

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

March 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM BY WAY OF CLARIFICATION

(As applicable to all District & Trial Courts in the State except Bengaluru City, Kalaburagi and Kodagu-Madikeri Districts)

It is clarified that the Memorandum/Notices issued pertaining to Bengaluru City, Kalaburagi and Kodagu-Madikeri Districts as well as High Court of Karnataka are not applicable to other Districts in the State and the Memorandum/Notices issued already shall continue to remain in force, until further orders. The same is reiterated once again as follows:

The World Health Organization has declared the Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) as pandemic. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has issued a Memorandum cautioning the general public to stay away from mass gatherings to curtail spread of the said disease. To avoid such mass gatherings, the State Government has also taken a decision to close down the shopping malls, schools, theaters, colleges, universities, anganavadis and tourist places. Having regard to the safety of all the litigants, lawyers, visitors to the Court premises and Court staff, and with a view to assist the efforts made by both the Central and the State Governments to prevent spread of said COVID-19, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has issued the following directions:

1. All the Courts in the State (**except the Courts in Bengaluru City, Kalaburagi and Kodagu-Madikeri Districts**), will take up only urgent matters and bail petitions.
2. All regular and routine cases will be adjourned without seeking presence of the members of the Bar and the litigants/accused and dates will be assigned in the beginning of the day itself.
3. The recording of evidence and final hearing matters shall be postponed for the time being.
4. The entry of litigants and visitors to the precincts of all Court precincts will be restricted.
5. However, members of the Bar, staff of the Courts, government and local authority officers/officials visiting the Courts for official work, police and security forces will be allowed to enter the precincts of the said Courts. The litigants will be allowed entry into the aforesaid Court precincts only if they produce a certificate issued by their respective Advocates on their letterheads indicating that the presence of the litigant in the Court precincts concerned is mandatory on that particular day. In the certificate, the members of the Bar shall mention brief reasons for permitting entry of their clients to the Court precincts.
6. Those litigants who are appearing in person or who intend to appear in person will have to tender an

application in writing at the entry/checking points of the Courts concerned giving the particulars of the case in which they want to appear in person. In the event they want to enter the Court precincts for filing of a case or for filing statement of objections/applications etc., necessary details of the case be set out in the application. After scrutiny of such applications, a decision will be taken by the officials of the Courts concerned for allowing entry to such litigants. It is clarified that the members of electronic and print media, who are holding identity cards, and Advocates' clerks/staff holding identity cards or authorization of Advocates on letterhead will be allowed entry into the precincts of the aforesaid Courts.

7. The members of the staff who are showing the symptoms, as disclosed in the Advisory issued by the Government should immediately consult Health Department officials and in emergent cases, contact Arogya Sahayavani at Phone No -104.
8. The members of the Bar and staff should be advised to strictly follow the Advisory issued by the Government by taking all precautions as mentioned therein.
9. The itinerary arrangement made to any of the vacant Courts by directing the Presiding Officers of the Courts to itinerate such courts and also the itinerary arrangement made by directing the Presiding Officers of the Courts to itinerate to the Taluks/Villages, are hereby

suspended, with immediate effect and until further orders. However, as far as possible, the emergent matters pertaining to itinerary Courts/Taluks/Villages shall be tried by the concerned Presiding Officers, through Video Conference.

10. As per the Advisory issued by the Government, no programmes shall be conducted by the Courts legal Services Authority where there are large number of participants. Mass gathering on account of any functions should be avoided.
11. New Court buildings or premises which are ready for occupation in all respects should be immediately occupied without holding any formal function. In case, holding of a formal function is necessary, the same can be held only after future directions are issued.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE,

Sd/-
(Rajendra Badamikar)
Registrar General