



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila



Circular Letter No.:	2017-35
Date:	07 July 2017
Supplements:	CL Nos. 2017-13 and 2014-15

CIRCULAR LETTER

TO : ALL IC-SUPERVISED ENTITIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

SUBJECT : EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF DOCKET FEES IN REQUESTS FOR LEGAL OPINION

WHEREAS, on 07 March 2017, the Commission issued IC Circular Letter No. 2017-13 providing for the Guidelines in the Processing of Requests for Legal Opinion;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of IC Circular Letter No. 2017-13 requires payment of docket fees for legal opinions requested ranging from Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) to Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) depending on the difficulty or novelty of such request;

WHEREAS, this Commission recognizes the goal of the National Government, its agencies and instrumentalities and local government units in rendering efficient and effective public service to cater the needs of the State and the people;

WHEREAS, this Commission likewise recognizes the right of every individual to have equal access to information regarding the Philippine insurance system;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the government's mandate and in order to provide equal opportunity to every person to request for a legal opinion from the Commissioner, there is a need to provide an exemption from payment of docket fees;

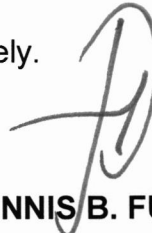
NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 437 of the Insurance Code, as amended by R.A. 10607, the following are hereby exempted from payment of docket fees in requests for legal opinion:

1. The National Government, its agencies and instrumentalities and local government units, or any of its employees or officers in the discharge of their official powers, functions and responsibilities;
2. Indigent persons who have no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of their families;

To ensure that only those qualified shall be exempted under this Circular, an applicant must submit a formal written request for exemption with the Insurance Commissioner stating therein a reasonable justification for the operation of the exemption. Moreover, said formal written request must be accompanied by a Certificate of Indigency from the Barangay Chairman having jurisdiction over the residence of the applicant;

3. Persons raising plain and simple questions which do not involve thorough examination of relevant documents, extensive legal research and/or significant use of this Commission's resources; and
4. Such other persons which the Commissioner finds, in the exercise of his discretion, should be exempt taking into consideration the public interest and the exigencies of public service.

This Circular Letter shall take effect immediately.



DENNIS B. FUNA
Insurance Commissioner

