

HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

R.O.C.No.1636/OP CELL/2024

Date: 14-03-2024

CIRCULAR

Sub: District Judiciary - Observance of office timings scrupulously by the Judicial Officers in the State - Instructions issued earlier - Reiterated - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. High Court's D.O.Lr.No.4007/1992/B.Spl. Dt.17.07.1992
2. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.5653/OP CELL-E/1999, Dt. 18.12.1999.
3. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.1872/OP CELL-E/2003, Dt. 16.04.2003.
4. High Court's D.O.Lr.No.2701/OP CELL-E/2009, Dt. 25.08.2009.
5. High Court's letter in ROC.No.2399/OP CELL-E/2011, Dt. 08.08.2011.
6. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.2399/OP CELL-E/2011, Dt. 12.07.2012.
7. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.2399/OP CELL-E/2011, Dt. 16.04.2013.
8. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.2399/OP CELL-E/2011, Dt.12.06.2014.
9. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.2399/OP CELL-E/2011, Dt. 04.12.2014.
10. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.4415/OP CELL-E/2015, Dt. 15.09.2015.
11. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.2547/OP CELL-E/2006, Dt. 01.06.2016.
12. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.3009/OP CELL/2019, Dt. 25.09.2019.
13. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.3009/OP CELL/2019, Dt. 24.12.2019.
14. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.4840/2018-B.Spl., Dt. 09.12.2021.
15. High Court's Circular in ROC.No.4840/2018-B.Spl., Dt. 21.07.2022.

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Attention of all the Unit Heads and Judicial Officers is invited to the letter and circular in the reference 1st and 2nd cited, whereby they were directed to follow the court hours strictly from 10.30 AM to 2.00 PM and from 2.30 to 5.00 PM, and not to leave the court premises during the lunch hours, engaging themselves with judicial work by posting sufficient number of cases every day.

Axiomatically, punctuality is the hallmark of any discipline, especially in Judicial wing, and any deviation to this cardinal principle shakes the confidence of litigant public in the institution. Therefore vide reference 3rd and 4th cited while reiterating the instructions already issued, all the Unit Heads and the Judicial Officers were directed to observe the court timings, punctuality and render devoted service during the court hours, to improve their disposals in order to bring down accumulated pendency and to achieve positive results. The Unit Heads were also required to find out innovative methods permissible under law and chalk out action plan after having deliberations with the Officers working in their Unit and to motivate them to improve the disposals.

Further, when specific instances were brought to the notice of the High Court reference 6th cited circular was issued reminding all the Unit Heads and the Judicial Officers, that they being the pillars of Administration of Justice are expected to discharge the Judicial functions to the best of their onus and to the expectation of the litigant public and directed to strictly adhere to the circular instructions issued by the High Court from time to time for maintaining the punctuality of the court timings.

In order to stream line the functions and punctuality of the District Judiciary in the State in adhering the court hours and also to ensure that the earlier instructions issued by the High Court are followed scrupulously in reference 7th, 9th and 13th cited, a proforma is prepared and all the Judicial officers were requested to forward the duly filled-in forms to the concerned District Judge periodically to bring transparency in functioning of the courts, ensuring active participation of all the Judicial Officers in collective endeavour of disposal of good number of cases. Vide reference 10th and 11th circulars the Judicial Officers were directed to observe office timings and punctuality in holding the public courts and to refrain from leaving the Head Quarters during weekends without permission of High Court except in case of emergency. The Unit Heads were also directed to implement the circular 7th cited scrupulously and report compliance from time to time as indicated therein.

Despite issuance of circular instructions in the reference 1 to 15 supra, regarding observance of office timings and punctuality in holding public courts from 10.30 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with lunch recess from 2.00 PM to 2.30 PM, it has come to the notice of the High Court that many of the Presiding Officers in District Judiciary are not strictly following the office timings and attending the Bench late, leaving for their residence during lunch recess and also leaving the court premises before 5.00 PM or frequently leaving the Head Quarters without permission of the Hon'ble High Court. It is needless to say that non-observance of the working hours as prescribed leads to indiscipline, decrease in the rate of disposal of cases and affects the performance of Judicial Officers both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Therefore, the High Court while reiterating the circular instructions under the references cited, hereby directs all the Judicial Officers to follow the court timings, punctuality scrupulously and render devoted service, do the entire judicial work on the bench during court hours. All the Unit Heads are further directed to ensure that the circular instructions in the reference 1 to 15 cited (enclosed) are followed by the officers working under their control in true letter and spirit without any deviation.

Instances of violation of above instructions will be viewed seriously and will entail initiation of disciplinary action against the officers concerned.

Receipt of the circular may be acknowledged.


14/3/24
REGISTRAR GENERAL
FAC. REGISTRAR (VIGILANCE)

To

All Unit Heads in the State of Telangana (with a request to communicate the same to all the Judicial Officers working in their unit)

Copy to:

- 1) The Personal Secretary to the Hon'ble Administrative Judges (for Lordships' kind perusal).
- 2) The Registrar General and all the Registrars, High Court for the State of Telangana.
- 3) The Director, Telangana State Judicial Academy, Secunderabad.
- 4) The Section Officer, Special Officers' Section (for codification)
- 5) The Section Officer, 'E' Section (for information)