HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

No. 157/Rules/DHC Dated: 06/11/2025

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Judgment dated 25.09.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 1755/2010 titled *"Sanjabij Tari Vs. Kishore S.Borcar and Anr"* passed various directions after noting the massive backlog of cheque bouncing cases and the fact that service of summons on the accused in a complaint filed under Section 138 of the NI Act continues to be one of the main reasons for the delay in disposal of the complaints as well as the fact that punishment under the NI Act is not a means of seeking retribution but is more a means to ensure payment of money and to promote credibility of cheques as a trustworthy substitute for cash payment. In furtherance of the same, Hon'ble the Chief Justice has been pleased to issue following directions for compliance by all concerned :-

A. In all cases filed under Section 138 of the NI Act, service of summons shall not be confined through prescribed usual modes but shall also be issued dasti i.e. summons shall be served upon the accused by the complainant in addition. The Trial Courts shall further resort to service of summons by electronic means in terms of the applicable Notifications/Rules, if any, framed under sub-Sections 1 and 2 of Section 64 and under Clause (i) of Section 530 and other provisions of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS, 2023') like Delhi BNSS (Service of Summons and Warrants) Rules, 2025. For this purpose, the complainant shall, at the time of filing the complaint, provide the requisite particulars including e-mail address, mobile number and/or WhatsApp number/messaging application details of the accused, duly supported by an affidavit verifying that the said particulars pertain to the accused/respondent.

B. The complainant shall file an affidavit of service before the Court. In the event such affidavit is found to be false, the Court shall be at liberty to take appropriate action against the complainant in accordance with law.

C. In order to facilitate expeditious settlement of cases under Section 138 of the NI Act, the Principal District and Sessions Judge of each District Court shall create and operationalise dedicated online payment facilities through secure QR codes or UPI links. The summons shall expressly mention that the Respondent/Accused has the option to make payment of the cheque amount at the initial stage itself, directly through the said online link. The complainant shall also be informed of such payment and upon confirmation of receipt, appropriate orders regarding release of such money and compounding/closure of proceedings under Section 147

IC (Trial.)/ORC (Comp.)
CJM (Office), South
10/11/2025
Pr. D & SJ (South)

of the NI Act and/or Section 255 of Cr.P.C./278 BNSS, 2023 may be passed by the Court in accordance with law.

D. Each and every complaint under Section 138 of the NI Act shall contain a synopsis in the following format which shall be filed immediately after the index (at the top of the file) i.e. prior to the formal complaint:-

Complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881

I. Particulars of the Parties

(i) Complainant: _____

(ii) Accused: _____

(In case where the accused is a company or a firm then Registered Address, Name of the Managing Director/Partner, Name of the signatory, Name of the persons vicariously liable)

II. Cheque Details

(i) Cheque No. _____

(ii) Date: _____

(iii) Amount: _____

(iv) Drawn on Bank/Branch: _____

(v) Account No.: _____

III. Dishonour

(i) Date of Presentation: _____

(ii) Date of Return/Dishonour Memo: _____

(iii) Branch where cheque was dishonoured:_____

(iv) Reason for Dishonour: _____

IV. Statutory Notice

(i) Date of Notice: _____

(ii) Mode of Service: _____

(iii) Date of Dispatch & Tracking No.: _____

(iv) Proof of Delivery & date of delivery: _____

(v) Whether served:_____

(vi) If Not, reasons thereof:_____

(vii) Reply to the Legal Demand Notice, if any_____

V. Cause of Action

(i) Date of accrual: _____

(ii) Jurisdiction invoked under Section 142(2): _____

(iii) Whether any other complaint under section 138 NI Act is pending between the same parties, If Yes, in which court and the date and year of the institution.

VI. Relief Sought

(i) Summoning of accused and trial under Section 138 NI Act_____

(ii) Whether Award of Interim compensation under Section 143A of NI Act sought _____

VII. Filed through:

Complainant/Authorized Representative"

E. There shall be no requirement to issue summons to the accused in terms of Section 223 of BNSS i.e., at the pre-cognizance stage.

F. The Trial Courts shall record cogent and sufficient reasons before converting a summary trial to summons trial. To facilitate this process, the Trial Court shall be at liberty (at the initial post cognizance stage) to ask questions, it deems appropriate, under Section 251 Cr.P.C. / Section 274 BNSS, 2023 including the following questions:-

(i) Do you admit that the cheque belongs to your account? Yes/No
(ii) Do you admit that the signature on the cheque is yours? Yes/No
(iii) Did you issue/deliver this cheque to the complainant? Yes/No
(iv) Do you admit that you owed liability to the complainant at the time of issuance? Yes/No
(v) If you deny liability, state clearly the defence:
  (a) Security cheque only;
  (b)Loan repaid already;
  (c) Cheque altered/misused;
  (d)Other (specify).
(vi) Do you wish to compound the case at this stage? Yes/No

G. The Court shall record the responses to the questions in the order-sheet in the presence of the accused and his/her counsel and thereafter determine whether the case is fit to be tried summarily under Chapter XXI of the Cr.P.C. / Chapter XXII of the BNSS, 2023.

H. Wherever, the Trial Court deems it appropriate, it shall use its power to order payment of interim deposit as early as possible under Section 143A of the NI Act.

I. Exemptions from personal appearances should be granted only when facts so warrant.

J. Each Principal District and Sessions Judge in Delhi shall maintain a dedicated dashboard reflecting the pendency and progress of cases under Section 138 of the NI Act. The dashboard shall include, inter alia, details regarding total pendency, monthly disposal rates, percentage of cases settled/compounded, average number of adjournments per case and the stage-wise breakup of pending matters. The Principal District and Sessions Judges shall conduct monthly reviews of the functioning of

Magistrates handling NI Act matters. A consolidated quarterly report shall be forwarded to the High Court.

By Order

(ARUN BHARDWAJ)
REGISTRAR GENERAL

Endst. No. 1048-1074 /Rules/DHC/2025 Dated: 06/11/2025

Copy forwarded for information and compliance to:-

1. The Principal District & Sessions Judge (HQ), Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.
2. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, North-West District, Rohini Courts, Delhi.
3. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, South District, Saket Courts, New Delhi.
4. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, South-West District, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.
5. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, North District, Rohini Courts, Delhi.
6. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, South-East District, Saket Courts, New Delhi.
7. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, East District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.
8. The Principal District & Sessions Judge,New Delhi District, Patiala House Courts,New Delhi.
9. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.
10. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi.
11. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, West District, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
12. The Principal District & Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge, CBI (PC Act), Rouse Avenue District Court Complex, New Delhi
13. The Principal Judge, Family Courts (HQ), Dwarka Courts Complex, Dwarka, New Delhi
14. The Principal Secretary (Law, Justice & LA), Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, I.P.Estate, New Delhi.
15. The President/Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Delhi High Court, New Delhi.
16. The Secretary, Bar Council of Delhi, 2/6, Siri Fort Institutional Area, Khel Gaon Marg, New Delhi-110049
17. The President/Secretary, Bar Association, Tis Hazari Courts/Patiala House Courts/ Karkardooma Courts/ Rohini Courts/Dwarka Courts/Saket Court Complex/Rouse Avenue Court Complex
18. The Member Secretary, Delhi State Legal Service Authority, Rouse Avenue District Court Complex, New Delhi with the request to forward a copy of the Notification/Practice Direction to the Secretaries of all the eleven District Legal Services Authorities.
19. The Secretary, Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee.
20. The Chairman, District Court Website Committee, Tis Hazari, Delhi for uploading the Notification/Practice Direction on the website of Delhi District Court.
21. Registrar-cum-Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
22. All Registrars/OSDs/Joint Registrars (Judicial).
23. Joint Registrar-cum-P.A. to Registrar General, Delhi High Court.
24. Joint Director (IT) with the request to upload the Practice Direction on the Intranet of this Court.
25. Librarian, Delhi High Court.
26. Private Secretaries to Hon'ble Judges for kind perusal of His Lordships.
27. Guard File.

JOINT REGISTRAR (RULES)
Navjeet Budhiraja