



THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

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No: **DI-3/ 27275/2020**

Dated:19-11-2021

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Sub.: Functioning of Courts in the District Judiciary from 22-11-2021
- advisory issued- reg.

Ref: 1. High Court OM of even no. dated 18.06.2021
2. G.O(Rt) No. 659/2021/DMD dated 25.09.2021

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The High Court had earlier issued the guidelines cited 1st above regarding the functioning of the subordinate courts in the State during the pandemic. The Government, after reviewing the pandemic situation in the State, vide order cited 2nd, has relaxed the restrictions imposed on account of COVID-19.

Now on considering the present situation and the suggestions put in by the learned District Judges after consultation with the Bar, a fresh advisory, appended as annexure 'A', is issued regarding the functioning of the courts in the District Judiciary, w.e.f. from 22.11.2021. The OM cited is modified accordingly.

(By Order)

Suneera

Suneera.P.M

Deputy Registrar

OK

The District Judges

The Chief Judicial Magistrates

The IT Section, High Court (for publishing in the website)

Annexure A

Guidelines for the functioning of Courts in the District Judiciary with effect from 22.11.2021

- (1) Physical sitting in the District Judiciary shall be restored.
- (2) The Courts shall proceed with the usual daily cause list w.e.f. 22-11-2021 and shall do away with the restricted cause list. However, in order to avoid crowding in the Court room and the nearby areas, the roll-call shall be conducted in the online mode. Number of persons who could be permitted inside the Court hall shall be decided by the Principal District Judges from time to time, in consultation with the respective Presiding Officers and the Bar Associations concerned;
- (3) The sitting of the Court shall be conducted in the open Court. To avoid over crowding, time slots shall be fixed for hearing matters and trial, as far as possible;
- (4) When any Advocate or party-in-person requests for hearing through online mode, it shall be permitted. It will be optional to the other Advocates or parties to decide the mode of appearance before the Court;

- (5) At the discretion of the Presiding Officers, hearing of bail applications shall be on virtual mode or physical mode;
- (6) Except in the Courts where e-filing is allowed, filing of cases shall be on physical mode;
- (7) The Courts shall ensure physical distancing norms inside the Courts as well as in the veranda by arranging seats, observing social distancing and ensuring strict compliance of the directives issued by the Central and State Governments as well as the Health Department from time to time;
- (8) Presiding Officers who have co-morbidities can conduct sitting in the online mode, after intimating the matter to the Principal District Judge.
- (9) Advocates who are physically appearing in the Courts in the District Judiciary shall wear coat and neckband, as per the Rules.
