
NORMS FOR ACCREDITATION OF LEGAL CORRESPONDENTS
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

(Approved at the meeting of the Full Court held on 10.11.2016)

1. **SHORT TITLE**:- These norms shall be called "The Norms for Accreditation of Legal Correspondents in the High Court of Kerala".

2. **COMMENCEMENT**:- These norms shall come into force with immediate effect.

3. **DEFINITIONS**:-

(a) "Accredited Legal Correspondent" means a journalist/correspondent accredited by the High Court to report the court proceedings.

(b) "Chief Justice" means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala.

(c) "Committee" means Committee of Honourable Judges, constituted by the Honourable the Chief Justice to formulate Code for the print and electronic media.

(d) "High Court" means the High Court of Kerala.

(e) "Identity Card" means the Identity Card issued by the Registrar General of the High Court of Kerala.

(f) "Media" means and includes the electronic and print media.

(g) "Registrar General" means the Registrar General of the High Court of Kerala.

4 REGULAR ACCREDITATION: (1) Any working journalist/ correspondent who desires to regularly report the High Court proceedings may be eligible to be considered for regular accreditation by the High Court of Kerala on his fulfilling the following conditions:-

(a) He must have a Law degree recognised by the Bar Council of India constituted under the Advocates Act. His application must be accompanied by a self attested copy of the Law Degree Certificate.

(b) He should ordinarily have five years' continuous regular Court reporting experience in a daily newspaper and/or a national or international news agency, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least three and a half years must be at the Kerala High Court or the Supreme Court or at any other High Court(s) in India.

OR

He should ordinarily have five years' continuous regular Court reporting experience for an Electronic Media Organization, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least two years must be in Kerala High Court, or the Supreme Court or at any other High Court(s) in India.

(c) He should be a person who has regularly reported the proceedings of the Kerala High Court for at least six months for a daily newspaper/news agency or for an electronic media organization, on temporary accreditation granted to him and should continue to represent a daily newspaper of not less than 10,000 circulation certified by the Registrar of Newspapers, the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) or the Director of State Information Bureau or a national or international news agency or an electronic media organization.

(2) Any period or periods for which temporary accreditation is granted under these norms, shall also be taken into account while reckoning the qualifying experience prescribed herein.

5 TEMPORARY ACCREDITATION: (1) An applicant for

temporary accreditation will be eligible for consideration on his fulfilling the following conditions:

- (a) He is a working journalist/correspondent desiring to report regularly the High Court proceedings and furnishes a letter from his newspaper, news agency or the electronic media organization concerned to that effect.
- (b) He possesses a Law degree recognized by the Bar Council of India constituted under the Advocates Act.
- (c) The application must be accompanied by a self attested copy of the Law degree certificate.
- (d) He should ordinarily have 2 years' continuous regular court reporting experience in a daily newspaper and/or a national or international news agency, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least 1 year must be at any High Court(s) in India.

OR

He should ordinarily have 2 years' continuous regular court reporting experience for an Electronic Media Organization, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least 1 year must be at any High Court(s) in India.

(e) The application must be supported by clippings showing the court reportage for the requisite number of years and a letter from the Chief Editor certifying the above-mentioned experience or reportage. Clipping will however not be required, if experience of court reporting for a newspaper is not claimed.

(2) Temporary accreditation granted shall be valid for a maximum period of three years.

6 TEMPORARY REPORTING FACILITY: The Registrar General, may in his discretion, grant temporary reporting facility to a working journalist for a day/short duration or for a specific case on his fulfilling the following criteria:

(a) He must submit a formal letter from the Editor

making a specific request, specifying the dates for which temporary reporting facility is applied for, for being considered for the grant of such temporary reporting facility.

(b) The working journalist who has been granted temporary reporting facility shall comply with the conditions which are to be observed by accredited journalists.

7 PROCEDURE FOR GRANT OF ACCREDITATION: (a) Application for regular and temporary accreditation shall be submitted to the Registrar (Administration) and shall be accompanied by supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the applicant for accreditation.

(b) Valid applications for regular and temporary accreditation shall be placed before the Committee.

(c) The Hon'ble the Chief Justice may, for special reasons, refer to the Committee the application of any deserving candidate for consideration and according accreditation in relaxation of the rules and guidelines and on such reference the Committee may advise the Hon'ble the Chief Justice suitably.

(d) On being granted regular/temporary accreditation, the legal correspondent so accredited will be issued an identity card.

(e) On written request made to the Public Relations Officer of the High Court, the accredited correspondent of a newspaper/news channel, shall be provided with one photostat copy of order/judgment passed by the High Court, free of cost.

(f) In case, an Accredited Legal Correspondent, regular or temporary, is transferred or otherwise ceases to represent the newspaper, news agency or electronic media organization for which he was granted accreditation, he shall, within two weeks of such transfer or cessation, surrender the identity card issued to him by the High Court to the Registrar (Administration).

(g) Not more than two correspondents of a newspaper/news channel shall be granted accreditation

at a time.

(h) Whenever an Accredited Legal Correspondent leaves the Press/Agency/Organization which he is representing and joins another Press/ Agency/Organization, he may not be extended the privileges of an Accredited Legal Correspondent unless he seeks fresh accreditation by making appropriate application in accordance with the norms, to the Registrar (Administration).

(i) Grant of accreditation will be at the discretion of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, on the recommendation of the Committee.

(j) The accreditation, whether regular or temporary, shall be liable to be withdrawn by the Honourable the Chief Justice, at any time, without assigning any reason and such decision shall be final and binding.

(k) Any dispute with regard to accreditation or arising under these norms, shall be decided by the Full Court of the High Court and it shall be final and binding.

8 CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY A WORKING JOURNALIST / CORRESPONDENT AFTER HIS ACCREDITATION:

(a) An Accredited Legal Correspondent, regular or temporary shall while in Court precincts be in formal dress, in a manner befitting the decorum of the court and shall display prominently his identity card.

(b) An Accredited Legal Correspondent, regular or temporary, shall, at all time, maintain decorum in the court and refrain from doing anything that may disturb the proceedings of the court and shall always abide by the instructions/orders of the Presiding Judge, for the smooth conduct of the court proceedings and shall also confine to area/seats provided for them.

(c) An Accredited Legal Correspondent, regular or temporary, shall make only a true and correct reporting of court proceedings/ orders/judgments, without any distortion and embellishment.

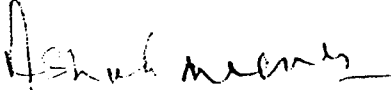
9 GENERAL : (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in these norms, the reporters of print and electronic media who

report the proceedings of the High Court on the date of implementation of these norms, shall, on application made to the Registrar General be issued Identity Cards for court reporting, for a maximum period of six months.

(b) They shall apply for accreditation as per these norms within the said period of six months and if they are ineligible, the organisation they represent shall appoint eligible reporters and apply for accreditation.

(c) However, grant of identity card under this clause, shall be subject to clause 7(f) and such reporter shall also comply with the conditions contained in clause 8 herein above.

(BY ORDER)


Ashok Menon
Registrar General