

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, PANCHKULA

ORDER

Ever since the onset of novel Corona Virus (Covid 19) and as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court received from time to time, the guidelines with regard to the working of the Courts, have been modified in accordance with the prevalent situation. Physical hearing in the Courts was started w.e.f. 11.01.2021 in the wake of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court conveyed vide Endst. No.46 RG/Spl/Misc. dated 08.01.2021.

Now, in view of the directions received from Hon'ble High Court vide letter No: 80/RG/Spl/Misc. dated 17.4.2021 and considering unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in and around Panchkula, in as much as two Judicial Officers, about 20 Staff Members and about 10 Advocates are in quarantine having contacted Corona virus, so in order to avoid spread of pandemic Corona virus (COVID-19) and for the safety of Judicial Officers, Court Staff, Advocates, Litigants and other stake holders, it is ordered as under :-

- i) Only urgent nature of cases i.e. Bail matters, Stay matters and other related matters shall be heard till 30.04.2021;
- ii) Cases fixed for arguments/consideration may be proceeded with the consent of counsels from both sides.
  - **Hearing in the above said matters shall be permitted through Whatsapp Video call or other on-line permitted modes, in addition to physical mode.**
  - **All the Judicial Officers will provide mobile number of one or more of their officials, on which advocates can be contacted for WhatsApp Video call. List of such officials shall be uploaded on the website of District Court Panchkula. Advocates may be contacted on their mobile numbers as provided by them on their vakalatnamas.**
- iii) Under trial prisoners shall be produced in the Court from Central Jail, Ambala or other jails through Video Conferencing mode only. Only in case of requirement of the physical appearance of a particular under trial, the concerned Court may pass a specific order to that effect;
- iv) Evidence shall be recorded only in cases, in which accused are/is in custody; or which are time-bound. However, during this process, every guideline issued by the concerned authorities shall be complied with;
- v) Other routine matters/cases shall be taken-up and adjourned to suitable dates by the Courts concerned and same shall be uploaded on the CIS.
- vi) Filing of fresh cases shall be permitted up to 1:00 pm only.
- vii) Only the first remand of the accused shall be by physical production before the concerned Magistrate. Subsequent remands shall be through

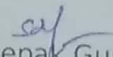
Video Conferencing/other online digital modes. The concerned police officials shall submit the application and other related papers before the concerned Court for passing appropriate orders by the Presiding Officer.

- viii) In order to reduce the footfall in the Court Complexes in the Panchkula Sessions Division, the staff shall work at 50% strength in all the Courts/offices /branches. The Office/concerned Courts shall prepare a roaster in this regard. The remaining 50% officials shall work from home and shall be immediately available as and when directed. None of the employee shall leave the station without prior permission of the competent authority;
- ix) The President/Secretary of the Bar Association, Panchkula shall ensure closure of the canteen and other food-stalls operating in the Court Complexes. The Advocates shall refrain from calling their clients, unless specifically ordered by the Court.
- x) Restricted entry in the Court Complex will be allowed after proper screening/sanitizing.
- xi) Bar Rooms are to be remain closed. Lawyers are advised to use their chambers for minimum period and leave the Court Complex as early as possible.
- xii) The Judicial Officers/Staff may leave the Court after finishing their Court Work.
- xiii) All other guidelines issued by the concerned authority from time to time shall be meticulously followed.

**These directions shall be applicable from 19.04.2021 and will remain in force till 30.04.2021. Matter shall be reviewed on 30.4.2021 as per the then prevailing situation.**

It is ordered accordingly.

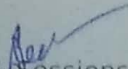
Dated: 17.04.2021

  
(Deepak Gupta)  
District & Sessions Judge,  
Panchkula.

Endst. No. **3005-3029** Dated **17.04.2021**

Copy forwarded to the following for information and necessary action :-

1. The Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana, Chandigarh;
2. All the Judicial Officers posted in this Sessions Division;
3. The Deputy Commissioner, Panchkula;
4. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Panchkula;
5. The District Attorney, Panchkula;
6. The Superintendent, Central Jail, Ambala;
7. The President, Bar Association, Panchkula & Kalka;
8. SO/SA to upload the order on the website of this office.

  
District & Sessions Judge,  
Panchkula.