

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU

February 19, 2021

NOTICE

- I. The existing Standard Operating Procedure stands withdrawn for the district judiciary except for Bengaluru Urban District, with effect from February 22, 2021, subject to the following restrictions: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) If possible, separate entrances be provided to all the Court Complexes, one will be for entry of Judicial Officers, Advocates and Staff Members and the other one will be for the entry of litigants, witnesses, police/ Government Officers etc. 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 the power to remove any person/s from the Court Complex when it is found that the person/s is/are not using proper face masks and/or not adhering to physical distancing norms;
- e) Daily cause list shall be divided into two parts. One will be for morning session and the other will be for afternoon session. This will reduce the footfall of Advocates and litigants at a time in the Court Halls and Court Premises. However, all cases which are due shall be listed; and
- f) 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 change in future.

DISTRICT AND TRIAL COURTS IN THE CITY OF BENGALURU

- II. For the District and Trial Courts in the city of Bengaluru, the existing Standard Operating Procedure stands withdrawn subject to the following restrictions: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) If possible, separate entrances be provided to all the Court Complexes, one will be for entry of Judicial Officers, Advocates and Staff Members and the other one will be for litigants, witnesses, police/Government Officers etc. 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) Litigants are permitted to enter the Court Complexes on production of passes issued by their respective Advocates as per the prevailing practice;
- e) Parties-in-person will be allowed to enter the Court Complexes for attending to their cases on showing

the soft/hard copy of the cause list. Entry of Parties-in-person for filing of cases/pleadings will be permitted only after securing prior appointment as per the existing practice;

- f) No one shall be allowed to enter the Court Complexes without wearing proper face masks. While inside the Court Complexes, all shall wear face masks and also to follow all the rules and directions such as maintaining of physical distancing etc., as may be issued by the Central/State Governments from time to time. The Principal Judge/Principal District Judge shall be empowered to remove any person/s from the Court Complexes if he/she is found moving without properly wearing face mask;
- g) Daily cause list shall be divided into two parts. One will be for morning session and the other will be for afternoon session. This will reduce the footfall of Advocates and litigants at a time in the Court Halls and Court Premises. However, all cases which are due shall be listed; and
- h) Except the afore mentioned restrictions, all other restrictions contained in the existing Standard

Operating Procedure stand withdrawn. This arrangement is made considering the present status of the COVID-19 cases. In the first week of March 2021, a decision to make further relaxations will be taken.

COMMON RESTRICTIONS TO ALL THE DISTRICT AND TRIAL COURTS:

- a) In all the District and Trial Courts, the present arrangements for filing of cases at places outside the main Court Buildings shall continue till further orders;
- b) The Karnataka State Bar Council and all the Bar Associations in the State are requested to appeal to the litigants to visit the Courts only if it is absolutely necessary.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

**Sd/-
(RAJENDRA BADAMIKAR)
REGISTRAR GENERAL**