

THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR AT IMPHAL

NOTIFICATION No. 95 the 30th November, 2020

No.HCM/COVID-2020/RG/ 16762: In continuation of and in partial modification of earlier Notification No. 93 dated 06.11.2020 issued by the High Court of Manipur to regulate the working of the courts during the Novel Corona virus (COVID -19) pandemic and in compliance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Order dated 23.03.2020 in SMWC No. 3/2020: "IN RE- CONGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION" and Order dated 06.04.2020 in SMWC No. 5/2020: "IN RE – GUIDELINES FOR COURT FUNCTIONING THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING DURING COVID – 19 PANDEMIC" and in the nature of guidelines issued for LOCKDOWN and UNLOCK upto 31.12.2020 as declared by the Government of India on 25.11.2020; and subsequently by the Government of Manipur dated 27.11.2020 setting out guidelines for lockdown and unlock till 31.12.2020 whereby several restrictions have been removed and guidelines for containment have been issued; the High Court, in consultation with Hon'ble Judges and after consulting the members of the legal fraternity and considering the representations dated 27.11.2020 submitted by the High Court Bar Association of Manipur, dated 30.11.2020 by All Manipur Bar Association,

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dated 27.11.2020 by All Manipur Judicial Officers Association and All Manipur Judicial Employees Association and other stake holders, Hon'ble the Chief Justice is pleased to issue the following directions : -

1. The **regular court sitting** for both the High Court and District Courts/Tribunals shall be **regulated till 15.01.2021 as per the guidelines stated below** in anticipation of resumption of regular physical court sitting.
2. All Courts in Manipur including the High Court will take up motion cases, limited urgent regular and pending cases through video conferencing on various dates to be fixed, depending on the nature of urgency for early or regular listing.
3. The court proceedings including special ordered cases shall be done through video conferencing facility as per Notification No. 79 dated 22.08.2020 issued by the High Court.
4. The holding of limited physical court for the High Court will be decided by the concerned Judges after taking into account the need, nature and stage of the case and with the permission of the Hon'ble Chief Justice. Maintaining strict covid-19 protocol and social distancing is a must.

For the District Courts/Tribunals, holding of limited physical court will be decided by the concerned Presiding Officer.

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5. The video conferencing software will be "**Jitsi Meet**". For *desktop and laptop*, users can join Jitsi Meet video conferencing by simply opening the link sent by the Court end through any browser, e.g., chrome, firefox, etc.

For *mobile phone users*, "Jitsi Meet" app has to be downloaded and installed from "Play Store" or "App Store" and has to click the link sent by the Court end.

In case of difficulty in video linking by "Jitsi Meet", any other applications namely- "Vidyo", "Google Meet" and "Cisco Webex" may also be used by the Courts as an alternate link.

6. For the High Court, the filing of fresh cases and other applications/documents will be accepted through email at hcmeffiling@gmail.com without restriction. Hard copies of the cases already filed through email so far have to be submitted to the Registry when regular court work resumes. Any urgent listing for the day will be considered on an application in the approved format when made before the Registry and it will be placed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice or his Designate for appropriate order. Keeping in mind the High Court Bar Association of Manipur unanimous resolution, Counsel for the either side can seek hearing of pending case by way of a mention application for listing of old pending cases after serving notice on the other side and by taking consent of the other side.

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7. For the District Courts/Tribunals, fresh cases shall be filed by email in soft copy format. Hard copies original of the cases already filed through email filing so far have to be submitted to the concerned courts after restrictions are relaxed. In case email filing is not possible due to any reason, hard copy may also be filed with permission of the concerned Court. Urgent application can be moved with the permission of the Presiding Judge.
8. Counsels/Parties-in-person who file through email, shall file an undertaking to the effect that necessary court fees, sworn affidavit and other documents be submitted after restrictions are relaxed.

As far as possible, petition/application filed through email filing shall not exceed 15-20 pages. All necessary and important annexures/documents can be filed as part of the case filed. The hard copy of the case with annexure of documents shall be submitted as and when restrictions are relaxed.

The documents which cannot be conveniently sent by email such as voluminous, printed and bound, very old, etc. may be submitted as hard copy with the permission of Registrar (Judicial) in case of High Court and in case of the District Courts/ Tribunals with the permission of the concerned Court.

9. Court hour will be from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm or till the discharge of Cause List, whichever is earlier.

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10. All motion and other matters will be listed before the appropriate Bench as assigned by the Hon'ble Chief Justice or his Designate.

In case of District Courts/Tribunals, mention is to be made before the Presiding Judge.

11. Advocates who enter court complexes for any reason have to maintain strict social distancing and subject themselves to thermal scanning and covid screening. Covid-19 protocol is to be maintained. Litigants and other officials relating to a case can enter court premises only with prior permission of the Hon'ble Court/ Presiding Judicial Officer. Wearing of mask at all time is compulsory in all Court complexes of Manipur. Strict adherence to covid-19 protocol is a must.
12. District & Sessions Judges and Presiding Officers may work out modalities for proper functioning of their respective Courts in consultation with the members of Bar and other stake holders, as may be necessary. Cases ready for argument shall be heard by video conferencing. District Courts/Tribunals shall conduct time bound and specially directed cases without any excuse or delay.

District & Sessions Judges and Presiding Officers shall furnish details of the emails for filing of cases, video conferencing links and contact persons to the Bar Associations for smooth conduct of virtual court proceedings.

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13. Manipur Judicial Academy will conduct online training programmes during covid pandemic.
14. In view of the hardship faced by the common people during the covid-19 pandemic, Manipur State Legal Services Authority shall take up urgent legal services activities at all level, as may be possible following Covid-19 protocol.
15. Pending cases, other than listed cases, fixed for hearing on day-to-day basis up to 15.01.2021 shall be adjourned to subsequent dates in respect of High Court and District Courts. This will not apply to Special Courts and trials as directed by Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Court. The information in this regards is to be uploaded on the website of the District Court. It shall also be pasted on notice board.
16. The interim orders granted by the High Court for a specified date in pending cases stand extended till next date of effective hearing.
17. The interim orders granted by the District Courts/Tribunals in pending cases for a specified date shall be extended till next date of effective hearing.
18. Similar arrangements shall be made by all the respective Juvenile Justice Boards of the districts.
19. In view of the present regulation of regular Court work till 15.01.2021, limitation for any Court proceeding shall not run with

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effect from 15.03.2020 until further order in pursuance of order dated 23.03.2020 in SMWC No. 3/2020 : IN RE - COGNIZANCE FOR EXTENSION OF LIMITATION passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. **The counsels for the parties/parties are informed in advance that limitations will start as and when regular physical court starts functioning.**

20. As far as the High Court is concerned, all Officers and staff of the High Court shall attend office on all working days. However, such Officers/ staff who are residing in the containment zones are exempted from attending office on written permission from the Registrar General.
21. Digitization and Scanning work shall continue. However, those who are from the containment zones are exempted on written permission of the CPC.
22. As far as District Courts/Tribunals are concerned, the Presiding Judges shall ensure attendance of staff for the purpose of court sitting and office work. Those residing in the containment zones are exempted from attending office on written permission from the Presiding Judge.
23. Entry to the Bank and Post Office in High Court Complex will be restricted and regulated in view of strict Covid-19 protocol.

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24. This arrangement is subject to review and modification from time to time.

By order

A. Guneshwar Sharma
20/11/2020

(A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA)
Registrar General

Copy to:-

1. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India
2. Secretary, Department of Justice, Government of India.
3. The Advocate General, Govt. of Manipur.
4. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur.
5. The Director General of Police, Manipur.
6. The Registrar, Admin & Vigilance, High Court of Manipur.
7. All the learned Judicial Officers, Manipur.
8. The Secretary (Law), Government of Manipur.
9. The Govt. Advocate, Govt. of Manipur.
10. The President, High Court BAR Association.
11. The President, AMBA, Manipur.
12. The Joint Director, Manipur Judicial Academy.
13. All the Joint Registrars, High Court of Manipur.
14. The Principal Magistrates, all Juvenile Justice Boards.
15. All the Deputy Registrars, High Court of Manipur.
16. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Manipur.
17. All the Asst Registrars/LRO/Court Managers, High Court of Manipur.
18. The P.S to Hon'ble Justice L.S. Jamir, High Court of Manipur.
19. The P.S to Hon'ble Justice Kh.Nobin Singh, High Court of Manipur.
20. The P.S to Hon'ble Justice M.V. Muralidaran, High Court of Manipur.
21. The P.S to Hon'ble Justice A. Bimol Singh, High Court of Manipur.
22. The P.S to Registrar General, High Court of Manipur.
23. The System Analyst, High Court of Manipur for uploading the same to the Official Website.
24. All the Superintendents/Court Officers/Stamp Reporter/Protocol Officer, High Court of Manipur.
25. All the Court Master, High Court of Manipur.
26. The Guard file.