

THE HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA SHILLONG

No.HCM.II/03/2013/Pt./858

Dated, 16th March, 2020

C I R C U L A R

Considering the outbreak of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi vide Office Memorandum dated 05.03.2020 has advised certain measures including avoidance of mass gathering to prevent the spread of pandemic disease. The Supreme Court of India and most of the High Courts across the country have also introduced certain preventive measures inasmuch as the Government of Meghalaya has also on 16.03.2020 issued advisory for residents of the State.

In view of the above, it is informed to all members of the Bar/ Advocates, litigants, members of High Court staff and staff of the other Courts in the State of Meghalaya, to adopt the following preventive measures for the period from 16.03.2020 to 27.03.2020: -

1. That only urgent matters shall be taken during the aforesaid period for hearing and all other matters shall be adjourned.
2. That the Cause List of the High Court and other Courts shall be prepared as usual but all the cases fixed on a particular date shall be postponed to another date, at least after two weeks, which shall be notified on the website of the High Court and District Courts concerned on the same day and shall also be displayed on the notice board of the Court concerned.
3. That interim relief already granted or interim order already passed and in operation, shall be continued/extended.
4. That no matter shall be dismissed in default and no adverse order shall be passed in any matter for absence of the counsel or the party.

5. That the presence of litigant and under trial prisoners in all the Courts shall not be insisted upon unless it is very essential and request for personal exemption of the accused/witness/parties, shall be favourably considered and adverse order shall be avoided.
6. That remand of the accused as far as possible shall be given through video conferencing facility so as to avoid overcrowding at the lockup attached to the Court.
7. That the learned members of the Bar are advised to communicate to their clients to desist from visiting/attending the court proceedings in all the Courts of the State during the aforesaid period between 16th and 27th March 2020.
8. That all the Court staff shall vacate the Court premises by 6:00 PM, which shall thereafter be properly sanitized by the cleaning staff, especially the areas commonly touched by visitors including restrooms, corridors, staircase, hand rest of chairs and tables etc., by the use of disinfectant and mopping through 1% hypochlorite.
9. That all the members of the Bar, litigants, members of Court staff having symptoms of cold, fever, sore-throat, cough, running nose, sneezing or difficulty in breathing are advised to restrain themselves from visiting/attending the Courts premises.
10. That it shall be the responsibility of the Registrar General and the Presiding Officers of the Court concerned to get any members of the Staff, if found to suffer from cold, fever, sore-throat, cough, running nose with sore-throat and/or difficulty in breathing, medically checked up and if any of them is identified as suspected case, to immediately refer him/her to the nearest Government hospital/dispensary or to the facility earmarked for such medical treatment.
11. That any kind of programme or any other event having gathering in the premises of High Court, District and Subordinate Courts and the District

Council Courts during the aforementioned period between 16th and 27th March 2020, shall not be allowed to take place.

12. That the Registrar General may requisition help from Medical In-charge of High Court dispensary and Para-medical staff working under him/her for screening/medical check-up of the members of the Bar, litigants and members of the staff desirous of entering the Court premises. Similarly, the Presiding Officers of other Courts in the State may requisition help from the Medical Officer/Para-medical staff of nearby hospital/dispensary for such screening/medical check-up.

13. The Registrar General and the Presiding Officers of other Courts in the State shall ensure procurement of sanitizer or alcohol based hand washing liquid and make the same available at the prominent place in the Court premises for periodical use by the Advocates, litigants and staff members.

14. In order to reduce the overcrowding in the Court premises, the Registrar General of the High Court and District and Sessions Judges for the Courts under their supervision and the Presiding Officers of the District Council Courts, shall fix the roster of all the members of the staff in such a way that every court functions, as far as possible, with only half the staff strength and the members of the staff in different category are required to attend office only on alternate days.

15. That all the Courts staff in the State shall abide by the advisory/preventive remedial measures suggested by the Central Government and the State Government in this behalf.

By order,


REGISTRAR GENERAL

Memo. No.HCM.II/03/2013/Pt/858A.

Dated, 16th March, 2020

Copy to for information to :-

1. The Registrar-cum-PPS to Hon'ble the Chief Justice for his Lordship's kind information.
2. The Private Secretary to Hon'ble Mr.Justice R.V.More, Judge, for his Lordship's kind information.
3. The Private Secretary to Hon'ble Mr.Justice H.S.Thangkhiew, Judge, for his Lordship's kind information.
4. The Private Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. W.Diengdoh, Judge, for his Lordship's kind information.
5. All Registrars, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
6. All District & Sessions Judges.
7. The Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Shillong.
8. The Director, Meghalaya State Judicial Academy, Shillong.
9. The Judge, District Council Courts, Shillong/Jowai/Tura.
10. The Central Project Coordinator, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
11. The Joint Registrar-cum-OSD, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
12. The Joint Registrar, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
13. All Deputy Registrar, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
14. The Assistant Registrar, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
15. The System Analyst, High Court of Meghalaya for uploading the same in the Office Website.
16. The Public Relations Officer, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
17. The Assistant Protocol Officer, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
18. The Chief Translator (Khasi), High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
19. All Superintendent, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
20. The Court Officers, High Court of Meghalaya, Shillong.
21. The President & Secretary, High Court Of Meghalaya Bar Association.
22. All Bar Associations.
23. All concerned.
24. Notice Board
25. Office file.


REGISTRAR GENERAL