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நீதிச்சேவை ஆணைக்குழுச் செயலகம்
Judicial Service Commission Secretariat

JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT | JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT

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எனது இலக்கம்
My No.

JSC/SEC COR: 11

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இலக்கம்
Your No.

දිනය
திகதி
Date 27.04.2021

To: All High Court Judges/All Judicial Officers and Presidents of Labour Tribunals

Instructions/Measures in Relation to Prevention and Control of COVID 19 in Courts

In view of the possibility of a fresh outbreak of Covid-19, the JSC directed me to draw the attention to all the previous JSC Circulars issued in relation to prevention of Covid-19 (particularly JSC/SEC COR: 05 dated 19.04.2020, JSC/SEC COR: 10 dated 30.11.2020 and Circular No: 442 dated 25.08.2020, etc.), in the conduct of court proceedings, for your urgent attention. Salient features of these circulars are listed hereinbelow for easy reference.

- I. Consult all stakeholders (including the local branch of the Bar Association) regarding the functioning of the courts.
- II. Strict adherence to government guidelines in relation to prevention of the spread of Covid-19.
- III. Take up cases on staggered basis and the relevant time slots to be notified in advance.
- IV. Wherever possible granting of bail or extension of remand to be done by electronic means.
- V. Entry to courthouses to be restricted to persons whose presence is essential to the conduct of proceedings.
- VI. Adverse default orders not to be passed indiscriminately.
- VII. Number of trials and inquires to be taken up based on availability of resources.
- VIII. Personal appearance of parties may be dispensed with in calling matters.
- IX. Facilitate the payment of maintenance as per Section 7 (1) of the Maintenance Act.
- X. Take measure to minimize the spread of Covid-19 in prisons and court cells.



XI. High Court Judges/Judicial Officers to discharge the onerous duties entrusted, in the best interest of the dispensation of justice, being mindful of the fact that the ground situation of each court is different.

Furthermore, in relation to limiting the presence of Attorneys-At-Law inside the court house as recommended by BASL in their proposed guidelines dated 25.04.2021, Judges may use their discretion and act in consultation with the respective local branches of the Bar Association.

Under the command of the JSC

H.S. Somaratne
Secretary

Judicial Service Commission
H. Sanjeewa Somaratne
Secretary
Judicial Service Commission
Colombo 12

- C.C. : 1) Hon. Attorney General
2) Secretary to His Excellency the President
3) Secretary, Ministry of Justice
4) Inspector General of Police
5) Commissioner General of Prisons
6) Secretary, Bar Association