

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

March 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM

(As applicable to all Courts and Tribunals in Bengaluru City except High Court)

The following directions are issued in supersession of all earlier Memorandum and Notices and shall remain in force until further orders.

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 which **shall come into effect from March 21, 2020:**

1. The City Civil Courts, Small Cause Courts, Rural Courts, Family Courts, Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals working in **Bengaluru City**, shall function from 11 am to 2 pm only. These Courts will take up only very urgent matters and bail petitions. The Court offices shall be closed by 3.00 pm for litigants and Members of Bar and entry into the Court precincts shall be barred after the said time. The filing and other counters will be open only between 11 am and 2.30 pm.
2. All the **Magistrates' Courts** working in Bengaluru City shall function from 11 am to 3 pm only and take up only urgent and bail matters. The Court offices shall be closed by 4.00 pm for litigants and Members of Bar and entry into the Court precincts shall be barred after the said time. The filing and other counters will be open only between 11 am and 3.30 pm. Beyond the said time, only exceptionally urgent matters will be taken up by the concerned Courts.
3. 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.
4. The recording of evidence and final hearing matters shall be postponed for the time being.

5. The entry of litigants and visitors to the precincts of all Court precincts in the City of Bengaluru will be restricted.
6. 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. 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. 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.

8. 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.
9. The members of the Bar who have symptoms such as running nose, cough and fever etc., should avoid entering the precincts of the Courts.
10. 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.

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE,

Sd/-
(Rajendra Badamikar)
Registrar General