

# HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU

January 12, 2021

## **THE MODIFIED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRICT JUDICIARY WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 18, 2021**

- I. Except in the following seven districts i.e., 1) Bengaluru Urban, 2) Bengaluru Rural, 3) Chikkaballapura, 4) D.K. Mangaluru, 5) Mysuru, 6) Shivamogga and 7) Tumakuru, the rest of the Districts in Karnataka are having less than 200 of COVID-19 active cases for last about 10 days. Therefore, the normal functioning of the Courts as existed prior to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in all the Districts except the aforesaid seven Districts, is restored, subject to the following conditions:
- 1) That every person who enters the court premises shall be subjected to thermal scanning and checking about the symptoms.
  - 2) Wherever it is possible, two separate entrances shall be provided to the court complexes, one entrance for the Lawyers as well as staff Members and the other one for the Litigants, witnesses and others.
  - 3) Sanitizers shall be provided at all the entry points.

- 4) Use of elevators/lifts shall be restricted to 50% of the capacity excluding the lift operator.
- 5) Wearing of masks is compulsory in the court rooms, Bar Association Premises, offices as well as in the court compound. Anybody found not wearing mask shall be immediately required to leave the premises.
- 6) Those who are having symptoms of COVID-19 shall not be allowed entry inside the court Complexes.
- 7) Advocates, Litigants, Witnesses, Police personnel etc., shall maintain social distancing in the Court premises, offices, Bar Association Premises as well as in the court rooms.
- 8) In order to avoid congestion in the premises of the Bar Associations, the restriction of removing half of the chairs inside the premises of the Bar Associations shall continue.
- 9) It is the responsibility of the Members of the Bar to ensure that the litigants are not unnecessary called to visit the courts/court premises. The members of the Bar should ensure that their clients visit the court only if their presence is mandatory. The court officials shall have right to refuse entry to a litigant if it is found that he or she has come to visit the court without any reason.
- 10) The Bar Associations shall appeal to the litigants not to come to court unless and until their presence is necessary.

- 11) The restriction on Canteens, use of Xerox Machines, Typing and sitting of Notaries is relaxed.
- 12) Daily cause list shall be divided into two parts. One will be for morning session and the other will be for afternoon session, in order to avoid the foot fall of litigants at a time in the Court Halls and Court Premises. However, all cases which are due shall be listed.
- 13) The present arrangement made for filing of cases outside the offices shall continue.
- 14) These relaxations are purely on experimental basis. The High Court will have power to withdraw relaxations, if it is found that Advocates and Litigants are not following rules of wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

II. In the seven districts i.e., 1) Bengaluru Urban, 2) Bengaluru Rural, 3) Chikkaballapura, 4) D.K. Mangaluru, 5) Mysuru, 6) Shivamogga and 7) Tumakuru, where the COVID-19 active cases are more than 200, the Spl. SOP which is in force will continue.

However, in the aforesaid seven Districts, opening of Canteens is permitted to serve only packed food apart from Tea/Coffee and Biscuits, but subject to maintaining social distancing.

The seating capacity in the canteen shall be restricted to half and sanitizers shall be provided.

- III. **The above said relaxations shall be effective from 18th January 2021 purely on experimental basis, subject to further changes which may be made from time to time and circumstances may warrant.**
- IV. **As regards the above seven districts, as set out in Clause-I above, appropriate decision will be taken after consulting the State Bar Council/Bar Associations.**

**BY ORDER OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

**Sd/-  
(RAJENDRA BADAMIKAR)  
REGISTRAR GENERAL**