

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

(Office of the Registrar General at Jammu)

CIRCULAR

No:10/GS

Dated:16.03.2020

With a view to prevent spread of Corona-virus (Covid-19), Hon'ble High Court of Jammu and Kashmir has been pleased to issue the following instructions to all the District and Subordinate Courts of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh:-

1. The Judicial Officers shall take all necessary measures to sanitize the Court buildings and premises on daily basis. It shall be ensured by all the Principal District Judges that sanitizers are available in their respective Districts for the visitors as well as the staff particularly those manning windows (filing counters, enquiries, front-offices) where there is constant public dealing.
2. Crowding in the Courts shall be avoided.
3. Thermal Scanners (non-touch) be procured at the earliest and the same be put to use at the existing check points of the Court Complexes.
4. The District Bar Associations and Advocates be asked to advise the litigants not to visit the Courts unless their presence has been directed by the Court.
5. The Courts shall not insist upon the personal presence of the parties unless it is absolutely necessary.
6. In criminal matters, request for exemption from personal appearance of accused be considered liberally.
7. Special Traffic Magistrates shall deal with only urgent matters pertaining to release of seized vehicles and defer all other routine matters for the present.
8. Unnecessary crowding in the Lock up be curtailed and appropriate steps in this regard be taken by all the Principal District & Sessions Judges in consultation with the prison authorities.
9. For recording of evidence, grant of remand to the accused/under trials, production of under trial prisoners, the facility of video conferencing be put to use as far as it is possible to do so.
10. Lok Adalats, Legal Services Programmes and Mediations Programmes shall not be held till further orders.
11. In cases of absence of parties appearing in person or in cases of non production of witnesses, passing of adverse orders shall be avoided.
12. In final argument matters, as far as possible, written submissions be obtained from the parties/their counsels so as to minimize the time for oral arguments.

13. In civil matters, wherever possible, service of local commissioner be availed of for the purposes of recording of evidence, after obtaining the consent of both the parties.
14. A help line be established in every District and Muffasil Court Complex for updating the litigants/lawyers about their cases and answering queries.
15. A dedicated team (comprising a Senior Judicial Officer and a Senior Ministerial Staff) be constituted in each District Court Complex for taking stock of the situation on a day-to-day basis and to take appropriate remedial steps.
16. The Canteens and the Bar rooms will not remain operational till further orders.

(Sanjay Dhar)
Registrar General

No:41879-919

Dated:16.03.2020

Copy of the above forwarded to:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K, Jammu
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr/Mrs Justice _____
..... for information of their Lordships.
3. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
4. Registrar Rules, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
5. Registrar Computers, High Court of J&K, Jammu.
6. Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K, Srinagar/Jammu.
.....for information.
7. All Principal District and Sessions Judges of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with the request to circulate the same within their respective jurisdictions.
8. Secretary Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu/Srinagar for information.
9. In-charge NIC for uploading the same on the official website of the High Court.

Registrar General