OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, SOUTH DISTRICT, SAKET COURT COMPLEX, NEW DELHI

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Directions regarding Hybrid Hearing in Delhi District Courts

It is once again impressed upon all the Judicial Officers posted in South District, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi, to strictly adhere the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, New Delhi vide Office Order No. 01/RG/DHC/2023 dated 05.06.2023, which is as follows:

....that the District Courts in Delhi, shall permit any of the parties and/or their counsel to appear through hybrid/video-conferencing mode during Court proceedings, without there being any requirement of a prior request for the same.

The hearings shall be conducted in hybrid/video-conferencing mode in conformity with the High Court of Delhi Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts, 2021 and also bearing in mind the provisions of the Live Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings Rules of the High Court of Delhi, 2022.

The judicial officers, while conducting hearings through hybrid/video-conferencing mode, shall ensure that in the categories of cases mentioned hereunder, no person other than the parties and counsel of a particular case, digitally accesses or joins the proceedings of that particular case:

- i. Matrimonial matters, child adoption and child custody including transfer petitions arising thereunder.
- ii. Cases concerning sexual offences, including proceedings instituted under Section 376, Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC).
- iii. Cases concerning gender-based violence against women.
- iv. Matters registered under or involving the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) and under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- v. Matters registered under or involving the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

vi. In-camera proceedings as defined under Section 327 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) or Section 153B or Order XXXIIA of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC).

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vii. Matters where the bench is of the view, for reasons to be recorded in writing that publication would be antithetical to the administration of justice.

viii. Cases, which in the opinion of the Bench, may provoke enmity amongst communities likely to result in a breach of law and order.

- ix. Recording of evidence, including cross-examination.
- x. Privileged communications between the parties and their advocates; cases where a claim of privilege is accepted by the Court; and non-public discussions between advocates.
- XI. Any other matter in which a specific direction is issued by the Court.

Further in a given case, the Court may for reasons to be recorded in writing, direct the parties and/or their Counsel to appear physically where in the opinion of the court the physical presence of the parties/counsel in the court is required or where the court is otherwise of the opinion that the matter should be heard physically in the court.

(MÀDHÙ JAIN)

Principal District & Sessions Judge,
South District, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

No. Judl.-I/F.19, F.15 & 119/Circular/South/Saket/2023/_____ Dated (1/10/2023

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:-

- 1. The Registrar General, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi.
- 2. All the Ld. Judicial Officer, South District, Saket Courts, New Delhi.
- 3. PS & Reader to the Ld. Principal District & Sessions Judge (South)
- 4. R & I Branch for uploading on LAYERS.

Principal District & Sessions Judge, South District, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi