

RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT

No. 12/PI/2020

Date- 24.03.2020

CIRCULAR

For effective control and containment over spread of corona virus, instructions have been issued vide previous circulars. In order to remove any sort of confusion and to further clarify the issues, all the previous directions shall stand superseded and following directions shall remain in force for Subordinate Courts/Special Courts/Tribunals till 31.03.2020 and/or till further orders:-

i. Only extremely urgent matters be taken up

Subordinate courts of Rajasthan shall take up only the following extremely urgent matters till 31.03.2020:-

- i. Bail Applications, Appeals under Special Acts regarding bails.
 - ii. Remand matters
 - iii. Injunction/stay Applications,
 - iv. Supurdagi Applications.
 - v. Statements under Section 164 Cr.P.C. including dying declarations.
 - vi. Any other extremely urgent matter to be decided by the concerned Presiding Officer deputed by the District Judge for hearing urgent matters.
 - vii. All other matters shall be adjourned suitably subject to further directions.
- ii. The extremely urgent matters shall be taken up through video conference by Vidyo/whatsapp/skype or voice call or any other convenient mode. For this purpose, smart phones with official SIM available in district courts for electronic service of processes (NSTEP) may be used.
- iii. In matters having no urgency, common dates shall be given and notice thereof be published on official web site of each judgeship so that the lawyers and litigants would get the next dates without coming to the court. Efforts be also made to update the dates in CIS as far as possible.
- iv. As per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 23.03.2020 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3/2020 In Re: Cognizance for Extension of Limitation, prescribed limitation for filing of petitions/applications/suits/appeals and other proceedings

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shall stand extended w.e.f. 15th March 2020 till further orders by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

- v. Filing of only fresh urgent cases/applications may be made on official email address notified by the concerned District Judge with the condition to present the hard-copy file before jurisdictional court soon after the regular work resumes. The filing through email shall be entertained only when mobile number which is having whatsapp or the skype account address and email address are mentioned. The court deputed for urgent work will forward all the papers to the jurisdictional court after the regular work resumes. A matter filed through email shall be treated to be filed only when it is actually taken up by the court.
- vi. The District Judges are authorized to depute bare essential judicial officers on rotational basis at each court complex for hearing of urgent matters. Only those bare minimum Judicial Officers are required to come to court who have been deputed by the concerned District Judge for urgent work. Remaining judicial officers would not be required to attend the office but shall remain available at home during office timings.
- vii. The District Judges are empowered to depute the officers of District Judge cadre for urgent work of Family Courts/Special Courts/Tribunals in addition to other urgent work assigned to them.
- viii. Only bare essential court staff required to manage the above urgent work shall be called on rotational basis. Sitting arrangement of the staff shall be in such a manner so as to maintain required physical distance between them. Remaining staff would not be required to attend the office but shall remain available at home during office timings.
- ix. The Presiding Officers deputed for urgent work shall hold court only between 02.00 pm to 04.00 pm.
- x. The State Government vide order dated 23.03.2020 has imposed ban on the private vehicles till 31.03.2020, however judicial officers and court staff have been allowed to use their private vehicles for attending the office, therefore they are directed to carry official identity card with them.

2. Steps to limit the gatherings in court rooms and court premises

- i. Subordinate courts shall not insist on the presence of the parties unless it is very essential and unavoidable.

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- ii. The requests for personal exemption of accused/complainant/witnesses/parties shall be accordingly considered and adverse orders be avoided for their absence.
- iii. Only litigants whose presence is required by the court shall be permitted to attend the court with his lawyer. Litigants who are appearing in person shall be permitted entry.
- iv. The processes for service of the witnesses issued for the dates upto 31.03.2020 be returned unserved to the concerned court. Concerned police officials shall be requested accordingly.
- v. As far as possible, remand of all the prisoners shall be given only through video conferencing and over crowding in the lockups shall be avoided.
- vi. Concerned Bar Associations shall be requested to make the advocates aware to advise and persuade the litigants not to visit the court premises unless it is very essential and unavoidable.
- vii. Entry of Law Students and Interns shall remain prohibited in court premises.
- viii. To avoid public gatherings and crowding, no function or other event of mass gathering shall be permitted in the court premises.
- ix. Mediation proceedings shall be held only in urgent matters.

3. Other Preventive measures

- i. Hand sanitizers shall be provided in all court rooms and offices for use of Advocates, litigants and court staff.
- ii. Court staff who deal with files and come in frequent contact with advocates, litigants and visitors shall be provided with masks and gloves for regular use during working hours.
- iii. The advocates are permitted to use masks in courts.
- iv. The advocates are exempted to wear coats till 31.03.2020.
- v. In all the court rooms and offices, toilets, door handles, chairs, tables, gates, railings and other things shall be disinfected regularly at least twice a day by mopping through 1% hypochlorite.
- vi. Court staff suffering from cold/cough or sneezing are advised to take leave and follow the medical advise.
- vii. All canteens and shops selling food articles in the court premises shall remain closed till 31.03.2020. However, drinking water arrangements shall be duly ensured.
- viii. Director General of Police be requested to depute adequate number of police personnel at the entry gates of all court complexes to regulate

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