

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU

January 18, 2021

THE MODIFIED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 27, 2021

I. The following modifications are effected to the SOP dated 18th September 2020 with effect from 27th January 2021 only in respect of the following seven districts i.e.,

- 1) Bengaluru Urban**
- 2) Bengaluru Rural**
- 3) Chikkaballapura**
- 4) D.K. Mangaluru**
- 5) Mysuru**
- 6 Shivamogga; and**
- 7) Tumakuru**

- 1) Filing of cases shall be allowed by the members of the bar without fixing prior appointment. However, the present arrangement made for filing of cases outside the offices shall continue.
- 2) However, without seeking prior appointment as per existing SOP, Parties-in-person will not be allowed to make filing of cases.
- 3) The restrictions on use of canteens are relaxed subject to condition that seating capacity in the canteens shall be restricted to half of the present capacity, rules of maintaining social distancing shall be followed by maintaining distance of six feet

and hand sanitizers shall be provided in the canteens. Entry passes shall be provided to the staff members working in the canteens by the Registry who shall be subjected to regular thermal scanning. An undertaking shall be taken from the canteen contractor that he will ensure that any member of the staff who has symptoms of COVID 19 will not be allowed to work in the canteen and that all the staff members maintain social distancing and wear proper masks at all times.

- 4) Litigants' entry shall be permitted to the Court complexes subject to production of certificates issued by their respective Advocates at the entry point of the Court Complexes. The Advocates' certificate shall be in the format attached. The Advocates concerned shall issue certificates only if they are satisfied that the presence of the particular litigant is mandatory. The certificate shall be valid only for a day. At the entry point, the original certificate shall be retained by the security personnel after verification so that the data of litigants entering the Court complexes can be created.
- 5) It is the responsibility of the Members of the Bar to ensure that the litigants are not called to visit the Courts when their presence is not mandatory. The members of the Bar should ensure that their clients visit the Courts only if their presence is 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.

- 6) The Bar Associations shall appeal to the litigants not to come to Courts unless and until their presence is absolutely necessary.
- 7) That every person who enters the Court premises shall be subjected to thermal scanning and checking about the symptoms of COVID 19.
- 8) Wherever it is possible, two separate entrances shall be provided to the Court complexes, one for the entry of Lawyers as well as staff Members and the other one for entry of the Litigants, witnesses and others.
- 9) Sanitizers shall be provided at all the entry points.
- 10) Use of elevators/lifts shall be restricted to 50% of the capacity excluding the lift operator.
- 11) Wearing of masks is compulsory in the Court rooms, Bar Association Premises, offices as well as in the Court compound. Anybody found not wearing mask shall be immediately required to leave the premises.
- 12) Those who are having symptoms of COVID-19 shall not be allowed entry inside the Court Complexes.
- 13) Advocates, Litigants, Witnesses, Police personnel etc., shall maintain social distancing in the Court premises, offices, Bar Association Premises as well as in the Court rooms.
- 14) In order to avoid congestion in the premises of the Bar Associations, the restriction of removing half of the chairs inside the

premises of the Bar Associations shall continue.

II. **MODIFICATION TO THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE APPLICABLE TO THE ENTIRE DISTRICT JUDICIARY IN THE STATE**

The relaxation made to the dress code of the Advocates is hereby withdrawn. **The Advocates shall follow normal dress code with effect from 1st February 2021.**

III. The Judicial Officers in the State shall be entitled to accept all the documents/applications/vakalaths/memo tendered in the Court Halls as per the practice prevailing before the lockdown. However, they shall take all precautionary measures. It is mandatory for the Court Sheristedars/Court Officers to wear proper masks and make frequent use of hand sanitizers.

IV These relaxations are purely on experimental basis. The High Court will have power to withdraw relaxations, if it is found that Advocates and Litigants are not following rules of wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
(RAJENDRA BADAMIKAR)
REGISTRAR GENERAL

