

ADVISORY No. 32
Series of 2025

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) reminds all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and applicants of the importance of truthfully declaring their civil status in all documents and transactions related to overseas employment.

I. Reminder Against Misrepresentation

Submitting, furnishing or using false information or documents or any form of misrepresentation for the purpose of job application or employment is a serious offense under DMW Rules and Regulations. A violation of this may lead to the initiation of an appropriate administrative case before the DMW that may result in suspension from participation in the overseas employment program.

II. Legal Meaning of “Legally Separated”

Under Philippine law, the term “legally separated” refers to a civil status granted only by a court-issued decree of legal separation, which:

- Permits spouses to live separately and apart;
- Does not terminate the marriage, which remains valid;
- Does not allow remarriage unless the marriage is annulled or declared void;
- May settle issues on property relations, support, and child custody.

Merely living separately or being separated-in-fact does not qualify as being “legally separated” without a judicial decree.

III. Important Reminder

Legally married OFWs are reminded not to declare themselves as **“single”** or **“separated”** in any document submitted to the DMW unless they have an **official court decree** confirming such status. Falsely declaring civil status constitutes misrepresentation and will be dealt with accordingly.

The DMW urges all OFWs to uphold honesty and integrity in all their dealings to protect their rights and welfare.

For information and guidance.


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Secretary

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RECEIVED

By: RICHIE M. GUEVARRA

Date: October 20, 2025 Time: 04:35 P.M.

CONTROLLED AND DISSEMINATED

By: DMW General Services Division on October 20, 2025

