

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, SALEM

Dated the 19th day of June 2020

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Sub : Courts & Judges – Spread of Corona Virus Pandemic – Physical functioning of Courts at District Head Quarters and in Taluks in the Districts – Effective from 22.06.2020 – Directions issued – Regarding.

- Ref :
1. Hon'ble High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.88001-A/2019/C3, dated 12.12.2019.
 2. Hon'ble High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.88001-A/2019/C3, dated 13.12.2019.
 3. Hon'ble High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.23991-C/2019/C3, dated 18.04.2020 (For T.N & Puducherry)
 4. Hon'ble High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc.No.23991-C/2019/C3, dated 01.05.2020.
 5. This Court's Official Memorandum dated 26.03.2020.
 6. This Court's Official Memorandum dated 01.05.2020.
 7. This Court's Official Memorandum dated 03.05.2020.
 8. Official Memorandum of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras in Roc.No. 1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, Dt : 30.05.2020.
 9. This Court's Official Memorandum dated 31.05.2020 & 10.06.2020
 10. Official Memorandum of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras in Roc.No. 1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, Dt : 18.06.2020.

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Considering the existing situation prevailing in the State of Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Administrative Committee of the Madras High Court under reference No.10th cited has allowed only staggered opening of the Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu. Further it is informed that the Hon'ble Administrative Committee of the Madras High Court, as an initial measure, has permitted physical court hearings of cases in a limited and restricted manner maintaining social distancing and other safety measures in all the courts at the District Head Quarters and Taluk Courts at Salem.

Functioning of Courts Located at District and Taluks, in Salem District.

- The existing system of presentation and hearing of all bail applications through video conferencing in all the Courts in Salem District shall continue and its further continuance has to be assessed by the Hon'ble High Court, Madras.
- The physical filing of fresh suits and other cases will be allowed for all working days. Separate Drop Boxes will be placed in front of the Court building for Civil and Criminal Units (Timing 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.). The advocates / Police Officials to be instructed to put their case documents in concerned drop box. The drop box will be opened on the next day and it will be taken up for scrutiny by the centralized filing counter in order to give sufficient time for extinction of COVID-19 Virus, if any.
- Only limited cases as per the cause list published in the Salem District Court website will be taken. The final hearing cases and interlocutory applications can be heard in the open court to the maximum of 5 cases in respect of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Court direction cases, above 5 Years Old Cases and Senior Citizen Cases per day mentioned in the cause list and the case calling time will be intimated to the concerned counsel well in advance through SMS/E-mail/Website/any other mode.
- The appeal cases, where neither the presence of the litigants nor otherwise any other assistance is required, except that of the lawyers, may be heard through video conferencing, subject to the availability of the facility and the time period available to the respective courts. This shall however be done only through video conferencing and not by any physical court-hearings.
- If the Advocate not able to appear for physical presence as per the cause list shall be intimated to the concerned court through e-mail/phone message in advance.

- Entry for the advocates presenting the listed cases alone will be entertained. Token system will be followed for physical presence while attending hearing by the counsel who shall be accompanied with any one person i.e advocate clerk/Junior advocate up to a maximum of five persons including state counsel at a time in a court-hall will be permitted. Advocates should not assemble together at any place inside the court premises so as to follow the social distancing norms.
- Advocates shall not enter the Offices or making crowd over the Court premises so as to avoid any health and hygiene threat.
- Advocates are required to wear face mask during their stay inside the Court Campus. Further, they are requested to cooperate with Paramedical staff or any other front line worker who is entrusted with the task of thermal scanning at the entry point.
- All the Advocates shall be in white & white dress with neck band while appear for their cases for both physical presence and Video conferencing / Vidyo App. This Dress Code will be in vogue till until further orders.
- Advocates above the age of 65 years may abstain from coming to Court and required to avail the facility of Video Conferencing Hearing.
- Entry to litigants or any other persons in all the Courts at Salem District is strictly prohibited.
- The Bar Associations advocates chambers, library and Canteen shall be continued to remain closed until further orders.

*Sd/-S. Kumaraguru,
Principal District Judge,
Salem.*

To

1. All the Judicial Officers in Salem District.
2. All the Bar Association in Salem District.
3. The Public Prosecutor, Salem.
4. The Government Pleader, Salem.

Copy to

The Court Manager, Sherishtadar's (General / Admin / Judicial), Head Clerk, Central Nazir, Copy Superintendent, Record Keeper, Official Receiver of Salem District.