

STEPS TAKEN BY THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND

To overcome the situation emerged due to Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) it has been decided that the Court shall work only with the minimum required staff. However, to avoid inconvenience, information technology is being used to provide relief to the needy and to take up urgent matters including Bail, ABA, matters relating to Suspension of Sentence etc. In that course several innovative methods have been adopted by the High Court of Jharkhand and for the subordinate courts of Jharkhand. Some of such methods are mentioned herein below:

E-mentioning: To enable the learned advocates to mention the urgent matters e-mentioning method has been adopted in which the advocates are required to mention their respective matters on the official e-mail id of the High Court. The urgency of the matter is decided by the Hon'ble Chief Justice and thereafter matters are being taken up by the Bench.

E-Hearing: For the first time in the history of the High Court the e-hearing modality had been adopted in which the matters are being heard by the respective benches through video conferencing. For the same following methods have been adopted.

- a) The process of Video Conferencing has been provided in the Official website of the Hon'ble Court to enable the learned Advocates to avail the facility by downloading the required App (**Vidyo**).
- b) By using the Video conferencing facility the learned Advocates could connect in the Video conferencing facility of the Hon'ble Judges which is being connected from Chamber's of Hon'ble Judges or even from their residential offices.
- c) Division Benches are being constituted in which both the Hon'ble Judges participate in the proceeding from their respective residential offices and learned counsels also participating from their own offices / residences through V.C.
- d) Advocates have also been provided optional VC facility from High Court premises. VC room has been made functional in the **Help Desk KIOSK** situated at the entrance Gate No. 3 of the High Court. Advocates are allowed entry for the availing the VC in the High Court Premises only on the basis of **e-gate pass** which is being sent on the email of the concerned Advocates.

In subordinate courts the Video conferencing facility is available and being used for remands and for hearing of the urgent matters. The urgency of the matter in the subordinate courts is decided by the respective Principal District Judges.

The bail bonds are being accepted by Video Conferencing in subordinate Courts of the State of Jharkhand.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for bail bond acceptance through video conferencing facility from residential office of Judicial Officer.

Step 1. The entire documents related to bail bond duly certified by the advocate is emailed at the official email address of Judge-in-Charge after the same is checked and verified by the Criminal Sirestedar/O.C./B.C. The Criminal Sirestedar/O.C./B.C. gives a report (at 1st instance) regarding the same.

Step 2. Copy of relevant orders like 1st order-sheet, order of remand, previous rejection order of the said lower Court, bail, reamand, etc (if required scanned copy is sent through email).

Step 3. The concerned P.O. receives the copy of relevant documents forwarded by the Judge-in-Charge through registered email. The concerned P.O. then verifies all relevant documents and examines the bailor and surety through video conferencing facility of the Civil Court Ranchi, e-Court Room and accepts the bail bond. Note: He may call for records physically (if needed for satisfaction).

Step 4. The concerned P.O. then signs the release order and transmit the scanned copy to the registered email id of the judgeship which is then forwarded by the Judge-in-Charge to the Superintendent of Jail for release of the accused. The jail authority get it verified from the Judge-in-Charge on phone to act upon the said release order. In order to ensure authentication of the release order, official mb. number of the concerned P.O. is also mentioned on the release order.

Step 5. Later on, hard copy of the order is then sent in its usual manner.

Video Conferencing/Vidyo application/Zoom application, etc may be used by the Judicial Officers to conduct the proceedings.