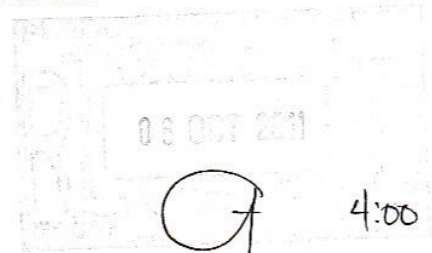


REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
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**OFFICE ORDER NO. 124**  
**Series of 2011**

**SUBJECT: REVISION/AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE II, Section 8 of  
PAO OFFICE ORDER No. 137, Series of 2010  
(PAO Operations Manual)**

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In the interest of the service, Article II, Section 8 of *PAO Office Order No. 137, Series of 2010 (PAO Operations Manual)* is hereby amended to read:

"Section 8. *Cases Not To Be Handled.* – Public Attorneys shall not **extend legal assistance** in the following cases:


- a. Where they would be representing conflicting interests;
- b. **Prosecution of Criminal Cases except in the following instances where there exists no conflict of interest and the accused being not a client of the Public Attorney's Office in the subject case, to wit:**
  1. **When the Public Attorney's Office assisted the offended party/complainant during the preliminary investigation stage in the Prosecutor's Office, Municipal Trial Courts, or Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, on first-come-first-served basis and the case is on appeal or certiorari before the courts; and,**
  2. **When there is a directive from the Secretary of Justice or other government authorities to assist the Prosecutor(s) assigned to prosecute the criminal case in court;**

- c. Adoption cases, except in instances where the adopter is the biological parent of the step-parent of the adoptee, subject to the indigency test; and,
- d. **Cases involving violation of Batas Pambansa No. 22 (B.P. 22), otherwise known as the "Anti-Bouncing Checks Law", unless the Public Attorney is appointed by the court as counsel *de officio* under existing laws, rules and regulations."**

PLEASE BE GUIDED ACCORDINGLY.

For strict compliance.

Quezon City, Metro Manila  
October 5, 2011

  
**PERSIDA V. RUEDA-ACOSTA**  
Chief Public Attorney  
# 2140