate instructions and information on responsible parenthood, family planning, breastfeeding and infant nutrition and marriage and relationship shall be provided to the contracting parties.
- c. Pre-Marriage Counseling (PM Counseling) – in compliance with the Family Code, it refers to the mandatory counseling session required to all contracting parties where one or both parties are 18-25 years old in addition to their attendance to the PM Orientation. Contracting parties above 25 years old may also avail of this service. The session provides assistance and guidance to the contracting parties towards an informed decision about their forthcoming married life.
- d. Certificate of Compliance – a certificate signed by the PMOC Team Members who conducted the PMO Session and issued by the Local Population Office to contracting parties who have completed the pre-marriage orientation session.
- e. Certificate of Marriage Counseling – a certificate issued by an accredited PM Counselor to contracting parties who have completed the pre-marriage counseling session.

**3.0. CREATION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PMOC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)**

- 3.1. There shall be constituted a National PMOC TWG composed of representatives from the following national agencies/organizations:

Chairperson	Commission on Population
Vice-Chairperson	Department of the Interior and Local Government
Members	Department of Social Welfare and Development Department of Health Philippine Statistics Authority

The Commission on Population shall serve as and provide for Secretariat functions in the undertakings of the National PMOC TWG.

- 3.2. The National PMOC TWG shall have the following task and functions:

- 3.2.1. Manage the review, modification, development, consolidation, recommendation of policies and strategies and provision of other technical inputs in relation to the effective operationalization of the PMOC program;

- 3.2.2. Coordinate and recommend the necessary resource allotment and actions of the agencies and organizations at the national level for the effective operationalization of the PMOC program;
- 3.2.3. Discuss and resolve arising issues in relation to the implementation of the PMOC program;
- 3.2.4. For the effective operationalization of the PMOC program, provide technical guidance through policy and program advisories directed to regional, and provincial PMOC TWGs as well as local PMOC teams;
- 3.2.5. Develop and adopt a PMOC manual with corresponding training program designs and periodically review and improve the same;
- 3.2.6. Set up a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the implementation of the PMOC program that includes the preparation of annual report of implementation to be submitted to the National PMOC TWG member agency/organization principals;
- 3.2.7. Perform and act on any additional task as may be required in the effective implementation of the PMOC program;
- 3.2.8. Develop and implement regulations for the certification/accreditation of non-government institutions as training providers on PMOC-related trainings; and
- 3.2.9. Evaluate and certify the competency of non-government institutions – nationally based or those that cover more than one region as its area of operation – to provide PMOC-related trainings and subsequently issue their certificate of accreditation.

3.3. There shall be constituted a Regional PMOC TWG composed of representatives from the regional offices of the following agencies/organizations:

Chairperson:	Commission on Population - Regional Office
Vice-Chairperson:	Department of the Interior and Local Government
Members:	Department of Social Welfare and Development
	Department of Health
	Philippine Statistics Authority

The Commission on Population Regional Office shall serve as the Secretariat for the Regional PMOC TWG.

3.4. The Regional PMOC TWG shall have the following task and functions:

- 3.4.1. Elevate to the National PMOC TWG all arising issues in relation to the effective implementation of the PMOC program, which, warrant policy and program intervention from the national level;
- 3.4.2. Coordinate and recommend the necessary resource allotment and actions of the agencies and organizations at the regional level for the effective operationalization of the PMOC program;

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- 3.4.3. Tackle and deliberate all arising issues in relation to the implementation of the PMOC program to come up with effective policy and program recommendations for the different regional agencies and organizations;
- 3.4.4. Disseminate policy and program advisories issued by the National PMOC TWG;
- 3.4.5. Assist the National PMOC TWG in the operationalization of the PMOC program M&E system through the gathering and submission of reports and data required;
- 3.4.6. Perform any additional tasks assigned by the National PMOC TWG and/or as may be required in the effective implementation of the PMOC program; and
- 3.4.7. Evaluate and certify the competency of non-government institutions, operating in their respective regions, to provide PMOC-related trainings and subsequently issue their certificate of accreditation.

**4.0. IMPLEMENTING THE PMOC PROGRAM THROUGH TEAM APPROACH**

**4.1. Team Approach.** The PMOC Program at the local level shall be implemented through a team approach where all concerned agencies/offices shall collectively and systematically plan, implement, and monitor the program to ensure its quality and effectiveness.

**4.2. PMOC Team.** There shall be constituted in every city and municipality a PMOC Team to be composed of:

Team Leader	Appointed or Designated City/Municipal Population Officer
Mandatory Members	Representatives from the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City/Municipal Health and Nutrition Office</li> <li>• City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Office</li> </ul>
Pre-Marriage Counselor	Any PMOC Member accredited by the DSWD as Pre-Marriage Counselor, who will provide pre-marriage counseling session pursuant to EO 209.
Optional Members	Representatives from the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Civil Registrar's Office</li> <li>• Other relevant local offices such as but not limited to Agriculture, Education, GAD, etc.</li> <li>• Civil Society Organization</li> </ul>

The PMOC team shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) members coming from the designated team leader and mandatory offices set forth above through an issuance of an executive order by the Local Chief Executive. Provided that, the city/municipal mayor has the option to increase the team

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membership as he/she deems fit for the effective implementation of the PMOC program. Provided further, that the city/municipal mayor shall ensure the timely replacement of mandatory team members in cases of retirement, resignation, or other forms of separation from the office of the latter.

**4.3. Eligibility.** The PMOC Team Members shall have the following qualifications and eligibility requirements:

**4.3.1.** The team leader and mandatory members of the PMOC team must have permanent status of appointments in their respective LGU offices;

**4.3.2.** The team leader, mandatory members, and optional members of the PMOC team must have undergone and completed the PMOC Training conducted by POPCOM in collaboration with other agencies in accordance with the training program developed by the National PMOC TWG; and

**4.3.3.** PM Counselors must be accredited by DSWD before they can provide PM Counseling.

**4.4. Tasks and Functions.** The PMOC Team shall have the following task and functions:

**4.4.1.** Develop and maintain a responsive mechanism to effectively implement the PMOC program in the city/municipality;

**4.4.2.** Ensure adequate number of trained PMOC members that can cover the prevailing number of marriage license applicants;

**4.4.3.** Advocate for the effective implementation of the PMOC Program to ensure adequate resources, logistics requirement, and policy support for the program;

**4.4.4.** Undertake preparatory activities for the PMOC sessions by:

**4.4.4.1.** Disseminating information about the PMOC program through community assemblies, barangay meetings, and quad-media outlets;

**4.4.4.2.** Posting schedules of PMOC sessions in the office of the Local Civil Registrar, offices of the mandatory members of the PMOC team, and other noticeable places in the city/municipal hall;

**4.4.4.3.** Ensuring appropriateness, readiness and availability of a venue for PMOC sessions;

**4.4.4.4.** Preparing schedules of PMOC sessions for mandatory team members to enable them to plan these activities; and

**4.4.4.5.** Processing of the accomplished marriage expectation inventory (MEI) by contracting parties to take note of the specific areas of concerns needing emphasis at the actual conduct of the PMOC session;

- 4.4.5. Conduct the PMO session for not more than 15 couples at a time and the PMC session per couple or by group of not more than six (6) couples;
- 4.4.6. Conduct PMC session for selected couples based on the accomplished MEI, for contracting parties where one or both parties are 18-25 years old or as requested by couples;
- 4.4.7. Provide the Certificate of Compliance to contracting parties who have completed the PM Orientation to be signed by the PMOC Team Members who conducted the PMO Session and issued by the Local Population Office;
- 4.4.8. Provide the Certificate of Marriage Counseling to contracting parties who have completed the PM Counseling session to be issued by an accredited PM Counselor;
- 4.4.9. Regularly assess, resolve and/or elevate arising issues in the implementation of the PMOC program; and
- 4.4.10. Maintain a client satisfaction feedback survey and consolidate the result annually as a mechanism to monitor the quality of PMOC session provided as well as to serve as an additional basis in the renewal of the accreditation of PM counselors.

**4.5. Local PMOC Secretariat.** The City/Municipal Population Office or, in its absence, the Family Planning Unit/Coordinator of the City/Municipal shall provide secretariat support to the implementation of PMOC program. The PMOC Secretariat shall specifically perform the following functions:

- 4.5.1. Maintain the profile and electronic or hard database of couples;
- 4.5.2. Prepare the needed supplies, materials, and equipment for the conduct of the PMOC sessions;
- 4.5.3. Prepare and control the issuance of Certificate of Compliance and Certificate of Marriage Counseling; and
- 4.5.4. Prepare and submit reports to PMOC Regional TWG.

## **5.0. ROLES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATING AGENCIES/ ORGANIZATIONS**

Aside from their participation in the national and regional TWGs, within their respective agency/organization mandates, the agencies/organizations shall perform their roles and functions enumerated below. All concerned government agencies shall issue appropriate internal policies and guidelines to operationalize their roles and functions.

### **5.1. Commission on Population (POPCOM)**

- 5.1.1. Issue POPCOM Board Resolution encouraging LGUs to provide PMOC Program as a basic service in consonance with the Local Government Code;

5.1.2. In accordance with the PMOC training program developed and approved by the National PMOC TWG and their principals, the POPCOM shall:

5.1.2.1. at the national level, conduct training of trainers on PMOC for Regional Implementers; and

5.1.2.2. at the regional level, conduct, in collaboration with the regional PMOC TWG members, and issue corresponding certification for the training of new local PMOC Team members;

5.1.3. Conduct annual assessment of the PMOC Program;

5.1.4. Advocate for the effective implementation of the PMOC program;

5.1.5. Take the lead in the monitoring and evaluation of the PMOC program;

5.1.6. Undertake researches as input to the PMOC policy development tools;

5.1.7. Install and maintain a data bank for the PMOC regional program, including but not limited to development and maintenance of inventory of Pre-Marriage Counselors and those who conduct PM Orientation;

5.1.8. Provide and certify relevant PMOC-related training as requirement for accreditation of counselors; and

5.1.9. Provide updates to the National and Regional PMOC TWG regarding trainings provided.

## 5.2. Department of the Interior and Local Government

5.2.1. Disseminate the Revised Pre-Marriage Orientation and Counseling Program Implementation Guidelines of 2018 to all Local Government Units nationwide;

5.2.2. Disseminate all other subsequently issued policies and issuances in relation to the effective implementation of the PMOC program to all Local Government Units nationwide;

5.2.3. Disseminate all program and policy advisories issued by the National PMOC TWG to all Local Government Units nationwide;

5.2.4. Actively monitor compliance of LGUs in the implementation of their respective local PMOC programs. This can be made through the inclusion of PMOC program implementation indicators in the DILG's LGU performance assessment/evaluation tools and programs such as the Local Government Performance Measurement System (LGPMS), Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), etc.; and

5.2.5. Encourage the leagues of local government specifically the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) for necessary support for the implementation of the PMOC Program.

## 5.3. Department of Social Welfare and Development

5.3.1. Advocate for the effective implementation of the PMOC program;

5.3.2. Provide technical assistance to LGUs and to the PMOC teams;

5.3.3. Accredite the Pre-Marriage Counselors of the PMOC teams;

5.3.4. Provide relevant PMOC-related training as requirement for accreditation of counselors; and



5.3.5. Provide technical assistance in the training of PMOC teams.

**5.4. Department of Health**

- 5.4.1. Provide necessary evidence based policy guidelines and technical assistance for the effective implementation of the PMOC program at the national, regional, and local levels;
- 5.4.2. Advocate for the effective implementation of the PMOC program at the national, regional, and local levels;
- 5.4.3. Assist in the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system of the PMOC program; and
- 5.4.4. Provide relevant PMOC-related trainings.

**5.5. Philippine Statistics Authority**

- 5.5.1. Disseminate PMOC -related policies and implementation guidelines to local civil registrars;
- 5.5.2. Provide technical inputs in the development of PMOC manual of the PMOC training program; and
- 5.5.3. Provide to Local Civil Registrars relevant information on PMOC matters such as statistical data on family planning, parenthood and marriage.

**6.0. ROLES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**


**6.1. City and Municipal Level**

- 6.1.1. The Local Government Unit through the City/Municipal Mayor shall:
  - 6.1.1.1. Effect the implementation of the PMOC program particularly the issuance of executive orders/circulars/directives for an effective and responsive PMOC program implementation;
  - 6.1.1.2. Include in his/her proposed annual budget for the Sanggunian an allotment for the effective operation of the PMOC team and the conduct of PMOC sessions;
  - 6.1.1.3. Provide support for the PMOC implementation ensuring that resources would be made available for (1) the venue for the sessions, (2) supplies and materials, (3) basic and refresher training for PMOC team members, and (4) meals, transportation, and other incidental expenses necessary for the PMOC Team's performance of their duties and functions; and
  - 6.1.1.4. Ensure that at least one (1) member of the PMOC team is an accredited PM counselor who will issue and sign the Certificate of Marriage Counseling.

6.1.2. The Local Government Unit through the Sangguniang Panglungsod/ Sangguniang Bayan shall pass ordinances in support of the PMOC

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program including recurring annual budget for the PMOC team and their clients.

- 6.1.3.** The City/Municipal Population Office or designated officer shall:
- 6.1.3.1.** Serve as the focal office and secretariat of the PMOC team;
  - 6.1.3.2.** Maintain records and files of the PMOC program;
  - 6.1.3.3.** Prepare the necessary reports for submission to the Regional and Provincial PMOC TWGs in relation to the PMOC Program M&E system;
  - 6.1.3.4.** Submit PMOC program implementation reports to the Local Chief Executive annually and from time to time as may be required by the latter;
  - 6.1.3.5.** Organize and coordinate the conduct of training for their respective PMOC team members;
  - 6.1.3.6.** Ensure that the PMOC session is conducted using the team approach;
  - 6.1.3.7.** Ensure that contracting parties with unmet need for family planning are referred to appropriate health service providers; and
  - 6.1.3.8.** Ensure that contracting parties with demand for other health and social services are referred to appropriate health and social service providers.
- 6.1.4.** The City/Municipal Health Office:
- 6.1.4.1.** Serve as mandatory member of the PMOC Team;
  - 6.1.4.2.** Conduct PMOC sessions together with other mandatory members;
  - 6.1.4.3.** Collaborate with the mandatory members in ensuring that the PMOC Program is implemented efficiently and effectively; and
  - 6.1.4.4.** Address and provide the necessary family planning and health services needed by contracting parties identified with unmet need during PMOC sessions.
- 6.1.5.** The City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office:
- 6.1.5.1.** Serve as mandatory member of the PMOC Team;
  - 6.1.5.2.** Conduct PMOC sessions together with other mandatory members;
  - 6.1.5.3.** Collaborate with the mandatory members in ensuring that the PMOC Program is implemented efficiently and effectively; and
  - 6.1.5.4.** Address and provide the necessary social service need by contracting parties identified during PMOC sessions.
- 6.1.6.** The Local Civil Registrar's Office (LCRO) shall:
- 6.1.6.1.** Release the marriage license to the applicants upon presentation of the following: 



- 6.1.6.1.1. For contracting parties ages 18-25 - duly signed Certificate of Compliance and Certificate of Marriage Counseling or its equivalent certificate issued by other authorized solemnizing officer; and
- 6.1.6.1.2. For contracting parties ages 26 and above - duly signed Certificate of Compliance;
- 6.1.6.2. Regularly submit copies of the applications for marriage license to PSA for archiving.

**6.2. Provincial Level**

6.2.1. There shall be constituted a Provincial PMOC TWG composed of representatives from the following provincial offices/organizations:

Chairperson	Office of the Governor
Vice-Chairperson	Provincial Population Office
Members	Provincial Health Office
	Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office
	PSA-Provincial Office
	DILG -Provincial Office

The Provincial Population Office shall serve as and provide for secretariat functions in the undertakings of the Provincial PMOC TWG.

The Governor shall, with the recommendation of the PMOC TWG, have the authority to expand the membership of the body as may be necessary in the effective implementation of the PMOC program.

6.2.2. The Provincial PMOC TWG shall have the following task and functions:

- 6.2.2.1. Elevate to the Regional PMOC TWG all arising issues in relation to the effective implementation of the PMOC program, which warrant policy and program intervention from the regional level;
- 6.2.2.2. Coordinate and recommend the necessary resource allotment and actions of provincial offices and local government units for the effective operationalization of the PMOC program at the local level;
- 6.2.2.3. Tackle and deliberate all arising issues in relation to the implementation of the PMOC program to come up with effective policy and program recommendations for the different provincial offices and local government units;
- 6.2.2.4. Disseminate policy and program advisories issued by the National PMOC TWG;

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- 6.2.2.5. Assist the Regional PMOC TWG in the gathering and submission of reports required by the PMOC program M&E system; and
- 6.2.2.6. Perform and act on any task as may be required in the effective implementation of the PMOC program.

6.2.3. The Local Government Unit through the Sangguniang Panlalawigan shall adopt an ordinance in coordination with component cities and municipalities in support of the PMOC program implementation in the entire province including provision of necessary resources.

## 7.0. PMOC SERVICE PROTOCOL

The PMOC Program Services shall be availed through the following procedures:

- 7.1. All contracting parties who are required to get marriage license must first apply for a marriage license at the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO);
- 7.2. The LCRO subsequently refers the applicant contracting parties to the City/Municipal Population Office (*as PMOC focal and secretariat*);
- 7.3. The applicant contracting parties will personally register with the PMOC Secretariat and must accomplish the Marriage Expectation Inventory Form (MEIF);
- 7.4. All applicant contracting parties, except those marriages exempted from license requirement as provided in the Family Code of the Philippines must personally attend the PM Orientation to be conducted by the PMOC team on the designated schedule, session of which shall not be less than four (4) hours;
- 7.5. The pre-marriage counseling session, to be provided by an accredited pre-marriage counselor who is a member of the local PMOC, shall be conducted on the designated schedule, session of which shall not be less than three (3) hours;
- 7.6. The PM Orientation and PM counseling sessions should be conducted within the same calendar day;
- 7.7. All applicant contracting parties shall be given adequate instructions and information on responsible parenthood, family planning, breastfeeding and infant nutrition, and marriage and relationship;
- 7.8. After the PM Orientation, applicant contracting parties who are 18-25 years old are also required to attend a separate PM counseling session. If only one of the contracting parties is between the ages 18-25, the other party who is more than 25 years old must also be present at the Pre-Marriage Counseling Session.

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Contracting parties ages 18-25 who has a certificate issued by priest, imam or minister authorized to solemnize marriage will no longer need to undergo PM Counseling Session (Art.16, EO209);

7.9. A Certificate of Compliance shall be issued to contracting parties upon completion of the PM Orientation session which shall be signed by PMOC Team Members who conducted the orientation and issued by the Local Population Office;

7.10. For contracting parties who are required of parental consent and advice (18-25 years old) and have completed the Pre Marriage Counseling session, a Certificate of Marriage Counseling will be issued by an accredited PM counselor;

7.11. The contracting parties shall return to the LCRO and present the signed Certificate of Compliance and Certificate of Pre-Marriage Counseling (if necessary) to obtain the marriage license; and

7.12. The Certificates shall contain information as contained in Annex A (Certificate of Compliance) and Annex B (Certificate of Marriage Counseling) which are integral parts of this JMC.

## **8.0. CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE**

Personal details of the contracting parties shall be stored and maintained confidentially by the PMOC Team. The PMOC Team must observe and respect the data privacy rights of the contracting parties.


The use of any personal information collected, stored, and processed under the PMOC Program shall be subject to the rules and regulations as provided for by the Data Privacy Act of 2012 or RA 10173.

## **9.0. TRAINING OF PMOC TEAM**

9.1. All PMOC Team Members must undergo the PMOC Training Program prescribed by the National PMOC TWG;

9.2. The PMOC Training program will include:

9.2.1. The mandatory training on the PMOC Manual which has 2 parts: Module 1 on PM Orientation and Module 2 on PM Counseling for new PMOC Team members; and

9.2.2. The PMOC-related learning and development courses that will provide continuing education to PMOC team members. This is a listing of 

training programs provided by both government and non-government institutions recognized by the National and Regional PMOC TWGs;

- 9.3. For new PMOC Team Members, they must undergo the Training on PMOC:
- 9.3.1. POPCOM shall lead the provision of the Training on PMOC Manual Module I. POPCOM may conduct the training or collaborate with other agencies for the conduct of the same; and
  - 9.3.2. POPCOM shall issue a Certificate of Training Completion to all PMOC team members that have undergone said training. The Certificate will form part of the accreditation requirement for Pre-Marriage Counselors;
- 9.4. All new pre-marriage counselors who will conduct the PMC sessions, in addition to PMO training to be conducted by POPCOM, shall undergo pre-marriage counseling (focusing on marriage counseling skills) training to be led by the DSWD based on the module to be jointly developed by the members of the National PMOC Team; and
- 9.5. For continuous upgrading of skills and capacities and updating on related issues, PMOC team members are required to undergo refresher course and relevant trainings. PMOC Team members may select and go through any of the training programs listed under the PMOC Training Program prescribed and conducted by the National PMOC TWG and accredited non-government institutions.

#### 10.0. ACCREDITATION OF PRE-MARRIAGE COUNSELORS

The accreditation of pre-marriage counselors shall be governed by a separate guidelines issued by the DSWD.

#### 11.0. MISCELANEOUS PROVISIONS


**11.1.Repeal** – DILG-DOH-DSWD-POPCOM Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01 Series of 2010, and the Revised Pre-Marriage Counseling (PMC) Program Implementing Guidelines of 2002 is repealed in its entirety, and all other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this joint memorandum circular is hereby repealed or modified accordingly. Any supplemental or amendatory policy in relation to this JMC shall be issued accordingly.


**11.2.Interpretation and Construction** – These guidelines shall be liberally construed to ensure and facilitate the effective implementation of the PMOC program, and conduct of PMOC sessions by competent and appropriately trained PMOC team members


**11.3. Separability** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of these guidelines is declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

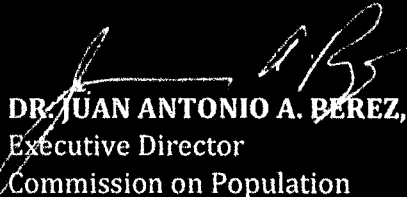
**11.4. Effectivity** – This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

  
**HON. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**  
Secretary  
Department of Health

  
**HON. EDUARDO M. AÑO**  
Officer-in-Charge  
Department of the Interior and  
Local Government

  
**HON. EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**  
OIC-Secretary  
Department of Social Welfare  
and Development

  
**HON. LISA GRACE S. BERSALES, Ph.D.**  
Undersecretary  
National Statistician and Civil Registrar  
General  
Philippine Statistics Authority

  
**DR. JUAN ANTONIO A. BEREZ, III**  
Executive Director  
Commission on Population

COMMISSION ON POPULATION

**RECEIVED**

Date: Sept. 10, 2018 Time: 2:00 PM

By: E. Valentin

CENTRAL RECORDS UNIT

*Handwritten initials*

ANNEX A

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

This is to certify that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ have completed the Pre-Marriage Orientation (PMO) session, in accordance with Section 15 of R.A. 10354. This certificate will be valid until the issuance of the marriage license.

Conducted by: (PMOC Team Members who conducted the PMO only)

Name and Signature  
Position/Designation

Name and Signature  
Position/Designation

Name and Signature  
Position/Designation

Issued by: *(Local Population Office or Family Planning Office, or by the Local Health Office in absence of a local Family Planning Office)*

Name and Signature  
Position/Designation  
Office *(Local Population Office or Family Planning Office or Local Health Office)*

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**ANNEX B**

**CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE COUNSELING**

This is to certify that Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ have completed the Pre-Marriage Counseling (PMC) session, in accordance with Article 16 of the New Family Code (EO 209). This certificate will be valid until the issuance of the marriage license.

Issued by: *(Must be an accredited PM Counselor)*

Name and Signature

Position/Designation

Accreditation No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Accreditation: \_\_\_\_\_

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