

## **ORDER**

The Judicial Courts are presently functioning in a restricted mode due to prevailing situation arisen due to outbreak of COVID-19 as well as its new Strain recently detected in India. As per the instructions of the Hon'ble High Court issued from time to time, physical hearing was also permitted in Sonipat Sessions Division for some categories of cases. However, in the interest of justice, it is required to create an atmosphere for hearing of cases through online mode keeping in view the present situation. Hence, it is ordered to start the hearing of cases through online mode in Sonipat Sessions Division, as detailed under:-

1. The hearing of cases shall be conducted through Video Conferencing/through the approved software of the platform e.g. Vidyo, Webex. However, in case of technical failure of any of the above platforms, the hearing may be conducted through "WhatsApp" or "Google Duo" video calling as per the convenience of the Judge/Magistrate on Duty hearing the matter. The joining and disconnection of the video conference/video calling shall be at the end of the Judge/Magistrate on duty through mobile phone of Reader/Stenographer of respective Courts.

2. The concerned Advocate/litigant shall ensure that the room from where he/she intends to appear before the Court through video conferencing/video call is free from all sources of disturbance like external noises, poor lighting and improper acoustics. It shall be ensured that judicial proceedings are conducted with proper courtesies and protocol. No other person except the Advocate/litigant shall be allowed in the room from where litigant/Advocate is appearing through video conferencing/video call facility.

3. The counsel/party shall inform the authorized official of the Court on duty in advance the mode of video conferencing/video calling through which they intend to get their matters heard, so that they may be connected and informed accordingly.




4. Every possible effort be made to record statements of witnesses (particularly doctors, formal and official witnesses) through video conferencing or WhatsApp/Google Duo video call, by following instructions issued by the Hon'ble High Court. Physical appearance of witnesses be allowed, only if it is not possible to record their statements by way of video conferencing or WhatsApp/Google Duo video call. The Court must ensure that only such number of witnesses be summoned, which result in minimum footfall in the Court.

The Judges/Magistrates on duty shall conduct the video conference from their Court room/chamber and the learned counsel/party may join for the video conferencing/video calling from his/her place.

A copy of this order be uploaded on the website of this office for general information of the Advocates as well as litigants.


All concerned be informed accordingly.

  
(Y.S. Rathor)  
District and Sessions Judge,  
Sonipat. 106-01-2021

Endst. No. 54 / Dated 6/1/21 /

Copy forwarded to:-

1. Registrar General, High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh,
2. All the Judicial Officers posted in Sonipat Sessions Division;
3. Deputy Commissioner, Sonipat;
4. Superintendent of Police, Sonipat;
5. District Attorney, Sonipat;
6. Presidents, Bar Associations, Sonipat, Gohana, Ganaur and Kharkhoda;
7. Superintendent Grade-II (Judicial);
8. System Officer/Computer Clerk,  
for information and necessary action.

  
(Y.S. Rathor)  
District and Sessions Judge,  
Sonipat. 106-01-2021