

# HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH

## CIRCULAR

No. Q-9

Jabalpur dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

To,

All District and Sessions Judges,  
State of Madhya Pradesh,

**Sub.:** COVID-19 – Nationwide lock down – Directions of  
Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

**Ref.:** Order No.Q-5 dated 25.03.2020 and Video Conferencing  
guideline for the District Courts during the lock down  
period dated 20.04.2020.

Kindly refer to the above Circular and Guidelines by which it was directed that hearing of the cases, in lock down period, ought to be only through Video Conferencing and restricted to the cases only of **urgent nature**, which is to be decided by the concerned District Judge or in case of Family Courts matter, concerned Principal Judge of Family Court. However recently it has been experienced that at many places in the state of Madhya Pradesh Court Rooms are being opened for hearing which are overcrowded and the direction of social distancing is not followed. That is not only in violation of the directions but also dangerous for the society at large.

The aforesaid state of affairs is contravention of the guidelines and directions issued by the High Court from time to time. Hon'ble the Chief Justice has expressed deep concern over it and keeping in mind all the situations his Lordship has been pleased to direct that the physical



presence of Advocates, Litigants and all the stakeholders should strictly be prohibit in those court rooms where presiding officer and staffs are discharging their duties.

It is further directed that during the lockdown period only Advocates, accused and necessary parties shall be permitted to enter into the Court premises and as per requirement he/she will be authorized to take part, one by one, in the hearing through video conferencing. Meaning thereby that only one Advocate or/ and his senior advocate shall be permitted to enter into the V.C. room.

At the time of hearing through V.C., in the V.C. room of the Court campus, all precautionary measures shall be taken as directed by the High Court of M.P. and Central Government as well as by the State Government from time to time. Moreover the Advocates should be encouraged to conduct V.C. from their home or office and avoid any kind of hazard during lockdown period of COVID-19.

BY ORDERS OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

  
24.4.2020  
(RAJENDRA KUMAR VANI)  
REGISTRAR GENERAL