

HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

No. 62/Judl./HCS

Date: 20.12.2023

NOTIFICATION

Pursuant to the Order dated 6th October 2023 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 351/2023 (Sarvesh Mathur v. The Registrar General, High Court of Punjab and Haryana)* and in due compliance thereof the High Court of Sikkim with the approval of the Hon'ble, the Chief Justice hereby frames this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed for availing access to Video Conferencing/ Virtual Hearing before the High Court of Sikkim:

1. An advocate would be entitled to appear without restriction before the High Court through a video conferencing facility. However, the High Court may regulate the participation of a litigant [or any other person] as per the Sikkim High Court (Practice and Procedure) Rules, 2011 and Video Conferencing for Courts, 2020.

2. The links for each Court shall be provided in the daily cause list, which shall be published on the website of the High Court. Only the concerned Advocate(s)/party in person are to log in using these links for each court.

3. The Advocates/litigants may, if they so desire, use the facility of Video Conferencing available in the High Court premises or E-Sewa Kendra.

4. While accessing the virtual platform, an advocate must enter his/her/their details i.e., name, case number and party(s) for which he/she/they are appearing. If the advocate(s) is appearing in more than one matter, the case numbers of all the matters must to be provided.



5. The Participants must avoid using multiple devices at remote location to eliminate the chance of echo/ disturbance.

6. The Advocate(s)/party in person may join the court proceeding from his office, residence, conference room, etc., but not from a vehicle. The Advocate(s)/Party(s) should have the camera switched on during Court proceedings.

7. Only the Advocate(s)/duly authorized person in the matter would be entitled to address the Court. The Court coordinator/Reader(s) may mute/unmute any other participant(s).

8. The Advocate(s)/ participant(s) should regulate their microphones to avoid disturbing the court proceedings. At the time of joining, the microphone should be kept muted. The microphone should be unmuted only when the matter is called out. The Court may direct the Court coordinator/Reader(s) to mute the microphone of an advocate(s)/participant(s) if it causes disturbance(s) in the court proceedings.

9. If any participant indulges in an act which is considered inappropriate, she/he/they will be excluded from the VC proceedings, and action as directed by the Court will be taken in the matter.

10. No recording of the court proceedings is allowed.

11. The Advocates/participants can seek assistance through the chat facility wherever available. The chat facility should be used for seeking help from the court coordinator regarding technical assistance concerning VC hearing and/or inquiring about the item number of the case being heard. The Court coordinator would respond to such queries on a best-effort basis.

12. Advocates can give a Memo of appearance in *pdf* format in the chat box duly mentioning the case number, name of the Advocate and the party for which they are appearing.

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13. The provision for filing mention memo is available in the drop-down menu of miscellaneous documents in the E-filing portal. The same may be followed by the Ld. Advocate(s)/ party-in-person for mentioning urgent matters through online mode.

14. If the number of participants who have joined the virtual proceedings exceeds or is likely to exceed the maximum participants/log-ins permitted by the software, the Court coordinator/Reader(s), in the first instance, may remove viewers not participating in the court proceedings. Advocate(s)/litigant(s) appearing in later items may also be requested to log out.

15. In cases where in-camera proceedings are required to be held, virtual hearings may be restricted to the parties and/or their advocates.

16. The present Standard Operating Procedure shall be in addition to the Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts, 2020 as notified by the High Court of Sikkim and not in derogation thereof.

By Order,


20.12.23
Sonam D. Wangdi (SSJS)
REGISTRAR