

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**(Office of the Registrar General at Jammu)**

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**NOTIFICATION**

**No:** 1504

**Dated:** 28/2/2018

Whereas it has been observed that the judgments and orders passed by the High Court, or the proceedings of cases pending before it are often not correctly and appropriately reported in the media due to lack of legal knowledge etc.;

Whereas there is no working journalist / correspondent / reporter of any print or electronic media organization accredited by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir as a Legal Correspondent for reporting in the media the proceedings of any case pending before it. Of course, there are neither any norms laid down by the High Court in that regard, nor any guidelines providing for any facility to such journalist(s) to enable them to correctly and appropriately report such proceedings etc.;

Whereas it has been thought expedient to lay down and prescribe the norms for accreditation of working journalists / correspondents / reporters of print and electronic media organizations, desirous of reporting in the media the judgments, orders and proceedings of the High Court and to provide for some guidelines and facilities to them in that regard;

The High Court by its Full Court Resolution of 29.01.2018 lays down and adopts the following norms and guidelines for such purpose which shall come into force and be applicable with immediate effect.

1. **Short title:** These norms shall be called "The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir Norms for Accreditation as Legal Correspondents and Guidelines for Reporting".

2. **Definitions:**

- (a) "Accreditation Committee" means the Committee of Hon'ble Judges, constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice to recommend accord of accreditation to any desirous eligible journalist or correspondent or reporter of any media organization and/or to formulate the Code for print and electronic media, if need arises;
- (b) "Accredited Legal Correspondent" means a journalist / correspondent / reporter of any media organization accredited by the High Court to report in the media the judgments, orders and proceedings of the High Court and of the courts subordinate to it;
- (c) "Chief Justice" means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (d) "High Court" means the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (e) "Media" means and includes any mode of mass communication;
- (f) "Registrar General" means the Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (g) "Reporting" means publication or televising by any type of mass communication system, be it print or electronic.

3. **Eligibility for Accreditation:** Any working journalist / correspondent / reporter of any media organization can seek his accreditation by the High Court as a Legal Correspondent subject to fulfilling the following conditions:

- (a) that he possesses a Law Degree recognized by the competent authority under the Advocates Act; and

(b) that, as on the date of making application for accreditation, he possesses, at least, a year's reporting experience in any media organization, certified by the Editor or Publisher of such media organization.

4. **Procedure for Accreditation:** (1) Any such working journalist / correspondent / reporter, as mentioned in Norm 3 above, can apply to the Registrar General for accord of such accreditation in the format prescribed in **Schedule 'I'** to these Norms enclosing therewith the documents and number of photographs stipulated therein.

(2) The Registrar General shall put up such application form, if found duly complete in all respects, subject to the orders of the Chief Justice, before the Accreditation Committee. If the Accreditation Committee, on consideration of the application in terms of the relevant Norms herein stipulated, is satisfied that the applicant fulfills the requisite criteria, is suitable and deserves to be so accredited, it shall make a recommendation to the Chief Justice for grant of accreditation to the applicant as a Legal Correspondent to be valid for such period as the Committee may think appropriate subject to a maximum period of three years at a time, renewable from time to time on an application by the applicant made in that behalf in the format as in **Schedule 'I'** hereto;

 (3) On receipt of such recommendation of the Accreditation Committee, the Chief Justice may approve such recommendation and order grant of accreditation to the applicant whereupon the Registrar General shall issue the order of Accreditation under his seal and signature in favour of the applicant in the format as in **Schedule 'II'** to these Norms together with an Identity Card in the format as in **Schedule 'III'**, again, under his seal and signatures together with the Seal of the High Court:

Provided that grant of accreditation shall be at the discretion of the Chief Justice;

Provided further that nothing herein contained shall affect the power of the Chief Justice to refer to the Accreditation Committee the case of any deserving candidate for consideration of accord of accreditation in his favour in relaxation of the eligibility norms stipulated herein and, on such reference being made, the Accreditation Committee may advise the Chief Justice suitably;

Provided further that at the commencement of these Norms and pending consideration of any application(s) received for such accreditation or to meet and mitigate any specific eventuality, the Chief Justice may order temporary accreditation as Legal Correspondent to any journalist / correspondent / reporter of any media organization for a limited period not exceeding eight weeks, in relaxation of the conditions of eligibility herein stipulated, subject to his (the journalist's) making an application to the Registrar General in that behalf in the format as in Schedule 'I' hereto:

Provided further that it shall be within the powers of the Chief Justice to withdraw any such Accreditation of any journalist / correspondent / reporter before expiry of the validity period mentioned therein, by an order in writing made in that behalf by the Registrar General, on the recommendations of the Accreditation Committee and/or under orders of the Chief Justice, without assigning any reason for such withdrawal;

Provided further that it shall be competent for the Registrars Judicial of the High Court to grant Temporary Accreditation to an eligible journalist to observe and report the proceedings of any specific case for a short period of a day of their own accord on an application being made in that behalf by the journalist or media organization concerned in the prescribed format as in **Schedule 'I'**;

Provided further that no media organization shall have more than two journalists accredited as Legal Correspondents at a time.

5. **Facilities available to Legal Correspondent:** (1) Notwithstanding any Rule to the contrary contained in the High Court Rules, 1999, especially Chapter XXI thereof, or any other law for the time being in force, governing the issue of copies of judicial record, a Legal Correspondent shall be entitled to have a photocopy of any judgment or order of the Court, attested by either the Registrar Judicial, Joint Registrar Judicial, the Court Secretary concerned, if its reporting in the media is approved or permitted by the Judge concerned, on his written request made to any of the above officers of the Court;

(2) The High Court may, subject to availability of space, make arrangements of a Press Lounge within the Court premises for the Accredited Legal Correspondents:

Provided that it shall not be permissible for any Legal Correspondent to bring in or carry within the Court premises any camera or electronic equipment, except personal mobile phone instrument(s), unless specifically asked for, or permitted in writing, by the Registrar General or, in his absence, by the Registrar Judicial concerned.

(3) It shall not, however, be permissible for any Legal Correspondent to keep his mobile instrument on while sitting in a Court Room or resort to real time reporting, i.e., live-tweeting or messaging of the Court proceedings while in the Court Room.

(4) The High Court, if it thinks desirable, may arrange for training sessions, from time to time, for Legal Correspondents through the Judicial Academy on the skills of making such reporting in the media.

(5) In each Court Room, depending upon the orders of the Chief Justice, the Senior Judge or the Judge concerned, as the case may be, some seats may be reserved for the Legal Correspondents and such reservation may be made conspicuous by a sign board.

While sitting in a Court Room to observe the Court proceedings, the Legal Correspondents shall always conspicuously wear the Identity Cards issued to them by the Registrar General.

7. **Obligations arising out of Accreditation:** (1) An Accredited Legal Correspondent, while in Court precincts, shall be in formal dress in a manner befitting the decorum of the Court;

(2) An Accredited Legal Correspondent, while in the Court precincts, shall always carry the Identity Card.

8. **Guidelines for Reporting:** An Accredited Legal Correspondent shall make only a true and correct reporting of a Court judgment, order or proceeding of any case, without leaving anything ambiguous or wanting or making things sensational.

9. **Action for misreporting:** In the event a Bench of the Court feels that any of its judgments or orders, or the proceedings of any case pending before it, have been misreported, the Bench concerned may bring the misreporting to the notice of the Legal Correspondent concerned and ask him to be cautious in future. However, if the Bench is of the opinion that the misreporting is of serious nature, the Bench may report the matter to the Chief Justice for appropriate action, which may include a written warning, temporary suspension of the accreditation of the Legal Correspondent or its permanent withdrawal, subject to the

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discretion of the Chief Justice, in which case the Legal Correspondent shall be bound to return the Identity Card that may have been issued to him by the Registrar General.

10. **Power to resolve dispute:** Any dispute with regard to accreditation under these Norms shall be decided by the Chief Justice which shall be final and binding.

**By order**

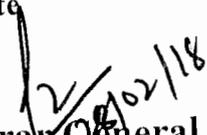
  
(Sanjay Dhar)  
Registrar General

No:- 59870-98/18

Dated:- 28-2-2018.

**Copy to the:-**

1. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of J&K.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr. Justice \_\_\_\_\_  
..... for information of His Lordship.
3. Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Civil Secretariat, Jammu
4. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K, Jammu.  
..... for information.
5. Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar.  
..... for information and necessary action.
6. CPC E-Courts, High Court of J&K for uploading the same on High Court Website.
7. The Manager, Ranbir Government Press, Jammu for notifying/publishing the same in the Government Gazette

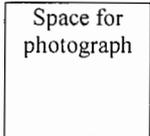
  
Registrar General

**Schedule I**

[See Norm 4(1)]

**Application for grant / renewal of Temporary / Regular Accreditation as a  
Legal Correspondent**

(Please affix one recent passport size photograph on the application form and  
enclose one photograph for the Identity Card)



1. Name in full (BOLD LETTERS): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Father's / Husband's name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Educational Qualification: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Other / Professional Qualification\*: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name of the media organization  
Affiliated with\*\* : \_\_\_\_\_
7. Position held in the organization: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Period of affiliation/Experience\*\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_
10. e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Type of accreditation applied for:                      Regular / Temporary
12. Previous accreditation: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Identification mark, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

\*     Attach photocopies of the Degree Certificate(s) attested by the Editor / Publisher of the media organization with which affiliated / attached;

\*\*    Attach the working Certificate from the Editor / Publisher of the media organization with which affiliated / attached; and

\*\*\*   Attach the Experience Certificate from the Editor / Publisher of the media organization with which affiliated / attached.

Signature

Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Schedule II**  
[See Norm 4(3)]  
**Accreditation as a Legal Correspondent**

**ORDER NO.** \_\_\_\_\_ **OF 20** \_\_\_\_  
**DATED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OF 20** \_\_\_\_

Accreditation No. HC/ACCRED/LC/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Sanction is accorded to the grant / renewal of Regular / Temporary  
(score out what is not applicable) accreditation to Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_  
S/o, D/o, W/o \_\_\_\_\_ R/o \_\_\_\_\_  
affiliated with \_\_\_\_\_ (name of media organization), as  
a Legal Correspondent for \_\_\_\_\_ months/years (mention the period)  
commencing from the date of accreditation.

By order.

(X. X. X.)  
REGISTRAR GENERAL  
HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
SRINAGAR/JAMMU  
(To be sealed and signed)

No. 5987a-98/95

Dated 28/12/2018

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice;
2. The Secretaries to all the Hon'ble Judges;
3. The Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K, Srinagar/Jammu;
4. All Principal & District Judges of the State;
5. The applicant concerned;
6. The media organization concerned;
7. Any other relevant person / officer / authority;  
..... for information.
8. Order file.

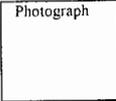
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**Schedule III**

[See Norm 4(3)]

Size of the Card: 9 x 6 cm

**Front**

<b>HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR</b>	
<u>Identity Card</u>	
Accreditation No. _____	<p>Photograph</p> 
Dated: _____	
Name of holder: _____	
Media Organization _____	
Validity period: _____ (months/years)	
Till: _____	
<p>REGISTRAR GENERAL HIGH COURT OF JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR SRINAGAR/JAMMU</p>	

**Back**

Address of the card holder: _____
Mobile No.: _____
e-mail address: _____

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