

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR AT SRINAGAR

ORDER

No: 456 /GS

Dated:- 12.10.2020

After taking into consideration the latest SOPs and guidelines issued by the Governments of Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, related to COVID-19 pandemic, the following directions are issued:

High Court

1. In addition to virtual hearing, the matters may also be taken up for physical hearing, where the learned counsel for both the parties to the *lis* give their consent for such physical hearing.
2. Identification of cases and their listing for virtual hearing shall be done in accordance with Circular No. 19 dated 28.05.2020 and Circular No. 03 dated 01.07.2020.
3. Identification of cases for physical hearing shall be done by the concerned Registrar Judicial a day before the date of listing.
4. Advocates concerned in a particular case, who intend to get their case listed for physical hearing, shall give written consent for physical appearance and provide the requisite detail of the case to the concerned Registrar Judicial at least two days before the date of listing.
5. The Registrar Judicial concerned, then, shall provide list of such counsel whose cases are listed for physical hearing, well in time to the Incharge Security at the main gate to facilitate entry of such counsel.
6. The staff on duty and the counsel appearing physically in Court shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of mask and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the respective Governments from time to time.

District Courts

1. District & Sessions Judges in Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, taking into consideration the urgency involved, apart from virtual hearing, may, where the learned counsel for the parties involved give their consent to appear for physical hearing, permit physical hearing in Criminal trials where accused is/are in Custody, Matrimonial Cases, MACT Cases, Cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, Compromise matters or in any other matter as deemed desirable by the concerned Courts.
2. The courts shall devise their own mechanism for listing of cases for physical hearing after taking consent of respective counsel, subject to their own assessment of prevailing local conditions including the intensity of COVID-19 infection.
3. The staff on duty in courts and the counsel appearing physically shall take necessary precautions, ensure physical distancing, wearing of mask and observance of SOPs and guidelines issued by the respective Governments from time to time.

These directions shall remain in force till 31st October 2020.

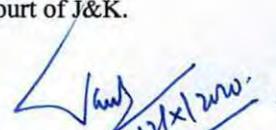
Sd/-
(Gita Mittal)
Chief Justice

No: 9337-82/GS

Dated: 12.10.2020

Copy of the above forwarded to:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K, at Srinagar.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr/Mrs Justice _____
..... for information of their Lordships.
3. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K, Srinagar.
4. Registrar Computers, High Court of J&K, Srinagar.
5. Registrar Rules, High Court of J&K, Srinagar.
6. Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar.
7. All Principal District Judges of the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with the request to circulate the same among the Judicial Officers within their jurisdiction.
8. Administrative Officer, Office of the Advocate General, J&K, Srinagar
9. President, all Bar Associations in UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
..... for information and compliance.
10. Incharge NIC for uploading the same on official website of the High Court of J&K.


Registrar General