

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU

04.02.2022

THE MODIFIED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2022

In view of the Government order dated 21.01.2022 and 29.01.2022 and since there is a steady decline in the new covid active and positive cases in the State of Karnataka, the existing Standard Operating Procedure dated 14.01.2022 stands modified for all the Districts with effect from 7th February, 2022, subject to strictly adhering to covid-19 appropriate behavior and following restrictions:

- a) At the entry points of all Court complexes, every person, including the members of the Bar, shall be subjected to thermal scanning. If at the time of scanning, it is revealed that any one has the symptoms of COVID-19, he/she shall be denied entry into the Court Complex.
- b) Hand sanitizers shall be provided at all entry points in the corridors.
- c) Inside the Court Complexes, all the existing rules prescribed by the Central/State Governments, such as wearing of proper face masks, maintaining physical distance and washing of hands with sanitizer/soap, shall be strictly adhered to.
- d) The Principal District and Sessions Judge or the Senior-most Judge in the Court Complex shall have a

power to remove any person/s from the Court Complex if it is found that the person/s is/are not using proper face masks and/or not adhering to physical distancing norms.

- e) Advocates, Litigants, Witnesses, Police personnel etc., shall maintain social distancing in the Court premises, Court offices, Bar Association Premises as well as in the Court rooms.
- f) It is the responsibility of the Members of the Bar to ensure that the litigants are not unnecessary called to visit the Courts/Court premises. The members of the Bar should ensure that their clients visit the Court only if their presence is absolutely mandatory. The Court officials shall have right to refuse entry to a litigant if it is found that he or she has come to visit the Court without any reason.
- g) The Bar Associations shall appeal to the litigants not to come to Court unless and until their presence is absolutely necessary.
- h) The restriction imposed on Bar Associations, Library, Canteens, Xerox Operators, Job Typists, Notaries/Oath Commissioners, to the extent that they shall strictly follow the SOP and maintain the social distancing.
- i) The suspension of itinerary Courts as per SOP dated January 14, 2022 stands revoked and all the itinerary Courts in the State, will start functioning as per earlier assignments.

- j) The decision of withdrawing the existing Standard Operating Procedure is based on the present status of the COVID-19 cases and therefore, the decision is liable to be changed in future. If in particular Court Complex, it is found that the Advocates are not following COVID-19 norms.

The above modifications are only on experimental basis. If there is sudden surge of covid cases in any district, the Principal District & Sessions Judge of the said district shall immediately report to the High Court, on the basis of which this SOP can be always modified.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

**SD/-
(T.G. SHIVASHANKARE GOWDA)
REGISTRAR GENERAL**