## M.P. STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

(574, South Civil Lines, Pachpedi, Jabalpur – 482001)

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F.No.97/LADCS/MPSLSA/6343/2025

Jabalpur, dated 28/02/2025

To,

Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, District- All (M.P.)

Sub:

Regarding issuance of necessary directions to Legal Aid Defense Counsels.

Sir/Madam,

On the aforementioned subject, it is stated that certain instances of deviation from Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct have on part of Legal Aid Defense Counsels have been brought to the knowledge of this Authority. Therefore following directions are issued for strict compliance:-

- 1. The Legal Aid Defense Counsels shall not approach or interact with prison inmates who have already engaged private counsels to defend their case.
- 2. The Legal Aid Defense Counsels shall not represent the accused persons who are already represented by a private counsel; their role is limited to representing only those who are unrepresented in court.
- 3. The Legal Aid Defense Counsels shall sit in the space/office allocated to them for the purpose of discharging their duties and shall avoid sitting in any other part of the Court Complex so as to eliminate any kind of conflict with other advocates.
- 4. The Legal Aid Defense Counsels shall make prison visit and perform any other legal aid related work including holding of camps solely under the guidance of Secretary DLSA and not otherwise.

- 5. The Legal Aid Defense Counsel shall not by themselves approach Police Stations in matters of Pre-Arrest unless and until the accused himself or near family members of the accused approach the Office of LADCS.
- 6. Any deviation from above directions shall be viewed seriously.

You are, therefore, requested to direct the Legal Aid Defense Counsels under your jurisdiction to strictly adhere to the aforementioned directions in letter and spirit.

With regards,

(Pradeep Mittal) Member Secretary