

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
APPELLATE SIDE

NOTIFICATION

No.1506-RG

Dated March 28, 2020

In furtherance of the steps already taken to combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in continuation of the directions of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court vide Notification No.1498-RG issued on 24th March, 2020 and in light of orders of a Nation-wide lockdown declared by the Government of West Bengal as well as Government of India, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of this High Court has been pleased to further direct, as follows :-

1. In view of the inconvenience to be faced by the lawyers, litigant etc. in physically attending court proceeding due to lockdown and to avoid overcrowding in court precincts, court proceeding of extreme urgent matters may be conducted via video-conferencing through skype conference call;
2. For all matters involving extreme urgency, the Advocate-on-Record/Party-in-person is first required to file the scanned copy of the petition/application and documents alongwith Form-A or Form-B, whichever is necessary, through the e-mail rghc_cal@rediffmail.com together with a prayer for exemption from filing duly affirmed affidavit in the prevailing circumstances with an undertaking that deficit court fees will be paid subsequently, within 48 hours of opening the High Court, after attaining normalcy. Thereafter, and upon completion of all formalities of filing such petition/application, the AOR/Party-in-person is required to file separately a signed and verified application containing a synopsis of extreme urgency through the said e-mail latest by 2:00 pm on the day, preceeding the day of sitting of the Hon'ble Benches, subject to any leave to be granted by the Hon'ble Bench to the contrary;

3. The application must inter-alia clearly contain the case-details, Bench-details, contact-details of the AOR/party in-person including e-mail id, mobile number and alternate number(s), residence/office address with Pin Code and Police Station. The application must also contain a separate paragraph giving consent that the matter may be taken up through the Video-Conferencing mode. In the application, the AOR/Party-in-Person must specify as to whether he would link through own desktop/laptop/mobile or would prefer to avail such facility in the High Court premises;

4. For the purpose of video-conferencing, the AOR/Party-in-person are hereby also requested to mention their '**Skype**' contact details, alongwith other details in their mentioning application, as per procedure detailed in para 2 and 3 above;

5. Upon approval of the urgency by the Hon'ble Presiding Judge of the Bench(es), the case(s) would be enlisted in the cause-list to be published on the website of the Hon'ble High Court in 'Notification' column by evening hours on the day preceeding the sitting of the Bench. The list may also be published on the selfsame day upon leave of the Bench;

6. In all cases taken on the board, an intimation regarding time of sitting of the Hon'ble Bench(es) and approximate time of the hearing of their case(s) shall be sent to the concerned AOR/Party-in-Person on the Mobile Number and e-mail as mentioned in the application. It is, therefore, desired that the AOR/Party-in-Person must keep his mobile free around the time indicated, as the High Court Registry will call on the mobile number mentioned in their application when the matter is to be called for hearing through video-conferencing, as per cause-list;

7. If the Advocate/Party-in-Person is unable to connect through video-conferencing due to non-availability of hardware/network on any given date, the matter would be listed on the next date of the sitting of any Bench and the AOR/Party-in-Person may appear through Video-Conferencing facility being

made available in the High Court premises and for that they have to mention in the application their desire to do so;

8. Since the prevailing situation demands that the persons be discouraged from undertaking any kind of journey/travel, the Registry is taking all steps necessary to conduct the aforesaid hearings through remote VC links, and the AORs/Parties-in-persons are advised to refrain from exercising the option of participating in the hearing through VC facility available at the High Court premises for the present, as that would entail unnecessary and avoidable travel through public spaces;

9. The Registry would act only upon such e-mails as are sent to the mail-id as specified above, and reply would be sent, as may be required, to the same email id from where the request would have come. Hence, AOR/Party-in-Person are requested not to send such e-mails to any other mail ids;

10. The Registry would keep only such offices open with skeletal staff as may be required to facilitate the holding of the Hon'ble Bench for extreme urgent cases or as directed from time to time, and for facilitating all matters that may be connected to smoothly holding of such Hon'ble Bench, by video-conferencing or otherwise.

Sd/-
(RAI CHATTOPADHYAY)
Registrar General, High Court, Calcutta