

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

ROC No. 192/SO/2020

Dated: 16.03.2020

CIRCULAR

In order to have effective control and containment over spread of Corona Virus (COVID-19), the High Court has taken a decision, to issue the following instructions to all the District and Subordinate Courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh, all Tribunals and Legal Services Authority Institutions to be observed in their respective premises:

1. All the Principal District & Sessions Judges/Courts situated at District Level and Subordinate Courts shall take up only urgent cases for hearing. Some of the categories of urgent cases are as under:

CRIMINAL:

- a) The applications for bail/anticipatory bail;
- b) The applications for suspension of sentence;
- c) In the cases of under-trial prisoners, if the cases are fixed for recording of evidence and witnesses are present;
- d) In other applications of urgent nature, which Court deems that hearing is necessary.

CIVIL:

- a) Any type of injunction/stay applications in which urgent interim relief is prayed for and required to be considered;
 - b) The applications regarding appointment of receiver, attachment of property and appointment of commissioner or any other urgent application in the opinion of the Court may be taken up;
 - c) In other civil matters, if any urgent hearing is required, only those matters can be taken up; otherwise, their hearing be deferred.
2. Mass gathering, over crowding of Advocates and public in and around the premises of all the subordinate courts shall be avoided by all concerned.
 3. All the Courts/Tribunals shall not insist upon the presence of the parties unless it is essential or unavoidable. It is made clear here that in cases in which the presence is already directed and the parties are not present on the date so fixed for their appearance, until directed further, no adverse order shall be passed.

4. The production of accused from jails shall be avoided and looking to the peculiar situation in the country, their remand may be extended through video conferencing.
5. All the Judicial Officers may be requested to utilize the facility of Video Conferencing to conduct trials, to record the evidence of witnesses with the consent of both the counsel. All the Principal District Judges are requested to issue appropriate instructions to avoid overcrowding in the lockups and also the Superintendents of the jails and Police authorities may be apprised to that effect.
6. The Presidents and Secretaries of the Bar Associations in the Subordinate Courts may be requested to advise their clients not to visit the court premises unless it is very much essential and unavoidable.
7. All the Judicial Officers of the concerned courts may be requested to see that all Chambers, Court halls, Sections, rest rooms, corridors, Bar Association hall, tables, Chairs, gates, railings and other things be disinfected regularly atleast twice a day, by mopping with 1% Hypochloride solution.
8. All the Judicial Officers of the concerned courts may be requested to coordinate with the Medical and Health Department of the District/District Collectors requesting them to provide sufficient number of medical officers along with thermal screening guns, to meet the situation, and to provide sufficient masks and sanitizers to the Judicial Officers, Advocates, Staff and Security Personnel in the courts and also to the employees working in the official residences of the Judicial Officers.
9. All the Judicial Officers are requested not to permit any person who has been detected with high body temperature into the respective court premises, and will be subject to SOP prescribed by the Government of India, Ministry of Health from time to time. Adequate medical facilities be arranged through the Doctors.
10. All the Judicial Officers are requested to follow the preventive and remedial measures as instructed or advised by the Central/State Governments and other competent authorities from time to time.
11. All the Judicial Officers shall request the Medical and Health Department to display sign boards indicating precautionary measures, in order to prevent the epidemic.
12. All the Judicial Officers shall not insist the biometric attendance of the staff working in the court and any absence of staff of the court because of advisory has to be treated as '**On Duty**'.

13. All the Judicial Officers shall request the Advocates and staff of their respective courts not to conduct any meetings/functions/elections in the court premises, until further orders.
14. Mediation proceedings be held in urgent matters only.


REGISTRAR GENERAL

Copy be forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:

1. All the District Unit Heads with a request to circulate the same amongst all the Presiding Officers of the court.
2. All the Presiding Officers of Tribunals.
3. All the Bar Associations through the concerned District Unit Heads.
4. Registrar (I.T-cum-CPC), High Court of Andhra Pradesh with a request to direct the concerned to upload the same on the official website of High Court of Andhra Pradesh.