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NOTIFICATION

In view of the recent surge of COVID-19 cases and to avoid further spike of cases, as a precautionary measure and to ensure safe working environment, Honourable the Chief Justice has directed that the hearing of cases in the Principal Seat of Madras High Court and in the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court will only be through Virtual mode.

All Advocates/parties-in-person shall appear only through Video Conferencing, with effect from **Monday, the 14th June, 2021**, until further orders. However, physical presence of the Law officers of the State and Central Government and the Standing Counsel for Public Sector Undertakings etc., if required by the Hon'ble Court, is permitted subject to the strict adherence of the COVID-19 safety protocols. Such Law Officers and Standing Counsel shall enter only through North Gate (MBA Gate – Gate No.2).

Entry of all other Advocates, Advocate Clerks, litigants and parties-in-person inside the High Court premises is prohibited.

All the Law Chambers and Bar Association Libraries will remain closed. Advocates may take the case papers and other necessary things from their respective chambers, between 12.00 p.m and 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, 12.06.2021. On 12.06.2021 extensive sanitisation of the entire premises, including Lawyers' Chambers, will be conducted.

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Filing of case papers, copy applications, returning/re-presenting the case papers and receiving the order copies in the Principal Seat at Madras will be in physical mode through the respective counters provided inside the South Gate (Gate No.7), subject to strict adherence of COVID-19 Protocols or by e-mail.

With regard to Madurai Bench, separate notification will be issued by the Additional Registrar General, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS

DATED: 10.06.2021.

Sd/- P.DHANABAL

REGISTRAR GENERAL



OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

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Sub: Courts & Judges – COVID-19 Pandemic – Functioning of Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry – Further directions issued.

Ref: High Court's Official Memorandum in R.O.C.No.41440-A/2021/C3, dated 26.04.2021, 17.05.2021 and 28.05.2021.

In continuation to the Official Memorandum dated 28.05.2021 cited, as ordered, the following directions are issued for restricted functioning of Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry w.e.f.14.06.2021 until further orders:

1. Only both side ready matters be taken as far as possible through Video Conferencing.
2. Filing process shall be through drop box method, as was done earlier.
3. Only urgent cases be taken up, restricting to a manageable number of cases in a day, on time slot.
4. Urgency of the matter to be taken up, has to be decided by the concerned Presiding officer of the Court.
5. Exparte orders should be avoided unless absolutely necessary and only upon giving due reasons therefor.
6. If necessary, witnesses can be examined through Video Conferencing, by following the rules in this regard.
7. Already sufficient number of (1068) Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing Licences have been provided to the Judicial Officers to

facilitate functioning through Video Conferencing and the same may be effectively utilised.

8. Entry of Advocates and litigants into the Court Complexes to be restricted.
9. Bar Associations and canteens shall remain closed until further orders. However, to sanitise and to provide access to papers for the Lawyers, the Bar Associations may be opened for four hours on Saturday.
10. 30% of staff may be permitted to work on rotation basis, as fixed by the concerned Presiding Officer of the Court.
11. The Principal District Judges/Principal Judge/District Judges of the District concerned and the Chief Judge, UT of Puducherry can make all arrangements for the smooth functioning of Courts, with minimum level staff not exceeding 30%, depending on the situation prevailing in their respective districts and shall ensure better functioning of courts without compromising on the Covid protocol.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS

DATE: 10-06-2021

Sd/- P.DHANABAL

REGISTRAR GENERAL