

Ignoring a notice to appear doesn't make the problem go away



ATTY. ROBERT REEVES & NANCY MILLER

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IT can begin as innocently as going to the mailbox. Lying there is a letter with a return address from the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Inside is a document titled Notice To Appear. Getting a Notice to Appear in Immigration Court is scary. It means that the government has begun a process to try to remove a non-citizen from the United States. It is not surprising that

some people respond by ignoring the notice and not going to court. However, that does not make the problem go away. In fact, it usually makes it worse.

If a person fails to appear at a removal hearing after proper notice is sent out, that person will be ordered removed if the government establishes by clear, unequivocal and convincing evidence that written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing was provided to the alien and that the alien is removable.

The notice must be properly addressed. It must include the correct apartment number and zip code and be properly addressed to the person named in the notice to appear. Where the alien is a minor, the notice must be served upon the responsible adult in whose custody the alien is placed. If the alien is over 14 years old, he must also be

served. In the view of some courts, notice to counsel is deemed sufficient even if the lawyer does not convey this information on to the alien. Notice to an adult relative is also considered service.

Atty. Reeves has represented clients in numerous landmark immigration cases that have set new policies regarding INS action and immigrants' rights. His offices are located in Pasadena, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Makati City.

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The analysis and suggestions offered in this column do not create a lawyer-client relationship and are not a substitute for the personalized representation that is essential to every case.

(Advertising Supplement)

"A person who has a final order entered against her in absentia after receiving oral notice is barred from most forms of relief, including cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, change of status and voluntary departure for 10 years."

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Why Regine is sexy at 30

by RICARDO F. LO
Philstar.com

HOW does Regine Tolentino manage to be all that and still look as fresh as a daisy even if, as co-host/field reporter of the GMA early-morning show *Unang Hirit*, she has to wake up before the sun rises and ends her ever-busy day before the clock strikes 12 midnight?

"Positive thinking and time management," said Regine who has ironed out her differences with husband Lander Vera-Perez, living happily ever after with him and their two daughters, Reigne, 10, and Reigen, 8 (who study at Colegio de San Agustin). "I have always had a positive outlook even when Lander and I were having problems—part of a couple's continuing adjustment process, you know. Being in showbiz and being a family woman is very complicated, so it helps to have a positive attitude."

"On leave" from showbiz, Lander has been working for seven years with the Department of Foreign Affairs, assigned to the Intel Division at the NAI.

"Peace of mind for both of us," added Regine. "I have my own world and he has his own."

They allowed each other space a few years back. Lander moved to his grandma (Mrs. Nene Vera-Perez's) house inside the Sampaguita Pictures compound a stone's throw from the townhouse where his own family used to stay on Valencia St., Quezon City. They have since moved to Eastwood City but Regine's boutique and dance studio are still in the same building on the same street.

"It did us good," said Regine about the brief separation. "Lander and I were able to see things objectively and to take stock of our situation with clear minds."

No, there was no third party involved. And no, Lander never drank nor smoked; neither did he bet in cockfights. "It was his father who did," clarified Regine who added that the kinks in their marriage must have been caused by the fact that they got married young.

While grappling with domestic problems, Regine also had to mind her mother who was diagnosed with bone cancer. She's in remis-

sion.

"If she remains in remission for five more years, then *sana tuluy-tuloy na ang paggaling niya.*"

A typical day in Regine's life goes like this: She wakes up before 4am to prepare the stuff she needs for the day's show. She is usually assigned to cover events as far as Quezon (like she was during this interview). After *Unang*

Hirit, she goes to the gym and proceeds to her shop ("And teach dance if I have a class"), picks up her daughters from school, tapes for UH segments and does corporate shows and goes home at way past 10. She turns in before midnight. Still, she finds time to rehearse twice a week as choreographer for the GMA nighttime show *SOP*. ■

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