

ROC No.1363/2020/RG



MOST URGENT

CIRCULAR

Sub: COVID 19 – Nation wide lockdown – Further directions of the Hon'ble Administrative Committee – Circular issued – Regarding.

The public announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country imposing a complete lockdown throughout the country and the Notification No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A), dated 24th March, 2020 along with the annexure issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, subject to the conditions contained therein the wake of the threat of pandemic Corona Virus, will result in immobilization of the public at large, including those connected with our judicial system particularly the Officers and staff of the High Court at Madras and Madurai Bench as well the entire subordinate judiciary of the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

In the wake of this unprecedented and uncertain situation, it is resolved by the Hon'ble Administrative Committee of the Madras High Court, in supersession of all administrative notifications, circulars, etc. issued earlier except the Sitting Arrangement made vide Notification

No.110 of 2020 dated 23rd March, 2020 and the Circular vide ROC No.29823/A/2020/F1 dated 24th March, 2020 for the High Court and the subordinate courts, to suspend the court work in the High Court as well as the subordinate courts with immediate effect subject to the following:

1. Entry to the High Court at Madras and Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court shall remain prohibited for three weeks from today (24th March, 2020) or until further orders whichever is earlier. Administrative or judicial work at the Principal Seat, Chennai shall be communicated through the Registrar General and/or Registrar (Judicial) of the Principal Seat at Madras on their following official E-mail IDs, viz. regrgenl@tn.nic.in and m.jothiraman@aij.gov.in respectively and that of the Madurai Bench through the Additional Registrar General and Registrar (Judicial) in-charge on her E-mail ID thamilj1968@gmail.com
2. The Notification No.62/JUDL/2020 dated 23-03-2020 issued under the orders of the Hon'ble Administrative Judge at Madurai Bench shall be notified accordingly maintaining the allocation of work and the venue as contained subject to this Notification.
3. Entry into all subordinate courts shall remain suspended subject to any specific permission of the Principal District Judge or Principal District Judge (In Charge) / Principal

Judge – City Civil Court, Chennai / Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Chief Judge – Puducherry. The respective heads shall notify the official E-mail ID details of the Chief Administrative Officer and Court Manager of learned Principal District Judge, Principal Judge or the Chief Judge, as the case may be for any contact by any person including lawyers for either administrative or judicial work. All officers and staff of the subordinate courts shall remain stationed at their residence subject to directions by the respective Principal District Judge, Principal Judge or Chief Judge as the case may be to carry out urgent or emergent duties.

4. In supersession of all earlier Notifications / Circular issued except the Sitting Arrangement made vide Notification No.110 of 2020 dated 23rd March, 2020 and the Circular vide ROC No.29823/A/2020/F1 dated 24th March, 2020, no matter, unless it is urgent and imminently emergent shall be entertained except with the permission of the Hon'ble Judge presiding over the Division Bench or the Single Bench, as the case may be, dealing with the assigned subjects vide the Notification No.110 of 2020 dated 23rd March, 2020.
5. On permission being granted, the lawyers / litigants shall be accordingly instructed of the venue and mode of addressing the Court either through video-conferencing or otherwise.

6. No matter in the subordinate courts shall be entertained unless extremely urgent or emergent except with the permission of the concerned Principal District Judge / Principal District Judge – In Charge, Principal Judge or Chief Judge, as the case may be.
7. All the Officers and staff members of the High Court at Principal Seat and at Madurai Bench and the Judicial Officers and the staff members of the subordinate courts shall keep their mobile phones or contact numbers in an active state for receiving or executing any communication issued by their respective superiors for the discharge of their duties.
8. In view of the unpredictable situation, the High Court and the subordinate courts shall until further orders continue to function as per the aforesaid directives subject to any further decision being taken on the administrative side either by the Hon'ble The Chief Justice or the Administrative Committee or the Full Court, as the case may be.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS
DATED : 24.3.2020

Sd/- C.KUMARAPPAN
REGISTRAR GENERAL