

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

No. 13/Confdl/HCS

Dated: 19.06.2021

CIRCULAR

Taking note of the variable situation of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the State, the instructions for operation of the High Court of Sikkim and all the Subordinate Courts of the State of Sikkim is reiterated as follows:

1. There will be a limited number of cases listed per day before each Bench in the High Court. In respect of all the Subordinate Courts, the concerned Judicial Officer will also take up a limited number of cases every day to ensure that there is no over-crowding, maintaining social distancing by all concerned. The jurisdictional District Judges shall ensure providing the required guidance to their subordinate Judicial Officers as and when necessary.
2. Hearing of the matters will be conducted by all the Courts, to the extent and as far as possible, through video-conferencing.
3. Facilitation Centres for video-conferencing established in the High Court of Sikkim and all the Subordinate Courts will be made available to Learned Advocates and litigants who do not have means

or access to video-conferencing facilities. Helpline number 14636 for the High Court or e-Sewa Kendra established in all the Courts may be contacted for assistance. It will be ensured that social distancing norms shall be maintained in all the Courts and at the video-conferencing facilitation Centres at all times.

4. In addition to the Jitsi Meet video-conferencing application, the other video-conferencing applications such as BlueJeans, Vidyo Desktop/Video Mobile application, and others that are approved by the High Court may also be used for conducting Court proceedings through video-conference. Within the Court Complex, Jitsi Meet video-conferencing application may be used through the Local Area Network (LAN).

5. The standard operating procedure for joining the video conference from a remote location, which was initially published vide SOP No. 137/Comp/HCS dated 24th March 2020 is modified as under:

- (i) Learned Advocates or the petitioner/respondent appearing in person will receive a video-conferencing (VC) link of either of the following VC applications i.e. BlueJeans or Jitsi Meet through email.

(ii) To join the VC room through a laptop or desktop computer, click on the link so provided. It will directly connect you to the BlueJeans or Jitsi Meet VC room through the website browser.

(iii) For using BlueJeans VC link through mobile devices, Android users may install the application from Google Playstore using this link <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bluejeansnet.Base>

The iOS (Apple phone) users may download the application from Apple App Store using this link <https://apps.apple.com/kn/app/blue-jeans/id560788314?ign-mpt=uo%3D2>

(iv) For using Jitsi Meet VC link through mobile devices, Android users may install the application from Google Playstore using this link <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.jitsi.meet&hl=en>

The iOS (Apple phone) users may download the application from Apple App Store using this link <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/jitsi-meet/id1165103905>

(v) Learned Advocates or the petitioner/respondent appearing in person must have stable internet connectivity to prevent disruption of the VC proceedings.

(vi) Learned Advocate or the petitioner/respondent appearing in person shall also ensure that the VC link received by them is not shared with persons not associated with the case.

(vii) Vidyo Desktop/Vidyo Mobile application may be installed on the laptop/desktop computer by clicking on the following link <http://ecourtvc.nic.in>

For mobile devices, the Android users may install the application from Google Playstore using this link <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vidyo.VidyoClient> and for the iOS (Apple phone) users, it may be installed from Apple App Store using this link

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/vidyomobile/id444062464>

(viii) Technical inquiry relating to the High Court VC connection will be taken by Mr. Rudra Rimal, Senior System Officer (79084-52268/97350-76349), Mr. Sagar Sigdel (70016-34689/77979-93682), and Mr. Naresh Sharma

(96478-92010/70013-94016), Software Programmers. Mr. Kamal Chettri, Deputy Registrar (Judicial) will be available on mobile no. 97759-69576 to take any other inquiry relating to filing and listing of cases in the High Court.

(ix) For the Subordinate Courts, the jurisdictional District Judges will publish the required information and contact details of the technical staff members handling VC of Court proceedings of the respective Courts, for information to all the stakeholders.

6. Video-conferencing for Court proceedings shall be conducted in terms of the Rules for Video-Conferencing for Courts published vide Notification No. 87/HCS dated 03.06.2020.

7. In the event of a case being heard in open Court, two Learned Advocates only for each of the parties along with the party concerned will be permitted inside the Courtroom.

8. All the stakeholders entering the High Court premises and the premises of the Subordinate Courts shall compulsorily wear face masks. Entry will be denied to any person not wearing a face mask and action taken as per law.

9. All stakeholders entering the High Court premises and the premises of the Subordinate Courts shall also compulsorily undergo thermal screening at the entry gate. Any person not complying with the same will be denied entry into the Court premises.

10. If any symptom of coronavirus (COVID-19) is detected amongst any of the stakeholders in the Court premises, the Medical Unit in the High Court and the jurisdictional District Judges in the Subordinate Courts shall take necessary steps to assist the infected person and to prevent further spread of the virus.

11. A roster duty arrangement for the Court staff will be made in the High Court by the Registrar General and in the respective District Courts by the jurisdictional District Judges. The total strength of the employees attending the Office shall ordinarily be 50%.

12. In the event of coronavirus (COVID-19) situation aggravating in the State and when a complete lockdown is declared by the State Government in a particular Sub-Division or a District, or in the entire State as the cases may be, only urgent matters will be heard during the said period with the assistance of a limited number of staff members.

13. COVID-19 appropriate guidelines contained in Notification No. 77/HCS dated 18th March 2020 and Guidelines to the District Courts

bearing No. 78/HCS dated 18th March 2020 shall continue to remain in operation.

This circular shall come into effect from 22nd June 2021 and until further orders.

By Order

(K.W. Bhutia)
REGISTRAR GENERAL

19.06.2021