

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU
NOTIFICATION
No. HCLC 05/2021 DATED: 01.02.2023

Whereas the draft of 'The High Court of Karnataka (Grant of Accreditation to Journalists for reporting the proceedings, judgment/orders) Rules, 2021' which the High Court of Karnataka proposed to make in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 225 of the Constitution of India and Section 54 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 (Central Act 37 of 1956) read with Sections 122 and 129 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and Section 19 of the Mysore High Court Act, 1884 (I of 1884) was published in Part-IVA of the Karnataka Official Gazette dated 08.02.2022, inviting objections/suggestions from all the persons likely to be affected thereby, within fifteen days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

And whereas no objections/suggestions to the aforesaid rules have been received by the High Court of Karnataka.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 225 of the Constitution of India and Section 54 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 (Central Act 37 of 1956) read with Sections 122 and 129 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and Section 19 of the Mysore High Court Act, 1884 (I of 1884) and all other powers thereunto enabling, the High Court of Karnataka, with the previous approval of the Government of Karnataka, promulgates and issue the following rules, for regulating the practice and procedure for grant of accreditation to Journalists for reporting the proceedings, judgment/orders of the Karnataka High Court.

RULES

1. **Short Title:-** These Rules shall be called as '**The High Court of Karnataka (Grant of Accreditation to Journalists for reporting the proceedings, judgment/orders) Rules, 2021.**
2. **Commencement:-** These Rules shall come into force on and from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
3. **Definitions:-** In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) "**High Court**" means the High Court of Karnataka.
 - (b) "**Chief Justice**" means the Chief Justice of the High Court.
 - (c) "**Committee**" means the Committee constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
 - (d) "**Journalist**" means an editor or a reader - writer, or a news-editor or a sub-editor or correspondent or a reporter.
 - (e) "**Accredited Legal Correspondent**" means a person who has been accredited under this Rule.
4. Hon'ble the Chief Justice to constitute Committee for grant of Accreditation of Journalists.
5. The Committee shall consider the application for grant of accreditation of journalists and place before Hon'ble the Chief Justice for approval.
6. **Presentation of application for grant of Accreditation to Journalists for reporting the proceedings, Judgments/Orders:**

- (a) He/she should be holding a degree/diploma in Journalism and Mass Media from a recognised University and shall preferably be a Law Graduate.
 - (b) He/she seeking accreditation for covering the proceedings of the Karnataka High Court must have at least three years experience of journalism/reporting.
 - (c) He/she should be working with a news agency, newspaper or a TV news channel approved by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 - (d) The applicant journalist should furnish authorisation from the respective print or electronic media.
 - (e) Prescribed format of application (FORM-A) in terms of annexure in duplicate to be presented.
7. After scrutiny of applications and its approval by the Committee, the Registrar General shall issue I.D. Card to the approved legal correspondent/journalist valid for a period of one year.
 8. If the accredited legal correspondent misplaces/loses the identity card, in that event a formal police complaint shall be lodged and then make fresh application to the Registrar General for issuance of fresh identity card.
 9.
 - a. He/she shall present himself/herself neatly in formal attire.
 - b. He/she shall while in court precincts/premises shall switch off his/her mobile phone and shall not resort to recording or live streaming (including texting/tweeting) of the Court proceedings.
 - c. He/she shall not engage in talking or making gesture while Court proceedings are in progress.
 - d. While reporting, printing or telecasting, strict care shall be taken and no personal opinion or prediction of the case shall be expressed.
 - e. He/she while interpreting and reporting the court's judgment is expected to act reasonably and not quote selectively.
 10. The legal correspondent can enter the premises of High Court on the basis of the identity card. The identity card will be renewed on annual basis.
 11. Accredited legal correspondent would be entitled for a FREE copy of Proceedings, Judgment/s or Order/s from the Registry of the concerned Court for publication or telecasting by its print or electronic media, if there is a specific directions from the Hon'ble Court.
 12. In the event of accredited legal correspondent being transferred or otherwise ceases to be a legal correspondent of a print or electronic media for which he/she was granted accreditation, he/she shall return/surrender the identity card issued to him/her to the High Court Registry within one month of such transfer or cessation to be a legal correspondent.
 13. In the event of accredited journalist joins another media organization, he/she will have to surrender the existing ID Card and to seek fresh accreditation in accordance with these rules and he/she shall not use the earlier identity card issued to him/her with reference to a particular print or electronic media.

14. If an accredited legal correspondent misuses his/her identity card or the accreditation facility, the Registrar General would be competent to withdraw his/her accreditation after issuing a notice to such accredited legal correspondent and would be liable for legal action in accordance with law.
15. The Registrar General in his/her discretion may grant temporary reporting facility to a Journalist for a day or a week or for a specific case on the Journalist submitting a letter of request from his/her Editor along with PIB Accreditation Card or Karnataka Government Accreditation Card.
16. Hon'ble the Chief Justice, for special reasons, in case of any deserving candidate may consider for the grant of accreditation in relaxation of the above-mentioned Rules.
17. Media should play a positive role in report proceedings. They should act with restraint while reporting the proceedings/judgment.
18. **Action for Misreporting:** If Hon'ble the Chief Justice is of the opinion that an accredited legal correspondent/Journalist has misreported the court proceedings or a judgment, he/she shall be liable for contempt of court and any other legal action apart from revoking / cancellation of his/her accreditation.

FORM – A
[See Rule 6 (e)]

Application for grant/renewal of Temporary/Regular Accreditation as a Legal Correspondent.

(Please affix one recent passport size photograph on the application form and enclose one photograph for the Identity Card)
(To be submitted in duplicate)

Name in full (BOLD LETTERS): _____

1. Father's/Husband's Name: _____

2. Address: _____

4. Educational Qualification: _____

5. Other/Professional Qualification: _____

6. Name of the media organization _____

Affiliated with: _____

7. Position held in the organization: _____

8. Period of affiliation/Experience: _____

9. Mobile No. _____
10. e-mail address: _____
11. Type of accreditation applied for: _____ Regular / Temporary
12. Previous accreditation: _____
13. Identification mark, if any: _____

- * Attach photocopies of the Degree Certificate(s) attested by the Editor / Publisher of the media organization with which affiliated / attached:
- ** Attach the working certificate from the Editor / Publisher of the media organization with which affiliated / attached; and
- *** Attach the Experience Certificate from the Editor / Publisher of the media organization with which affiliated / attached.

Place:

Date:

Seal & Signature of the Owner of
the TV Channel / News Agency

Address:

Contact details:

E-mail:

Mob No.

Signature of the Applicant

Sd/-
(K. S. BHARATH KUMAR)
REGISTRAR GENERAL