

Important Notes:

Occurrence of any circumstance from the list of evidences shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of illegal use of electricity, and shall be the basis for:

- (a) the immediate disconnection by the electric utility to such person after due notice,
- (b) the holding of preliminary investigation by the prosecutor and the subsequent filing in court of the pertinent information,
- (c) the lifting of any temporary restraining order or injunction which may have been issued against a utility or cooperative.

The discovery of any of the circumstances, in order to constitute *prima facie* evidence, must be personally witnessed and attested to by the consumer concerned or by an officer of the law or a duly authorized representative of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

Read Part 2 about the possibility of suspension of disconnection...

References:

*Magna Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers
RA 7832 aka The Anti-Pilferage Law of 1994*

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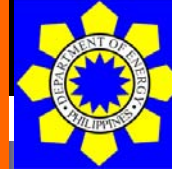
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Department of Energy

Important Things to Know About Disconnection of Electricity Service

Grounds for Disconnection

Part 1 of 3



**Consumer Welfare and
Promotion Office**

What are the grounds for disconnection?



- (a) Non-payment of electricity bill within (9) days upon receipt thereof
- (b) Illegal use of electricity (refer to prima facie evidence)
- (c) Upon lawful orders of government agencies and/or the courts
- (d) When public safety so requires
- (f) Request of the registered customers based on justifiable reasons
- (g) Allowing other end-user or persons to be connected to his/her electrical installation, whether for profit or not.

Prima Facie Evidence of Illegal Use of Electricity

The presence of any of the following circumstances shall constitute prima facie evidence of illegal use of electricity:

- (a) Bored hole on the glass cover of the electric meter, or at the back or any other part of said meter
- (b) The presence of salt, sugar and other elements inside the meter that could result in the inaccurate registration of the meter's internal parts to prevent its accurate registration of consumption of electricity



- (c) The existence of any wiring connection which affects the normal operation or registration of the electric meter
- (d) The presence of a tampered, broken, or fake seal on the meter, or mutilated, altered, or tampered meter recording chart or graph or computerized chart, graph or log
- (e) The presence in any part of a building or its premises which is subject to the control of the consumer or on the electric meter, of a current reversing transformer, jumper, shorting and/or shunting wire, and/or loop connection or any other similar device
- (f) The mutilation, alteration, reconnection, disconnection, bypassing or tampering of instruments, transformers, and accessories
- (g) The destruction of, or attempt to destroy, any integral accessory of the metering device box which encases an electric meter, or its metering accessories
- (h) The acceptance of money and/or other valuable consideration by any officer or employee of the electric utility concerned or the making of such an offer to any such officer or employee for not reporting the presence of any of the circumstances enumerated in the subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) hereof.