

SECOND DIVISION

[A.M. No. P-08-2459 (Formerly A.M. No. 07-12-308- MTCC), July 23, 2008]

**OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR, COMPLAINANT, VS.
SERAFIN S. BASCO, COURT INTERPRETER II, MTCC, BRANCH 2,
ANTIPOLO CITY, RESPONDENT.**

R E S O L U T I O N

TINGA, J,:

Before us is an administrative matter which concerns the habitual tardiness of Serafin S. Basco (Basco), court interpreter II of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities of Antipolo City, Branch 2.

In a Report^[1] dated 14 August 2007, Hermogena F. Bayani, chief judicial staff officer of the Office of Administrative Services, Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), certified that Basco has incurred tardiness as follows:

January	2007	12 times
February	2007	14 times
March	2007	15 times
April	2007	10 times
May	2007	14 times
June	2007	13 times

In his Letter^[2] dated 6 October 2007, Basco expressed his regret for his tardiness but attributed the same to heavy traffic that he would encounter in his daily travel from his residence in Pasig City to his place of work. He also avers that he personally signs in and that he has not been remiss in his duties. Basco also points out that he had wanted to avail of the flexible working hour scheme under Civil Service Circular No. 14, Series of 1989 and OCA Circular No. 99-2003 but was discouraged by his Clerk of Court as their presiding judge might not favor such arrangement. As such, he often incurred tardiness.

The OCA found that Basco's explanation did not merit such consideration as to justify his habitual tardiness, and recommends that he be reprimanded with a warning that a repetition of the same or similar offense will warrant the imposition of a more severe penalty.

The Court adopts the OCA's findings and recommendations.

Civil Service Memorandum Circular No. 23, Series of 1998 describes habitual tardiness as follows: