

Question: What are the legal documents which discuss the prevailing laws on psychological incapacity? retrieved 50 documents

invoking llm at 2025-02-05 08:51:25 finished invocation at 2025-02-05 08:51:39 The prevailing laws on psychological incapacity, especially in the context of Filipino law as it relates to marriage, are primarily articulated in **Article 36** of the Family Code. This law allows for the declaration of marriages as void due to psychological incapacity that renders a person unable to fulfill essential marital obligations. The definition and application of this legal concept have evolved through various judicial interpretations, particularly by the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

1. **Legal Concept:** Psychological incapacity is expressly recognized as a *legal*, rather than a *medical* concept. This distinction is crucial because it underscores that the grounds for declaring a marriage void are based on legal criteria developed through case law, rather than strict medical definitions or diagnoses (G.R. No. 196359 May 2021).
2. **Judicial Guidelines:** The Supreme Court has developed guidelines, often referred to as the **Molina rule**, which emerged from the interpretation of psychological incapacity in the case of *Santos v. Court of Appeals*. These guidelines highlight that psychological incapacity must exhibit three characteristics:
 - **Gravity:** The incapacity must be significant enough to prevent the affected spouse from performing marital duties.
 - **Juridical Antecedence:** The incapacity must have existed prior to or at the time of the marriage.
 - **Incurability:** The incapacity must be considered permanent or chronic (G.R. No. 196359 May 2021, G.R. No. 247798 Jan 2023).
3. **Evolving Interpretation:** The interpretation of psychological incapacity is dynamic and based on evolving societal and psychological standards. Courts are encouraged to consider the particulars of each case, relying on expert testimony and evidence to ensure a fair assessment (G.R. No. 196359 May 2021).
4. **Case Law Examples:** There are numerous pertinent cases that elaborate on psychological incapacity, including:
 - *Republic v. Court of Appeals* (1997)
 - *Santos v. Court of Appeals* (1995)
 - *Molina v. Molina* (1997), which established the benchmark for assessing psychological incapacity. These cases have contributed significantly to the legal framework surrounding this issue, providing clarity on how courts should approach claims of psychological incapacity in marriage annulment proceedings.
5. **Guidance from Experts:** The judicial process often involves expert opinions from psychologists and psychiatrists, which, while not mandatory for establishing psychological incapacity, are highly regarded in interpreting the psychological profiles of the parties involved (G.R. No. 151867 Jan 2004). In summary, while psychological incapacity lacks a fixed medical definition, its recognition in law is guided by judicial interpretations that emphasize its legal nature, requiring a thorough review of individual case circumstances to establish its existence based on specific criteria as determined by the Supreme Court.