**"Minahal Kita Pero Taksil Ka": A Valentine's Day Discourse**

Khentintin dela Pass (Khentintin) is a 31-year-old single no-girlfriend-since-birth hopeless romantic who is a firm believer in fate and destiny. In the early morning of February 14, 2022, while doing his daily morning jog at Cebu I.T. Park, he accidently bumped into Baby Chrissy Belarnimo (Baby Chrissy), a 16-year-old shy-type and baby-faced island girl who was born in Siargao but temporarily stays in Cebu City to finish her studies as a psychology student at the University of San Carlos. It was a serendipitous love at first sight for Khentintin; but for Baby Chrissy, she simply met an annoying old man. However, it did not take long before the spark of their romantic relationship ignited when the younger sister of Baby Chrissy, Patricka Roberta (Patricka), confided to Khentintin that Baby Chrissy actually had a secret crush on him. Baby Chrissy tried her very best to evade Khentintin at first, but Baby Chrissy ultimately could not resist Khentintin's charisma and sex appeal, and eventually started to stalk him on social media. Contrary to her long-standing stance against women making the first move, Baby Chrissy sent Khentintin a contact request in Telegram, a popular messaging app, which Khentintin eagerly accepted. Khentintin and Baby Chrissy then started to exchange messages - both humorous and flirty - on Telegram and after a few weeks, they officially became lovebirds on March 14, 2022.

On April 1, 2022, Police Chief Minda Belarnimo (Mama Minda), the mother of Baby Chrissy and a police colonel of the Cebu City Police Office, learned of their surprising relationship. Mama Minda found out about the relationship because Baby Chrissy would regularly borrow her (Mama Minda's) cellphone, an iPhone 14 Pro Max fully paid through GCash, to access her (Baby Chrissy's) Telegram account. Consequently, Mama Minda would be able to peruse their messages whenever Baby Chrissy would forget to log out her Telegram account. Mama Minda aggressively disapproved of their relationship because to her mind, Baby Chrissy will always be her baby girl and, being a minor, was still too young to have a relationship, let alone with a man in his thirties. However, true to their commitment to love each other through thick and thin, Khentintin and Baby Chrissy merely brushed aside Mama Minda's displeasure.

Sometime in May 2022, Mama Minda became furious when she found out that Khentintin, through Telegram, was sexually luring her daughter to meet with him in a nearby motel. Mama Minda further learned that Khentintin was coaxing Baby Chrissy to send him photos of her private parts. Baby Chrissy was hesitant at first, but eventually relented because of her "love" for Khentintin and sent him the photos he requested. When Baby Chrissy found out that Mama Minda was able to read their exchanges, she immediately borrowed the phone of her Korean pop idol uncle, Papa Ean Itzy Park (Papa Ean) to delete her messages. However, Mama Minda, being the strict police officer that she was and knowing that the couple knew each other's Telegram passwords, successfully compelled Baby Chrissy to open Khentintin's Telegram account to get an electronic copy of their conversation and pictures. Mama Minda then confronted Khentintin and told him to stay away from Baby Chrissy because she was still a minor; otherwise, she will storm Khentintin's home and shoot him in the head point-blank. The following week, Baby Chrissy asked Khentintin to delete their messages and pictures from his Telegram account. Khentintin then angrily shouted at Baby Chrissy saying "Bogo jud ka oy! Sakpan na hinuon ta! Kalami gyud nimo i-chokeslam! Wa gyud kay gamit, nisalig ra ba gyud unta ko nimo animala ka!" Baby Chrissy then decided to break up with Khentintin that same day.

On February 14, 2023, Khentintin was criminally charged in court for violations of the Anti-Child Abuse Law (R.A 7610) and Anti-Child Pornography Law (R.A. 9775) in relation to the Cybercrime Prevention Law (R.A. 10175). At the trial, Mama Minda presented the messages and pictures which Baby Chrissy recovered from Khentintin's Telegram account. Baby Chrissy also testified as witness to support the accusations against Khentintin. When asked by the judge during her testimony "Do you still love the accused, Ms. Witness?," Baby Chrissy replied in tears, "He will always be special to me, your honor. But love is never a license for lust."

**Can the incriminating messages and photos retrieved by Baby Chrissy from Khentintin's Telegram account and given to Mama Minda who was a police officer be admitted in evidence (or used) against Khentintin in court? Why or why not? Explain FULLY. Remember that this is a discussion worth 50 points, so your answers should be concise yet comprehensive.**

The incriminating messages and photos retrieved by Baby Chrissy from Khentintin's Telegram account and given to Mama Minda who was a police officer can be admitted in evidence against Khentintin in court.

The reason why these messages and photos can be used as evidence is because they were obtained through lawful means, as per the provisions of the Cybercrime Prevention Law (R.A. 10175). The said law provides that any person who has knowledge of the commission of any cybercrime may furnish the information to the Department of Justice or the law enforcement agencies. In this case, Baby Chrissy, who has access to Khentintin's Telegram account, was able to obtain the messages and photos and turn it over to Mama Minda, who was a police officer. Moreover, Baby Chrissy's testimony can support the authenticity of the retrieved evidence and its relevance to the case.

Additionally, these messages and photos may also be considered as evidence under the "best evidence rule" which states that the best evidence available shall be presented in court. Telegram is considered as an electronic document and therefore, the electronic messages and photos retrieved from Khentintin's Telegram account are considered as the original copy of the evidence.

However, it is also important to note that the admissibility of evidence is subject to the rules on relevance, authenticity, and reliability, and may be excluded if it is found that the evidence was obtained in violation of the accused's constitutional rights, such as the right against unreasonable searches and seizures or the right to privacy.

In conclusion, the incriminating messages and photos retrieved by Baby Chrissy from Khentintin's Telegram account and given to Mama Minda who was a police officer can be admitted in evidence against Khentintin in court, provided that they are relevant, authentic, and reliable, and were not obtained through unlawful means.