

## SECOND DIVISION

[ A.M. NO. 07-2-81-RTC, April 03, 2007 ]

### ABSENCE WITHOUT OFFICIAL LEAVE (AWOL) DAISY S. CARINGAL, RTC, BRANCH 34, IRIGA CITY

#### R E S O L U T I O N

##### TINGA, J.:

This administrative matter concerns the continuous absence from work of Daisy S. Caringal, Court Stenographer III of the Regional Trial Court (RTC), Branch 34, Iriga City, since 22 September 2005. In a letter<sup>[1]</sup> dated 17 November 2006, Presiding Judge Alfredo D. Agawa, Pairing/Acting Judge of the RTC-Iriga City, transmitted the Court a copy of a letter<sup>[2]</sup> dated 9 November 2006 of Atty. Wilmentita C. Oliva-Zorilla, Acting Branch Clerk of Court, RTC, Branch 34, Iriga City, informing him that Ms. Caringal had left the country for the United Kingdom without first securing an authority to travel from the Court in violation of Memorandum Order No. 14-2000. She last rendered service on 21 September 2005. Judge Agawa recommended that her position of Stenographer III be declared vacant.

Sometime in December 2005, Ms. Caringal sought the issuance of her authority to travel for the period 19 December 2005 to 1 June 2006 together with the corresponding application for vacation leave abroad. However, no authority to travel was issued in her favor and there is no record showing that the required Supreme Court clearance was completed.

In its Memorandum<sup>[3]</sup> dated 30 October 2006, the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) recommended the following:

In view of the failure of Ms. Daisy S. Caringal to comply with the abovementioned memorandum, it is respectfully recommended that: **(1)** her application for vacation leave (travel abroad) from December 19, 2005 to June 1, 2006 be **DISAPPROVED** and her absences be considered **UNAUTHORIZED**; **(2)** she be **DIRECTED** to immediately report back to duty, otherwise, she shall be recommended to be dropped from the rolls for being on absence without official leave (AWOL); **(3)** in the interim, her salaries and other benefits be ordered **WITHHELD** until she reports back for duty; and **(4)** the Financial Management Office be **DIRECTED** to immediately release the withheld salaries and benefits of Ms. Caringal upon receipt of notice from the Leave Division of her return to duty.

To date, Ms. Caringal has not reported for duty and has failed to submit her Daily Time Records/Bundy Cards from September 2005 up to the present.