# HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA AGARTALA

# No.F.44(1)(c)-HC/2022/<u>1093</u>

# 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

# ORDER

In view of sudden surge in cases of COVID-19, especially detection of the Variant of Concern (VoC) 'Omicron' in different parts of the country, the High Court has decided to strictly implement and enforce the directives and advisories issued by the Central Government/State Government to contain the spread of Corona Virus in the state of Tripura. The High Court has also taken the following decisions for smooth functioning of the High Court as well as the District Courts including the Family Courts:

#### For the High Court

- (01) The present system of hybrid hearing i.e. physical hearing as well as virtual hearing shall continue until further order.
- (02) Only Part-I matters shall be taken up by the Hon'ble Courts.
- (03) Part-II matters upto the year 2019 only shall be taken up for hearing. In addition, other Part-II matters may also be taken up for hearing on being mentioned by the learned Counsel for the parties before the Hon'ble Court, if the concerned Hon'ble Court considers it urgent.
- (04) In case of any difficulty being faced by a Learned Counsel while participating virtually in hearing, the Registrar (Judicial) (Mobile No.7085558838) and/or the Deputy Registrar (Judl.)-cum-CPC (Mobile No.9485099893) may be contacted.
- (05) The members of the Registry, Lawyers and/or litigants entering the High Court premises must wear face mask in proper manner, clean their hands by using sanitizer/soap kept at the entry point and must pass through the thermal scanning.

- (06) The Advocates may please request the litigants not to visit the Court as far as possible; and in the event of necessity a litigant shall only be permitted to enter the court premises if he/she can produce the Double Vaccination Certificate to the police personnel at the entry gate.
- (07) Social distancing shall have to be maintained at all times by all concerned inside the High Court complex. Even in the Bar rooms, the Lawyers shall ensure proper social distancing.
- (08) In the Court Halls one alternative chair shall be kept vacant for the purpose of maintaining social distancing. For that purpose, necessary arrangement shall be made by the Assistant Registrar, Court Officer's Section.
- (09) The Advocates may be requested not to enter into the Court Halls more than 10 members at a time; and once hearing is complete of a particular case, the concerned Advocate may be requested to leave the Court Hall to avoid overcrowding.
- (10) Random COVID-19 antigen test is to be conducted in the High Court; and for that purpose the Registry is to take up with the Health Department for arranging random antigen test for the members of the Registry, Advocates etc.
- (11) If administering of Booster Dose is started by the State Government, they may be requested to arrange Booster Dose for the members of the Registry/Advocates.
- (12) The Registry shall ensure zero–error cleanliness within the entire High Court Building.
- (13) The Registry shall take all necessary steps in consonance to the policy of the State Government.

#### For the District Courts including Family Courts

(01) The District & Sessions Judges/the Judges, Family Courts shall take all necessary steps to prepare a list of old pending cases which are to be disposed of on priority basis during this period. If evidence is required to be recorded in such cases, the Presiding Officers may do so. In other cases where recording of evidence is considered necessary on being mentioned by the Learned Counsel for the parties, the Presiding Officers may go for it. Moreover, while doing so, adoption of virtual mode for recording of evidence may be resorted to and the Presiding Officers while passing order shall mention it in the order itself that proceedings shall take place virtually and also communicate the VC Link to the Learned Counsel of both the parties in advance. A Learned Counsel not having technological resources at his/her disposal to participate in the proceedings virtually may use the VC Cabin or eSewa Kendra of the respective District Court Complex as arranged by the concerned District & Sessions Judge.

- (02) Where recording of evidence is already completed or recording of evidence is not necessary, the Presiding Officers may continue to hear cases for disposal.
- (03) Except first production of the accused by the police on arrest before the Court, all subsequent production(s) of the accused from jail may be made virtually following the Tripura Video Conferencing (Conduct of proceedings including Recording of Evidence and Remand of Accused in the trial/remand courts) Rules, 2018.
- (04) The District & Sessions Judges shall notify the contact details of the Nodal Officer(s) of the station(s) who can be approached by the Learned Members of the Bar for redressal of any technical grievances in connection with virtual hearing.
- (05) The District & Sessions Judges/the Judges, Family Courts shall ensure compulsory wearing of mask by the staff members, Advocates and litigants in the court premises. They shall also ensure compulsory sanitization and social distancing not only in the court premises but also in the Court Halls.
- (06) They shall also persuade the Advocates to ensure that the litigants and visitors whose presence is not necessary in the Court, may not visit the court premises.

(07) The District and Sessions Judges may take up with the Chief Medical Officer to the concerned District to arrange random COVID-19 antigen test in the their respective court premises for the staff members, Advocates and litigants.

By order,

Sd/-

# (**D. M. Jamatia**) Registrar General

# No.F.44(1)(c)-HC/2022/<u>1094-1136</u>

11<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

# Copy to:

- 01. The Secretary General, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi;
- 02. The Registrar Generals of all the High Courts in India;
- 03. The Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, New Delhi;
- 04. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 05. The Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Talapatra, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 06. The Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Amarnath Goud, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 07. The Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arindam Lodh, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 08. The Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. G. Chattopadhyay, Judge, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 09. The Advocate General, Tripura, Agartala;
- 10. The Sr. Govt. Advocate, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 11. The Chairman, Bar Council of Tripura, Agartala;
- 12. The Govt. Advocate, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 13. The Secretary, High Court Bar Association, Agartala;
- 14. The Secretary, Tripura Bar Association, Agartala;
- 15. The Assistant Solicitor General of India, Govt. of India, Agartala;
- 16. The Public Prosecutor, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 17. The Director, Tripura Judicial Academy, Agartala;
- 18. The LR & Secretary, Law, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala;
- 19. The District & Sessions Judge, Dhalai District, Ambassa/ North Tripura District, Dharmanagar/ Sepahijala District, Sonamura/ West Tripura District, Agartala/ Gomati District, Udaipur/ South Tripura District,

Belonia/ Khowai District, Khowai/ Unakoti District, Kailashahar for information. They are requested to circulate the same amongst all the Presiding Officers under their respective judgeships for their information. They are also requested to circulate the order to all the Bar Associations under their respective Districts;

- 20. The Judge, Family Court, Khowai District, Khowai/ Agartala, West Tripura District/ Dharmanagar, North Tripura District/ Kailashahar, Unakoti District/ Sonamura, Sepahijala District/ Ambassa, Dhalai District/ Belonia, South Tripura District/ Udaipur, Gomati District for information. They are requested to circulate the same amongst all the Judicial Officers under their respective judgeships for their information;
- 21. The Registrar (Vigilance), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 22. The Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 23. The Member Secretary, Tripura State Legal Services Authority, Agartala;
- 24. The Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 25. The Registrar (Admn., P & M), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 26. The Joint Registrar, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 27. The Deputy Registrar(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 28. The Chief Librarian, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 29. The Assistant Registrar(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 30. The System Analyst, Computer Section, High Court of Tripura, Agartala. He is directed to take necessary steps regarding uploading of this order in the official website of the High Court of Tripura as well as in the official websites of the District Courts of Tripura;
- 31. All the Superintendents, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 32. The Sr. Grade Translator-cum-I/C. Paper Book Section, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 33. The Court Master(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 34. The Bench Clerk(s), High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 35. All Sections, High Court of Tripura, Agartala;
- 36. Notice Board of the Court-house; and
- 37. Order File.

#### **Registrar General**