

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT COURT, TIRUNELVELI

A.No. 216 /2020 D.No.A1/ 557/2020, Dated: 19.06.2020.

Sub : Courts and Judges – Spread of Corona Virus Pandemic – Physical functioning of Courts at District Head Quarters and in Taluks in the Districts of (i) Coimbatore (ii) Madurai (iii) Salem (iv) Thanjavur (v) Thoothukudi (vi) Tiruchirapalli (vii) Tirunelveli (viii) Tiruvannamalai (ix) Vellore (x) Villupuram and in Union Territory of Puducherry – effective from 22.06.2020 – directions issued.

- Ref :
1. Circular of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras in Roc No.1363/2020/RG, dated.24.03.2020.
 2. This Court's Official Memorandum in A.No.216/2020, D.No.A1/4332/2020, Dated.24.03.2020.
 3. Circular of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras in Roc No.1363/2020/RG, dated.12.04.2020.
 4. This Court's Official Memorandum in A.No.216/2020, D.No.A1/4369/2020, Dated.14.04.2020.
 5. Letter of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras in ROC No.06/2018/Bud-III-1, dated.25.06.2018.
 6. Official Memorandum of Hon'ble High Court, Madras in Roc No.23991-C/2020/C3, dated.01.05.2020.
 7. This Court's Official Memorandum in A.No.216/2020, dated.02.05.2020.
 8. This Court's Official Memorandum in A.No.216/2020, dated.04.05.2020.
 9. High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc No.1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, dated.30.05.2020.
 10. This Court's Official Memorandum in A.No.216/2020 in D.No.A1/5039/2020, dated.31.05.2020.
 11. High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc No.1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, dated.03.06.2020.
 12. High Court's Official Memorandum in Roc No.1363/2020/RG/Sub.Courts, dated.18.06.2020.
 13. This Court's Official Memorandum in A.No.216/2020 in D.No.A1/5550/2020, dated.18.06.2020.

In continuation of this Court's Official Memorandum 13th cited above, the following instructions are issued as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras in the reference 12th cited with effect from 22.06.2020.

- 1 The Hon'ble High Court, Madras has directed the Principal District Judge, Tirunelveli to permit physical court hearing of cases in a limited and restricted manner maintaining social distancing and other safety measures in all Courts in Headquarters and Taluks in respect of Tirunelveli District with effect from 22.06.2020.
- 2 In view of the instructions issued by the Hon'ble High Court, Madras it is informed that all courts in District Headquarters Tirunelveli and Taluks (except Valliyoor and Alangulam Courts) in Tirunelveli District will be functioning with limited physical hearing of cases and a limited entry of advocates in side Court premises for final disposal of cases.
- 3 The existing process for filing Bail and Anticipatory Bail in Principal District Court, Tirunelveli will continue only through e-filing and e-mail. For all other Courts, filing for Bail will continue only through e-mail.
- 4 In addition to existing filing process relating to Criminal appeal and Civil cases in online mode, the Advocates and litigants are permitted to file Criminal applications, Civil cases and copy applications duly affixed court stamps in the collection drop box to be placed at the main entrance of the Court Complexes. The hearing of bail matters through video conference shall continue.
- 5 The physical Court hearing at the Headquarters, Tirunelveli District is permitted on a trial basis in a limited manner with final hearing and interlocutory applications being permitted in staggered form by avoiding any

congregation of lawyers in Courts, and maintaining of social distancing norms, as well as taking hygiene precautions that are required to be taken for that purpose.

6 Only limited cases which are ripe for final disposal (Arguments) as per the cause list published in the Tirunelveli District e-court website will be taken for physical hearing.



7 All the Judicial Officers in this District are instructed to enter the Court premises and to continue their work through video conferencing and also physical open court-hearing of 5-10 cases in a limited and restricted manner with the strict observance of only the presence of maximum of 5 lawyers including state counsel each at a time at the district headquarters and in Taluk courts and at the same time maintaining social distancing and such other prescriptions that are to be strictly followed pertaining to the threat of spread of Corona Virus.

8 If the lawyers whose cases are listed in cause list do not wish to avail of the physical court hearing process, may be optionally permitted to avail of video-conferencing method.

9 Lawyers above the age of 65 years may abstain from coming to court and instead avail the facility of video conferencing hearings.

10 The Bar Associations, Advocates Chambers, Library and Canteen shall continue to remain closed in the entire District.

- 11 No other litigant or any other person shall be permitted to enter the court premises, except such lawyers whose cases are listed for hearing in the respective courts and who shall enter only within the allotted time slot so as to avoid any crowding at any particular time.
- 12 It is made clear that no litigant or any other person would be allowed for any activity inside the court premises.
- 13 All the Judicial Officers are requested to depute supporting staff not exceeding the protocol 50% by rotation and shifts.
- 14 All the Judicial Officers in this District may ensure that the functional employees of the court disclose their status of health in case of any such compliant appropriately by making a declaration to that effect, so as to avoid by such cause of infection or steps for taking quarantine or containment that may possibly arise, if the information is not furnished.
- 15 All the Judicial Officers in cooperation with the Local Administration and to take immediate steps in the event any suspected case is discovered during functioning of the Courts.
- 16 In the event of nay untoward incident or problem or complication arising in the smooth functioning of the physical court hearings, the Judicial Officers may act accordingly and immediately report the matter to the Principal District Judge, Tirunelveli for taking further appropriate action.


Principal District Judge,
 Tirunelveli.

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1. All the Judicial Officers in Tirunelveli District.
 2. All the Bar Associations in Tirunelveli District.