

RYAN PATRICK R. TESORO, PETITIONER-APPELLANT, VS. MARIA CARMELA VILLARINO-TESORO, RESPONDENT-APPELLEE.

Ponente: DIAMANTE, J.

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DIAMANTE, J.:

On February 25, 2014, the Regional Trial Court of Binangonan, Rizal, Branch 69 rendered a decision denying the Petition for Judicial Declaration of Nullity of Marriage.[1] Likewise, the court a quo, in its Order[2] dated April 14, 2014, denied the motion for reconsideration on the foregoing ruling. Thus, on May 8, 2014, herein petitioner-appellant Ryan Patrick Tesoro filed a Notice of Appeal thereof.[3]

At this juncture, it is noteworthy to mention that when We forwarded Our July 30, 2014 correspondence to the known address of petitioner-appellant requiring him, among others, to file his Appellant's Brief in accordance with Rule 44, Section 7 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, the same was returned to this Court with notation "RTS-unknown no such number.[4]" It bears stressing also that although a copy of the aforementioned correspondence was received by Atty. Edwin M. Joyas, appellant's counsel, as depicted in the Registry Return Card,[5] no Appellant's Brief had been filed up to now based on the Judicial Records Division Verification Report.[6]

The failure to file the Appellant's Brief, though not jurisdictional, results in the abandonment of the appeal which may be the cause for its dismissal, as aptly enunciated in *Beatingo vs. Gasis*. [7] We must emphasize that the right to appeal is not a natural right but a statutory privilege, and it may be exercised only in the manner and in accordance with the provisions of law.[8]

IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, the instant appeal is now deemed ABANDONED. Accordingly, this case is hereby DISMISSED pursuant to Section 1 (e), Rule 50 of the Revised Rules of Court and is considered CLOSED and TERMINATED.

SO ORDERED.

Librea-Leagogo, (Chairperson), and Sadang, JJ., concur.

[1] Rollo, pp. 11-20.

[2] Id. at 21-22.

[3] Id. at 23.

[4] Id. at 29.

[5] Id. at 27 (dorsal).

[6] Id. at 28 (dorsal).

[7] G.R. No. 179641, February 9, 2011.

[8] Id.

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