

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

NOTIFICATION

No. 1952 – RG.

Date: 23.07.2020.

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that **the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court, Calcutta, upon consideration of the recommendations of the Hon'ble Covid Committee of this Hon'ble Court**, has been pleased to pass the following orders with regard to the modalities of the functioning of the Calcutta High Court from **July 27, 2020** in the light of the spurt in Covid cases and the lockdown schedule as announced by the State Government:

1. A balance has to be struck between access to justice and the precautions to be taken for the pandemic. The judicial functioning of the High Court cannot be suspended indefinitely, but the court may function regularly on a restricted scale till normalcy returns and the present spread of the pandemic subsides.
2. For the period up to August 15, 2020, learned lawyers are advised to file only extremely urgent matters that cannot wait.
3. Though the court will function from the main building, lawyers, litigants, staff of lawyers and others should refrain from coming to court unless unavoidable. Hearings will be taken up only on the video platform except in case of indigent litigants appearing in person or learned lawyers not having access to the requisite technology or connectivity.
4. Bail and anticipatory bail matters may be filed electronically with an undertaking by Advocates on record to have the petition duly stamped and punched within a month of the resumption of the normal functioning of the court. Such petitions, however, must be supported by a scanned copy of a duly executed vakalatnama with a further undertaking of concerned Advocate on record that he is in possession of the original vakalatnama.
5. All other filings will be in physical mode at the ground floor counters in the main building.
6. Covid protocol has to be maintained at all times in the court precincts, including wearing masks and maintaining the distancing guidelines.
7. Apart from the Chief Justice's Bench which may take up such matters as are assigned by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, two Division Benches will sit on every working day (except the lockdown days) and take up concurrently all matters to be heard by a Division Bench except PIL matters. Such benches will sit in Court no. 16 and Court no. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
8. Five single benches comprising all Division Bench Judges of the day and the companion Judge on the Chief Justice's Bench will take up concurrently all matters to be heard by a

- Single Bench. Such Benches will sit in Court nos. 8, 11, 12, 16 and 19 from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. on the same days indicated in the immediate preceding paragraph.
9. Odd-numbered matters will be placed before the first Division Bench and even-numbered matters before the other. This will be without exception, even in respect of identical matters. The Bench first calling on a matter will take up other identical matters, whereupon the other Bench before which the identical matter was listed will not call on such matter. A matter will be regarded as identical to another if the order on one would govern the other. Similar matters will not be regarded as identical matters.
 10. Similarly, the first odd-numbered matter will be listed before the first Single Bench, the first even-numbered before the second Single Bench and so on exactly on the similar lines indicated in the previous paragraph.
 11. Each Division Bench, other than that of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, will sit on two consecutive working days on rotation basis maintaining such seniority norms as may be deemed fit by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
 12. Specially assigned matters may be taken up as directed by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
 13. There will be no mentioning permitted in physical form.
 14. Video mentioning will be permitted upon filing a request at specified email ID only for correction of any order. No mentioning will be allowed for inclusion of any matter. Any request for immediate listing in extremely urgent cases may be made by email to the Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice. Sufficient discretion must be exercised in such regard.
 15. All matters covered by previous notifications and not inconsistent herewith will govern the field.
 16. Filing of a fresh matter or communication for correction of any order of the principal Bench shall be made to the email id **secy2cj@gmail.com**, on all working days upto 3 p.m. Filing of a fresh matter or communication for correction of any order of the Circuit Benches at Port Blair and Jalpaiguri shall be made to the email id **circuit.chcfiling@gmail.com** on all working days upto 3 p.m. The memo of evidence may be filed at respective emails within the stipulated time.
 17. The Hon'ble the Chief Justice may suspend the functioning of the court or modify the mode of functioning as the circumstances may warrant, without previous notice.

By Order,
Sd/-
[Rai Chattopadhyay]
Registrar General.