



Unit 530, Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park, 1107 Alabang-Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City
Metro Manila, Philippines Tel. No. (02) 7987-2833; 0917-5419370
E-Mail: allianceforthefamily@gmail.com Website: www.alfi.org.ph

20 February 2023

The Honorable Rep. Ian Paul L. Dy
Chairperson, Committee on Population & Family Relations
3/F RVM Building
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126

Subject: House Bill Nos. 1021 & 1593

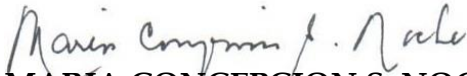
Dear Chairperson Dy:

We understand that your Committee will be conducting a meeting to discuss House Bill No. 1021 entitled "An Act Legalizing Church Annulment or Dissolution of Certain Marriages and for Other Purposes" and House Bill No. 1593 entitled "An Act Recognizing the Civil Effects of Church Annulment, Declaration of Nullity, and Dissolution of Marriages and for Other Purposes".

We are attaching our Position Paper in support of these bills.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,


MARIA CONCEPCION S. NOCHE
President


LUZ P. DESQUITADO
Member, Board of Trustees

A Position Paper in Support of House Bill Nos. 1021 and 1593 on Recognition of Civil Effects of Church Annulment, Declaration of Nullity and Dissolution of Marriages

We, the Alliance for the Family Foundation Philippines, Inc. (ALFI), a multi-sectoral organization committed to preserve and restore Filipino family values in the face of all threats in the form of proposed and current legislation, government programs and public projects, **would like to express our support to the proposed Recognition of Civil Effects of Church Annulment, Declaration of Nullity and Dissolution of Marriages in House Bills 1021 and 1593.**

It is our position that the proposed bills will benefit couples whose marriages have been declared null and void from the beginning by church tribunals to move on with their respective lives as single individuals.

The civil effects of church marriages took effect with the verbalized consent and signing of the couple of the civil marriage contract on the day of the church wedding, and the co-signing of witnesses as well. Both the couple and the witnesses signed on the assumption that the church wedding was valid in the first place and that both church and civil requirements were satisfied.

However, this becomes, *de facto*, an unfounded assumption once Church tribunals issue a declaration of nullity of the church wedding, after thorough examination of the grounds and evidence for such. It follows that the declaration of the same marriage as null and void from the beginning should have the same effect not just canonically, but in civil aspects as well.

The current system of having a separate application for declaration of nullity in civil courts is unnecessary as it is a mere duplication of effort which takes expense out of the couple. There was no valid church marriage to begin with and it seems appropriate to automatically dissolve the civil effects of this marriage.

We therefore urge this august body to support **House Bills 1021 and 1593** to help simplify the proceedings for the civil Declaration of Nullity for couples in void marriages from the beginning.