

(TO BE PUBLISHED IN PART IV OF DELHI GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY)

HIGH COURT OF DELHI: NEW DELHI

NOTIFICATION

No. 100/Rules/DHC

Dated: 27.02.2018

DELHI HIGH COURT (ORIGINAL SIDE) RULES, 2018

Whereas the Delhi High Court Act, 1966 was enacted to provide for the constitution of a High Court for the Union territory of Delhi, and for matters connected therewith.

And whereas the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 was enacted and stands amended from time to time, to consolidate and amend the law relating to the procedure of the courts of civil judicature.

And whereas the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 was enacted and stands amended from time to time, to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards as also to define the law relating to conciliation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

And whereas the Information Technology Act, 2000 was enacted and stands amended from time to time, to provide legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as "electronic commerce", which involve the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information, to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the Government agencies and further to amend the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

And whereas the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015 was enacted to provide for constitution of Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division in the High Courts for adjudicating commercial disputes of specified value and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Now, therefore in exercise of powers conferred by Section 129 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and Section 7 of the Delhi High Court Act, 1966 (Act No. 26 of 1966), and all other powers enabling it, and in supersession of the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Delhi High Court hereby makes the following Rules, with respect to practice and procedure for exercise of its ordinary original civil jurisdiction.

CHAPTER I GENERAL

1. Short title. —These Rules may be called the “Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018”.

2. Commencement. — These Rules shall come into force with effect from 1st March, 2018.

Provided that different dates may be appointed for different provisions of these Rules and any reference in any such provision to commencement of these Rules shall be construed as a reference to coming into force of that provision.

3. Application. —All proceedings on the original side of the Court, instituted or transferred pursuant to provisions of the Delhi High Court Act of 1966, or any other law shall, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, be governed by these Rules.

4. Definitions. —In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “Advocate” means a person who is entitled to practice the profession of law under the Advocates Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961);
- (b) “Chief Justice” means the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and includes a person appointed under the Constitution to perform the duties of the Chief Justice;
- (c) “Code” means the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act No. 5 of 1908), as amended from time to time;
- (d) “Commercial Courts Act” means The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015, as amended from time to time;
- (e) “The Court” or “this Court” means the Delhi High Court;
- (f) “Database” means the database maintained in accordance with the programs and computer applications, specifically designed for this Court.
- (g) “Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967” means the Rules as framed in 1967 including all amendments thereto till the framing of these Rules;
- (h) “First hearing” includes the hearing of a suit for settlement of issues and any adjournment thereof;
- (i) “Interlocutory Application” means an application in any suit, appeal or proceeding, already instituted in the Original Side of the Court, not being a proceeding for execution of a decree or order;
- (j) “Judge” means the Judge of the Court;
- (k) “Registrar” means and includes the Registrar and Joint Registrar, respectively of the Court, and includes any other officer of the Court to whom the powers and functions of the Registrar under these Rules, may be delegated or assigned;
- (l) “Registrar General” means the Registrar General of the Court.
- (m) “Registry” means the Registry of the Court;
- (n) “Seal of the Court/ Official Seal” means the Official Seal to be used in the Court such as the Chief Justice may from time to time direct
- (o) “These Rules/ Rules” mean Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018 as amended from time to time;
- (p) “Taxing Officer” means the Taxing Officer appointed under Section 5 of the Court-fees Act, as amended from time to time, and includes the Officer of the Court whose duty is to tax costs of proceedings in the Court;
- (q) All other expressions used herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them by the Code, Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 the Commercial Courts Act, the General Clauses Act, 1897 and the Information Technology Act, 2000, as amended from time to time, as the case may be.

5. Steps to be taken in the Registry.—Where by these Rules or by any order of the Court, any step is required to be taken in connection with any suit, appeal or proceeding before the Court, that step shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be taken in the Registry.

6. Period how calculated.—Where a particular number of days are prescribed by these Rules or by or under any other law, or is fixed by the Court for doing any act, the starting day from which the said period is to be reckoned shall be excluded, and if the last day expires on a day when the office of the Court is closed for the day or a part thereof, that day and any succeeding day(s) on which the Court remains closed for the day or a part thereof, shall also be excluded.

7. Forms to be used.—The forms set out by the Court, with such modifications or variations as the circumstances of each case may require, shall be used for the purpose therein mentioned. Where no form required for any purpose is prescribed, a form approved by the Registrar General, may be used.

8. How decree, order, writ etc. to run.—Every decree, order, writ-summons, warrant or other mandatory process, shall be in the name of the Chief Justice, and shall be signed by the Registrar/Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar or any other officer specifically authorized in that behalf, with the day, month and year of signing, and shall be sealed with the Seal of the Court.

9. Official Seal.—The Official Seal to be used in the Court shall be such as the Chief Justice may from time to time direct, and shall be kept in the custody of the Registrar General.

10. Custody of Records.—The Registrar General shall have custody of records of the Court, and no record or document filed in any cause or matter, shall be allowed to be taken out of the custody of the Court without leave of Court/Registrar General/ Registrar.

11. Hours of Sitting.—Unless otherwise ordered by the Chief Justice, the Court shall hold its sittings on all working days from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and from 2:15 pm to 4:30 p.m.

12. Office Hours.—The Offices of the Court shall remain open on all working days from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Any urgent matter filed before 12 noon shall be put before the Court for hearing on the following working day. In exceptional cases and with specific permission of the Judge-in-Charge (Original Side), it may be received thereafter for hearing on the following day.

13. Process and copying fee.—In all proceedings, on the Original Side of the Court, process fee and copying fee shall be charged in accordance with rules in force immediately before the appointed day, fixed under Section 3 of the Delhi High Court Act of 1966, or in accordance with these Rules.

14. Court's power to dispense with compliance with the Rules.—The Court may, for sufficient cause shown, excuse parties from compliance with any requirement of these Rules, and may give such directions in matters of practice and procedure, as it may consider just and expedient.

¹[Provided where the Court / Judge is of the opinion that Practice Directions are required to be issued, he may make a suitable reference to the Hon'ble Chief Justice.]

15. Application for the above purpose.—An application seeking exemption from compliance with requirements of any of the Rules shall, in the first instance, be placed before the Registrar, who may, without interfering or dispensing with any mandatory requirements of the Rules, make appropriate order(s) thereon, or, if in his opinion, it is desirable that the application be dealt with by the Court, direct that the same be listed before the Court forthwith.

16. Inherent power of the Court not affected. — Nothing in these Rules shall be deemed to limit or otherwise affect the inherent powers of the Court to make such orders as may be necessary for the ends of justice or to prevent abuse of the process of Court.

²[16A. Power of Court to punish for giving false evidence.- Where a Court concludes that any person has given false evidence within the meaning of Section 191 of the Indian Penal Code,

¹ Inserted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018

² New Rule 16A inserted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018

1860 the Court may order such person to be detained in civil prison for a term not exceeding 3 months and / or may order the attachment of the property of such person.]

17. Miscellaneous.—(1) Except to the extent otherwise provided in these Rules, applicable provisions of the Code, the Commercial Courts Act and the Information Technology Act, 2000 shall apply to all proceedings on Original Side.

(2) Reference to any gender shall, unless the context so otherwise requires, be meant and be construed as a reference to all genders.

(3) Nomenclature(s)/ Category(s) of various proceedings to be instituted on the Original Side of the Court shall be as per extant notifications/ directions.

CHAPTER II EXERCISE OF ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

1. Jurisdiction to be exercised by a Single Judge.—Every suit or petition coming before the Court in its Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction shall be tried and/ or heard by a Single Judge.

2. Reference to two or more Judges.—A Judge, before whom any suit, application or other proceeding, interlocutory or otherwise, is pending, may, if he thinks fit, refer it or any question of law, practice or procedure arising therein to the Chief Justice, for constituting a Bench of two or more Judges to decide the same. If only a question has been referred, the Judge shall, after receipt of a copy of the judgment of the Bench so constituted, proceed to dispose of such suit, application or proceeding in conformity therewith.

3. Powers of the Registrar.—The powers of the Court, including the power to impose costs in relation to the following matters, may be exercised by the Registrar:

- (1) Admission of complaints and applications and issue of summons and notices;
- (2) Application to amend the complaint, petition, written statement, replication or subsequent proceedings where the amendment sought is formal;
- (3) Application for attachment of property of absconding witness;
- (4) Inquiries directed by Court as to fitness of persons to act as trustees and receivers;
- (5) Application for leave of Court to file a complaint, when such leave is necessary;
- (6) Application under Section 52 of the Code;
- (7) Application for orders for payment of money realized in execution or otherwise deposited in Court, including uncontested applications to share assets realized under Section 73 of the Code;
- (8) Application under Orders I rules 2, 3A, 6, and 10 of the Code;
- (9) Application under Order I rule 8 of the Code for leave to sue or defend on behalf of or for the benefit of all having the same interest;
- (10) Application under Order II rule 2(3) of the Code;
- (11) (a) Issuing summons in the manner provided in Order V, rules 9 and 9A of the Code;
(b) Declaring service of summons (in accordance with these Rules and the Code);
- (12) Examining the serving officer on oath under Order V, rule 19 of the Code where summons is returned under Order V, rule 17 of the Code, and after making necessary enquiry, declaring that the summons has been duly served, or order such service, as may be considered fit;
- (13) Issuance of letter under Order V, rule 30 of the Code;
- (14) [³];
- (15) Application for the admission or appointment of a next friend or guardian *ad litem* of a minor or a person of unsound mind or new next friends or guardians *ad litem*;
- (16) Application for fresh summons or notices and regarding service thereof;
- (17) Application for orders for substituted service of summons or notice;
- (18) Application for transmission of process for service to another court;
- (19) Application for permission to withdraw any suit or application by consent or where the other side has not appeared;
- (20) Application for leave to file a further or additional written statement;
- (21) Application under Order IX rule 4 and rule 7 of the Code;
- (22) Application for return of documents under Order XIII, rule 9(i) of the Code; and application for return of exhibits;

³ “Rule 3(14) Application for further and better statement of particulars under Order VI rule 5 of the Code” deleted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018

- (23) Application to secure the attendance of witnesses and take proceedings against them for failure to comply with the summons as provided under Order XVI of the Code and to record evidence;
- (24) Application for orders for discovery and for orders concerning the admission, production and inspection of documents;
- (25) Application for leave to deliver interrogatories;
- (26) Application for orders for transmission of a decree with the prescribed certificates, etc.;
- (27) Receiving decree transferred to the Court for execution under Order XXI, rule 7 of the Code;
- (28) Directing filing application to file certified copy of decree under Order XXI, rule 11 (3) of the Code;
- (29) Application under Order XXI, rule 14 of the Code requiring the applicant to produce a certified copy from the register, kept in the office of the Collector;
- (30) Considering execution application under Order XXI, rule 17 of the Code;
- (31) Issuing process for execution under Order XXI, rule 24 of the Code and examining the officer entrusted with execution of process, if he was unable to execute the process under Order XXI, rule 25 of the Code;
- (32) Application for execution of a document or for endorsement of negotiable instrument under Order XXI, rule 34 of the Code;
- (33) Application for examination of judgment-debtor as to his property under Order XXI, rule 41 of the Code;
- (34) Application for discharge from custody for non-payment of subsistence money;
- (35) Application for leave under Order XXI, rule 50(2) of the Code, except where liability is disputed;
- (36) Application for issue of proclamations of sale under Order XXI, rule 66, and for direction as to publication thereof under Order XXI, rule 67 of the Code;
- (37) Application under Order XXII of the Code for bringing on record legal representatives of a deceased party;
 Provided that no order of substitution or revival shall be made by the Registrar—
 - (i) where a question arises as to whether any person is or is not a legal representative of the deceased party; or
 - (ii) where a question of setting aside the abatement of the cause is involved.
 In such cases as (i) and (ii) above, the Registrar shall, after making an inquiry, place the matter, with his report and findings, before the Judge in Chambers;
- (38) Application for special directions to the office concerned as to service or execution of any process of the Court;
- (39) Application for orders for withdrawal of attachment or for return of a warrant;
- (40) Application for statement of names, and disclosure of partners and their addresses under Order XXX, rules 1 and 2 of the Code;
- (41) Application for orders requiring a party to suit to produce and leave with the Registrar any document, not in English language in his possession, for purpose of being officially translated;
- (42) Application for orders for production of records or documents, or accounts filed in such records before any other court;
- (43) Application for issue of a precept to another court for production of a record of such court or of notice or summons to a public officer for production of public records or registers;
- (44) Application for taxation and delivery of bills of costs;
- (45) Application for confirmation of sale and issuance of certificate of sale to purchaser of immovable property;
- (46) Any other interlocutory application, directed by the Judge hearing the case, to be placed for disposal before the Registrar;
- (47) Application for particulars;

- (48) [4];
- (49) To give notice of deposit by defendant to the plaintiff under the Code;
- (50) After comparing original of documents, produced by parties, with their respective copies, certifying said copies for identification and returning original to the respective party; and causing copy(s) to be filed on record;
- (51) Giving exhibit marking or identification marks on document(s) after filing of affidavits of admission/ denial as also directing production of originals, or granting dispensation from filing original(s) for reasons to be recorded;
- (52) Application under Order XXXIII of the Code, except those filed under rule 9 thereof;
- (53) An uncontested application, except those that may result in final disposal of the suit or exceeding in whole or in part, in respect of all or any of the parties;
- (54) Application seeking withdrawal of Vakalatnama of Advocate and discharge by Advocate;
- (55) Application seeking exemption from filing original document(s) along with pleadings, or seeking leave to file original document(s) within the time stipulated by these Rules;
- (56) Registering and issuing summons/ notices in suits under Order XXXVII of the Code;
- (57) Application seeking extension of time to file court fee in accordance with these Rules;
- (58) Passing orders pertaining to renewal of fixed deposits, where money is deposited pursuant to an order passed in any proceeding by Court;
- (59) Issuing notice under Sections 14 and 17 of the Arbitration Act, 1940 and directing Arbitrators(s) to file record(s) of arbitration in Court;
- (60) Applications for enlargement or abridgment of time including applications to foreclose the right to file the written statements and replies or applications seeking extension of time for leading evidence and foreclosing the right to lead evidence; and
- (61) Such other application, as by these Rules are directed to be so disposed of by the Registrar, but not included in this Rule and any other matter, which in accordance with orders or directions issued by Court, is required to be dealt with by the Registrar.

4. Expeditious disposal.-The Registrar shall endeavour to expeditiously dispose of all applications that are within his power under Rule 3 of this Chapter.

5. Appeal against the Registrar's orders.-Any person aggrieved by any order made by the Registrar, under Rule 3 of this Chapter, may, within fifteen days of such order, appeal against the same to the Judge in Chambers. The appeal shall be in the form of a petition bearing court fees of Rs.2.65.

6. Delegation of the Registrar's Powers.-The Chief Justice and his companion Judges may assign or delegate to a Joint Registrar, Deputy Registrar or to any officer, any functions required by these Rules to be exercised by the Registrar.

CHAPTER III FORM OF PLEADINGS

1. Proceedings how written.-(a) Every plaint, written statement, application, petition and the like presented to Court:—

- (i) shall be in English;
- (ii) shall, subject to Annexure C to these Rules, be fairly and legibly type written, lithographed or printed in double spacing on one side of A4 size white paper with an inner margin of about three centimeters width on top and on the left side, one centimeter on the right side and two centimeters on the bottom;

⁴ “Rule 3(48) Application for better statement of claim or defence” deleted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018

- (iii) shall in its cause title state “in the High Court of Delhi” and shall state the jurisdiction, whether Original, Civil, Testamentary or Intestate etc. in which it is presented;
- (iv) shall be divided into paragraphs that are numbered consecutively, each paragraph containing, as nearly as may be, a separate allegation; and comply with requirements of the Code;
- (v) shall be paginated numerically. Alpha numerical pagination will not be accepted.

(b) *Dates*—Where Saka or other dates are used, corresponding dates of Gregorian calendar shall also be given.

(c) *Memo of parties*—Full name, parentage and other particulars as stipulated in Rule 3 of this Chapter, describing each party, shall be provided. If a party sues or is sued in a representative character, it shall be so set out at the beginning of the plaint, petition, application, written statement or reply and need not be repeated in subsequent proceedings in the same suit or matter.

(d) The names of parties shall bear consecutive numbers and a separate line should be allotted to the name and description of each party. These numbers shall not be changed, and in the event of death of a party during pendency of the suit or matter, his heirs or representative, if more than one, shall be shown by sub-numbers. Where fresh parties are brought in, they may be numbered consecutively in the particular category, in which they are brought in.

(e) Every plaint, petition, original proceeding or application shall state, immediately after the cause title, the provision of law under which it purports to be made. To the extent plaintiff/ party/ his Advocate is aware, that the subject matter of the suit/ petition/ original proceeding being instituted is also directly and substantially the subject matter of any pending litigation in the Court, a suitable endorsement to that effect shall be made below the non-filing clause of such plaint, petition, original proceeding or on the index of any other application. ⁵[**The plaint shall contain a statement certifying authenticity of document(s) / copies filed.**]

2. Endorsements and verification.—At the foot of every pleading there shall appear the name, enrolment number, address, phone number, mobile number, e-mail id and all other contact particulars of the Advocate and shall be signed by the Advocate, if any, who has drawn it. It shall also contain the name of a Senior Advocate/ Advocate, who may have settled it. Every pleading shall be signed and verified by the party concerned in the manner provided by the Code. Registry shall return, with objections, any pleadings that do not comply with this Rule.

3. Particulars to be stated in address for service.—The address for service shall be filed with every initial pleading, petition or application on behalf of a party, and shall as far as possible contain the following:—

- (i) the name of the road, street, lane (or municipal or other number of the house/ apartment/ office/ residential, commercial or industrial location;
- (ii) the name of the town or village;
- (iii) the post office or postal district;
- (iv) the phone number(s), mobile number(s), fax number(s) and electronic mail address(es), if any; and
- (v) any other particulars necessary to identify the addressee.

4. Initialing alteration etc.—Subject to Annexure C to these Rules, every interlineation, erasure or correction in any pleading, petition or application or like document, shall be initialed by the party and/ or his recognized agent/ Advocate presenting it.

5. Translation of documents—(1) No document in a language other than English, intended to be used in any proceeding before Court, shall be received by the Registry, unless it is accompanied by an English translation thereof,

- (i) agreed to by all parties; or

⁵ Added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

- (ii) certified to be a true translation
 - (a) by an Advocate engaged, in the case; or
 - (b) by any other Advocate, whether engaged in the case or not, provided the Advocate engaged in the case authenticates such certification; or
- (iii) prepared by an official translator of the Court; or
- (iv) prepared by an official translator from authorities/ bodies duly recognized by the Court, Central or State Governments; or
- (v) prepared by a translator specially appointed or approved for the purpose by the Registrar.

6. Service of Petitions under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.-Where an application/ petition is filed under Sections 9, 11, 14, 15, 27, 34 or 37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, an advance copy thereof, together with annexures thereto, if any, shall be served upon each opposite party. In the event, the opposite party is the Union of India; a State Government, a Statutory Authority, a Public Sector Undertaking, or a Government Department etc., who may have nominated Senior/ Standing Counsel; Nominated Counsel; or Empanelled Counsel, such advance copy shall be served directly upon such Counsel (other than a Senior Advocate), under written endorsement of service, and not directly served upon Union of India/ State Government/ the concerned department, as the case may be.

The applicant/ petitioner shall also intimate all opposite parties, in the matter, about the filing and likely date of listing of the said application/ petition. The application/ petition shall be accompanied by written proof of such intimation and their respective service, besides indicating name(s) of all opposite parties in the matter. The application/ petition shall not be listed by the Registry unless it complies with this Rule.

7. Non-filing clause.-(i) Every original proceeding shall state that no such similar proceeding in the same matter has previously been filed and without that statement, such original proceeding shall not be accepted.

(ii) Any application/ petition filed under Section 9 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, shall mandatorily contain a statement to the effect that no other petition on the same cause of action has been filed in any other Court.

CHAPTER IV PRESENTATION OF PLEADINGS, OTHER DOCUMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF CASE FILES

1. Presentation at the counter.—(a) Subject to Annexure C to these Rules, all complaints, petitions, applications and documents ⁶[either original or copies] shall be presented by the plaintiff, petitioner, applicant, defendant, respondent, or filing party in person/ his duly authorized agent/ an Advocate, duly appointed by him for the purpose, at the filing counter. All such documents filed in Court shall be accompanied by an index containing their details and page numbers. Non-compliant pleadings/ documents with this Rule will result in return with objections by the Registry of the filed pleading/ documents.

(b) The Registry will ensure that complaints, petitions, applications and documents are placed in the appropriate part of the concerned files soon after they are presented.

(c) Sufficient number of copies of the complaint, petition, application or document shall also be filed for service on the opposite party(s).

⁶ Inserted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

(d) ⁷[Where copy(ies) of document(s) are filed, its index shall specify as to in whose custody, power and control are the original(s) thereof.]

(e) Where a document, on the basis of which plaintiff sues, or a defence is taken or a counter-claim is made, is an entry in a shop book; other accounting records; or an electronically maintained record, the plaintiff/ defendant/ filing party respectively, shall file a certificate from an internal accountant or an external auditor, confirming correctness of the same, besides filing an affidavit under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, wherever applicable.

(f) Along with the plaint, the plaintiff shall also be entitled to file applications for (i) interrogatories for examination of the defendant together with proposed interrogatories; (ii) discovery; and (iii) inspection of documents.

⁸[(g) Documents shall be filed only with a list of documents. No document shall be filed as annexure to any pleading.]

(h) A list of dates/ brief synopsis shall be filed along with the suit/ plaint/ petition.]

2. Endorsement and scrutiny of documents.-(a) [⁹] The officer in charge of the filing-counter shall endorse the date of receipt on the plaint, petition, application or document and also on the duplicate copy of the index and return the same to the filing party.

3. ¹⁰[Defective pleading/ document.-(a) Upon scrutiny, if any pleading(s)/ document(s) are found defective, the Deputy Registrar/ Assistant Registrar, Incharge of the Filing Counter, shall specify the objection(s), a copy of which will be kept for the Court Record, and return for removal of objection(s) and re-filing within a time not exceeding 7 days at a time and 30 days in aggregate. On every re-filing caveat clearance shall be taken. In addition, the party must again serve the corrected copy upon the caveator(s) who had a valid caveat at the time of the first filing.]

(b) If the pleading(s)/ document(s) are not taken back for removal of objection(s) within 30 days time allowed under sub-Rule (a), it shall be listed before the Court for appropriate orders.

The 30 days' period for the purpose of (a) and (b) above, shall commence from the date when the Registry raises the objections on the pleading/document filed.

(c) If the pleading(s)/ document(s) are filed beyond the time allowed under sub-Rule (a) it shall be accompanied with an application for condonation of delay in re-filing.]

4. Registration of proceedings admitted.—On admission, relevant data of all matters, shall be entered into the Database.

5. Matters to be entered into the Database.—Relevant data of following matters shall be entered into the Database, namely: -

- (i) rejected plaint;
- (ii) civil suit;
- (iii) documents filed in civil suit or any other original proceeding;
- (iv) miscellaneous application;
- (v) decree received for execution from other court;

⁷ Existing "Rule 1(d) The plaintiff shall also specify in the index, whether original(s) of documents filed by the plaintiff are in whose custody, power, control and possession, and on what basis plaintiff makes the said statement." substituted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

⁸ New Rules 1(g) & 1(h) added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

⁹ Brackets and letter "(a)" deleted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

¹⁰ Rule 3 substituted by new Rule 3 vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

- (vi) execution application;
- (vii) particulars of Commissioner(s) as contained in Rule 7 of Chapter XII Rule of these Rules;
- (viii) particulars of Receiver(s) as contained in Rule 3 of Chapter XIX of these Rules; and
- (ix) every other filing on the original side.

The Database shall be kept on the Original Civil Side by such officer(s) as the Registrar may, subject to orders of the Chief Justice, direct and shall be continuously updated.

6. Ex-parte amendments.—Amendments to pleading, made only for purpose of rectifying some clerical errors, may be made on an order of the Registrar without notice to the other party.

7. Issuance of summons.—Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code, the Court may, in the first instance itself, order issuance of summons/ notices to opposite party by any or all modes of service provided in the Code and Rule 1(e) of Chapter VI of these Rules.

8. Arrangement of record in pending matters. — The record of a suit shall be divided into the following parts:-

- (i) main file or part I of the suit record;
- (ii) interlocutory application file or Part II of the suit record;
- (iii) documents file or Part III of the suit record;
- (iv) evidence file or Part IV of the suit record; and
- (v) miscellaneous file or Part V of the suit record.

9. Contents of main file (Part I of the suit record).—The main file or Part I of the suit record shall comprise of two sub-parts, I-A and I-B.

Part I-A shall be kept in the following order—

On the left hand side of the file following documents shall be kept: -

- (i) index;
- (ii) order sheet;
- (iii) judgment and decrees; and
- (iv) copy of the judgment and decree of the appellate court or courts, if any.

On the right hand side of the file, following documents shall be kept: -

- (i) index;
- (ii) plaint together with any schedule annexed thereto/ latest amended plaint, together with any schedule annexed thereto;
- (iii) written statement(s) together with any schedule annexed thereto/ latest amended written statement(s) together with any schedule annexed thereto;
- (iv) replication(s) together with any schedule annexed thereto/ latest amended replication(s) together with any schedule annexed thereto;
- (v) any other pleading relating to counter claim together with any schedule annexed thereto, etc.;
- (vi) list of witnesses;
- (vii) valuer's report, receiver's report and objections thereto; and
- (viii) application for compromise recorded, and the report received after reference has been made under Section 89 of the Code.

Part I-B shall be kept in the following order –

- (i) index;
- (ii) all previous versions of the plaint, except the last amended plaint;
- (iii) all previous versions of all written statement(s), except the last amended written statement(s); and
- (iv) all previous versions of the replication(s) except the last amended replication(s);

10. Interlocutory applications' file (Part II of the suit record.)-(i) The Interlocutory applications' file shall be kept in the following order—

- (a) index; and
- (b) all interlocutory application(s), their respective reply(s) and their respective rejoinder(s).
- (c) Rule 9 shall in case of amended interlocutory application/ reply/ rejoinder apply *mutatis mutandis* to interlocutory application/ reply/ rejoinder.

(ii) No document(s) shall be attached to any interlocutory application. Any document(s) relied upon, in support of any interlocutory application, shall be filed with a separate index and will be placed in the documents file or Part III of the suit record.

(iii) Civil Contempt Petition shall be kept in a separate file, numbered as Volume(s), forming a part of Part II of the suit record.

11. Documents' file (Part III of the suit record.) — The documents' file shall have two sub-parts, III-A and III-B.

Part III-A shall contain all documents filed by the plaintiff including original documents, photocopies, printouts from electronic records, whether exhibited or un-exhibited, numbered chronologically. If the documents of the plaintiff are in more than one volume they shall be numbered as Vol. A1, A2, A3, etc.

Part III-B shall contain all documents filed by the defendant(s) including original documents, photocopies, printouts from electronic records, whether exhibited or un-exhibited, numbered chronologically. If the documents of the defendant(s) are in more than one volume they shall be numbered as Vol. B1, B2, B3, etc.

12. Evidence File (Part IV of the suit record) - The evidence file, whether evidence recorded by the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner, shall have two sub-parts, IV-A and IV-B.

Part IV-A shall be kept in the following order—

On the left hand side of the file following ¹¹[record] shall be kept:-

- (i) order appointing the Registrar/ Commissioner; and
- (ii) proceedings before the Registrar/ Commissioner.

On the right hand side the following ¹²[record] shall be kept: -

- (i) report of the Registrar/ Commissioner along with oral evidence recorded in chronological order.

Part IV-B shall be kept in the following order—

- (i) affidavit(s) filed by witness(es) of the plaintiff(s) in the affirmative;
- (ii) affidavit(s) filed by witness(es) of the defendant(s) in the affirmative;
- (iii) affidavit(s) by way of evidence in rebuttal filed by witness(es) for the parties; and
- (iv) affidavit(s)/ oral testimony of court witness(es)/ expert witness(es), if any.

13. Miscellaneous file (Part V of the suit record) - (a) The miscellaneous file shall be kept in the following order -

- (i) index;
- (ii) office notings;
- (iii) service reports;
- (iv) power(s) of attorney filed by parties;
- (v) vakalatnama(s) filed by Advocates;
- (vi) summons/other processes/affidavits relating thereto;
- (vii) letters etc. calling of record etc.; and
- (viii) all other miscellaneous papers.

14. Execution file.—Rules 9 to 13 of this Chapter, with suitable adaptation and modification, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the execution file.

¹¹ The word “documents” replaced by word “record” vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

¹² The word “documents” replaced by word “record” vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

15. Distribution to proper files.—The splitting up of record and distribution of papers into proper files shall, in all cases be done at the outset, and shall be continued from time to time as and when any filing are received by the Registry. Papers in each file shall be paginated separately.

16. Order sheet.—(a) The order sheet shall contain all orders passed by the Court/ Registrar at any hearing.

(b) All orders shall be in English and signed by the Judge/ Registrar as the case may be.

(c) The order sheet shall also contain reference to the application, return, or other similar document with respect to which an order is made.

CHAPTER V VAKALATNAMA

1. Execution and filing of Vakalatnama.-(i) Every Vakalatnama shall be duly signed by the party and contain, as and where appropriate, the seal of the party, name of the party signing and on whose behalf he has signed.

(ii) Where a Vakalatnama is executed by an agent/ authorized representative of a party, copy of the instrument/ document, of such authorization, shall accompany the Vakalatnama.

(iii) Should the person signing the Vakalatnama, cease to be an agent/ authorized representative of a party, a fresh Vakalatnama, in accordance with these Rules, shall be executed forthwith.

(iv) Where several persons sign a single Vakalatnama, they must put their signatures seriatim, mentioning, their serial number and name in brackets corresponding to their respective serial number and name mentioned in the memo of parties.

(v) Where a single Vakalatnama has been executed in favour of more than one Advocate, names and particulars of all the Advocates must be provided therein in accordance with these Rules.

(vi) The case number and its cause title must be clearly mentioned in the Vakalatnama.

(vii) An Advocate on his filing a Vakalatnama, duly executed by a party that discloses name and designation of the party, shall be entitled to act, to plead for that party in the matter and to conduct and prosecute all proceedings that may be taken in respect of such matter or any application connected with the same, or any decree or order passed therein, including proceedings in taxation and applications for review, execution and appeal in the Court, and take all such other steps as he may be specifically authorized by the Vakalatnama.

2. Certificate of fee.-Every Advocate shall file his certificate of fee. Such certificate shall show the amount of fee paid with the date of payment or the amount of fee agreed to be paid to him. This certificate is to accompany the Bill of costs as provided in these Rules.

3. Endorsement in Vakalatnama.-No Vakalatnama shall be accepted unless it contains the following under the signature of the Advocate:—

(i) an endorsement in token of its acceptance with the date of acceptance; and

(ii) the name, enrolment number, address, phone number, mobile number, e-mail id and all other contact particulars of the Advocate for service of the Advocate.

4. Notice of determination of authority of Advocate.-Except in exceptional and unavoidable circumstances, a party desiring to obtain an order for determination of authority of his Advocate, who has filed a Vakalatnama on his behalf in a suit or matter, shall do so by application, after having first served notice thereof to the Advocate concerned, and move such application well within time, so that proceedings continue on the date fixed and are not adjourned for such reason. No adjournment shall be granted on ground of determination of authority of Advocate.

5. Notice of discharge to a client.—An Advocate in a suit or matter desiring to obtain an order for his discharge, shall first serve notice of his intended application for discharge to his client, and the fact of such notice having been served shall be stated in the application. Such application must be moved well within time so that proceedings continue on the date fixed and are not adjourned for such reason.

Provided that an Advocate may be discharged by consent of the Advocate and the party by a letter addressed to the Registrar and signed both by the Advocate and the party.

CHAPTER VI PROCESSES/ NOTICES ETC.

1. Service of notice.—(a) Except where otherwise provided by these Rules, or ordered by the Court, all summons, notices other documents required to be given to or served on a party or person, who resides within the jurisdiction of the Court, shall be served on such party or person either personally or on his Advocate.

(b) Service of any notice, order or other document upon a person, who resides outside the jurisdiction of the Court/ Registrar, but within the territory of India, may ordinarily be effected, by posting a copy of the document required to be served in a prepaid envelope registered for acknowledgement addressed to the party or his agent empowered to accept service, at the place where the party or his agent resides or carries on business or personally works for gain or by means of recognized courier service (subject to furnishing the track report).

(c) Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 1(b) of this Chapter, the Registrar may direct in a particular case or class of cases, that service be effected in any other manner provided by the Code for service of summons.

(d) Unless the contrary is proved, a document served by post shall be deemed to be served by the time at which it would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

(e) ¹³[**Notwithstanding anything contained in Order V Rule 10 of the Code, the Court may, in the very first instance, issue summons (together with copies of plaint, application, affidavit, documents etc.) by all or any of the following modes of service, viz., registered post (acknowledgement due); speed post; authorized courier; fax; electronic mail service; SMS with a hyperlink (if required) or any other web based or virtual communication mode; or dasti service; in addition to service of summons in the ordinary way. For this purpose, the publicly available e-mail address and fax number, either on the website of the party or in public domain/ records shall also be deemed to be the correct e-mail address and fax number respectively.**]

(f) The summons/ notice shall specify the time within which the written statement/ response is to be filed as per the Code or these Rules.

2. Time for payment of process fee and consequence of non- payment.—Process fees, in a sum to be determined, shall be collected one time from the plaintiff at the time of institution of the suit. Process fee, in a sum to be determined, shall be collected one time from the defendant at the time of filing the written statement. In case a party is burdened with payment of expenses towards publication, commission etc. the same shall be forthwith deposited and no later than seven days of the date of the order. The Court shall notify the process fee payable from time to time and require the plaintiff to ensure availability of copies of the plaint and documents for service on other side.

If the plaintiff or applicant fails to take any step or where the plaintiff or applicant commits default in furnishing/ making such payment or it appears to the Registrar that he is not prosecuting the matter with due diligence, the Registrar shall call upon the party to explain the default and if no explanation is offered, or if the explanation offered appears to the Registrar to be insufficient, the Registrar may issue summons calling upon the plaintiff or the applicant to show cause before the Court why the plaint or the application should not be dismissed.

3. Power to dismiss for non-prosecution.—Upon such summons not being issued, the Court may, after hearing the plaintiff or in his absence, dismiss the suit for non-prosecution or make such other direction in the interest of justice.

¹³ Rule 1(e) substituted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

4. Full address to be given of persons on whom process to be served.—The particulars required to be set out in Rule 3 of Chapter III shall be provided by the plaintiff for issue of any process to the party.

5. Returnable date of summons.—Unless otherwise ordered, every writ of summons shall be made returnable as follows:

- (1) if the defendant or all the defendants reside within the jurisdiction of the Court, in four weeks from the date of the admission of plaint; and
- (2) in all other cases, within such time as may be considered sufficient for the transmission, service and return of the summons.

6. Expeditious issue of processes.—Process for service or execution shall be prepared and issued expeditiously. Where an interim order/ stay order is granted, notice thereof shall not be issued by the Registry unless the applicant furnishes requisite number of copies for service of each non-applicant.

7. Process to be served after identification of party.—The process-serving officer shall serve all processes entrusted to him after due enquiry as to the identity of the persons on whom or the house or property where, the same is to be served.

Provided that if it appears to the Registrar that sufficient information cannot be given as to the identity and place of residence of the person upon whom process is to be served or as to the house or property where process is to be served or if the Registrar is satisfied from the affidavit of the serving officer or upon his examination on oath, if necessary, that the person or the house or property or the place of residence of the person aforesaid could not be identified after due diligence and enquiry, he may ask the party concerned to supply an identifier.

8. Endorsement of identifier on the original process.—If the serving officer is not personally acquainted with the person to be served, he shall, wherever possible, obtain on the original process the endorsement by signature or thumb-impression of a respectable person of the locality identifying such person, his place of residence/ the house or property on which the process is served.

9. Procedure where defendant refuses to accept service or cannot be found.—Where the person to be served, or his agent, refuses to sign the acknowledgment, or where the serving Officer, after using all due and reasonable diligence, cannot find that person and there is no agent empowered to accept service of the summons on his behalf, the serving officer shall affix a copy of the summons on the outer door or some other conspicuous part of the house in which that person ordinarily resides or carries on business or personally works for gain, and shall then return the original to the Court with a report endorsed thereon annexed thereto stating that he has so affixed the copy, the circumstances under which he did so and the name and address of the person (if any) by whom the house was identified and in whose presence the copy was affixed. He shall also obtain the signature of the person on the return, who identified the person or in whose presence the copy was affixed on the said house.

10. Return of service.—(a) Every process serving officer shall immediately after completion of any duty connected with any process, record with his own hand upon the original process at the place of execution and in the presence of at least one respectable witness, his report specifying the manner of execution or the causes which prevented execution. Thereafter, he shall swear or affirm the correctness of that report before an officer of the Court, duly authorized in this behalf and file the same in Court together with the process.

(b) Process serving officer must invariably note the date, hour and exact place of service on each individual process.

(c) If no witness is available, the serving officer shall so state in his report.

(d) If the process is addressed to more than one person, the report shall describe the manner of service on each person and also the sequence in which the processes are served on different persons.

11. Service by affixing to outer door.—The serving officer shall make an affidavit as to the following matters:

- (1) the number of times, dates and hours at which he visited the address on the summons/notice;
- (2) the attempts made by him to find the person to be served;
- (3) whether he had any and, if so what, reason to suppose that such person was within the house or in its neighborhood, or attempting to evade service; and
- (4) whether any adult member of the family of the person to be served was residing with him.

12. Notice where summons is affixed at outer door.—If a summons to defendant is affixed to the outer door of his house in the manner provided in Rule 11, the serving officer shall affix thereto the notice in a prescribed format that the person, being served can, upon an application to the Court, obtain a copy of the plaint/ petition etc. and shall in his report state that he has done so and shall return the plaint/ petition etc. to the Court.

13. Inquiry as to sufficiency of service.—Service by any of the recognized modes shall be deemed to be service. Rules relating to affixation, identification, proxy service, and endorsement etc., shall be applicable only in those cases where it is not possible to effect service in any other mode. The Registrar shall, in all cases where the process has been returned, and in which an appearance has not been entered on the day appointed therefor, hold an inquiry as to the sufficiency of service of process.

If there is any dispute regarding sufficiency of service and the Registrar is unable to decide the same due to any reason, the Registrar shall expeditiously place the matter before the Court.

14. Registrar to execute or to cause to be executed process.—The Registrar and, subject to his directions, any other officer of the Court shall execute or cause to be executed, through the officers of the Court, all processes including all warrants or orders for delivery, attachment or sale of property in execution, or for the arrest or custody of any person, which may be entrusted to him for execution. They shall return all warrant and orders within the time prescribed, with an endorsement specifying the manner of execution or the causes which prevented execution. Such warrants and orders shall be filed in the record. A process service register shall be kept in the prescribed form.

15. Noting of date on processes.—The Officer-in-charge of the Process Serving Branch shall note on every process the date on which it was delivered to the process server.

16. Service on the Advocates of parties.—Service of any process, notice, order or other document on the Advocate of any party may be effected by delivering it to the Advocate, or by leaving it with a clerk in his employment.

17. Affidavit of service.—Except where the process, notice, order or other document has been served through the Registry, the party required to effect service shall file an affidavit of service along with such proof thereof, as may be available, stating the manner in which the service has been effected.

18. Service through another Court.—Where process, notice, order or other document has been served through another court, the service may be proved by the deposition or affidavit of the serving officer made before that court through which the service was effected.

19. Practice Directions - Issuance of summons.— Practice directions titled as ‘Practice Directions for issuance of summons/ notices through speed post/ registered post with Proof of Delivery (POD) in the High Court of Delhi’, stand incorporated by inclusion in these Rules and are annexed hereto as Annexure A.

CHAPTER VII

¹⁴[APPEARANCE BY DEFENDANT, WRITTEN STATEMENT, SET OFF, COUNTER-CLAIM AND REPLICATION]

1. In default of appearance by defendant suit to be posted for hearing.—If on the day fixed for his appearance in the writ of summons, the defendant does not appear, and it is proved that summons was duly served, the suit shall proceed for hearing.

2. Procedure when defendant appears.—If the defendant appears personally or through an Advocate before or on the day fixed for his appearance in the writ of summons:—

- (i) where the summons is for appearance and for filing written statement, the written statement shall not be taken on record, unless filed within 30 days of the date of such service or within the time provided by these Rules, the Code or the Commercial Courts Act, as applicable. An advance copy of the written statement, together with legible copies of all documents in possession and power of defendant, shall be served on plaintiff, and the written statement together with said documents shall not be accepted by the Registry, unless it contains an endorsement of service signed by such party or his Advocate. ¹⁵**[The written statement shall also contain a statement certifying authenticity of document(s) filed. Where copy(ies) of document(s) are filed, it shall be specified in the index as to in whose custody, power and control are the original(s) thereof. Service of summons for the purpose of this Rule shall only be deemed to be complete after inspection is provided by the Plaintiff, if such inspection is sought by an application moved within a period of 7 days from the receipt of first set of summons.]**
- (ii) ¹⁶**[Any party which seeks to inspect the originals of any documents shall give a notice for inspection and the inspection shall be given at a mutually convenient location within one week of receipt of the notice.]**

3. Affidavit of admission/ denial of documents alongwith written statement.- Alongwith the written statement, defendant shall also file an affidavit of admission/ denial of documents filed by the plaintiff, without which the written statement shall not be taken on record. Alongwith the written statement, the defendant shall be entitled to file applications for interrogatories for examination of the plaintiff together with proposed interrogatories; application for discovery; and application for inspection of such documents. ¹⁷**[The affidavit referred to in this Rule shall be in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 of Order XI of the Code, as applicable under the Commercial Courts Act.]**

4. Extension of time for filing written statement.—If the Court is satisfied that the defendant was prevented by sufficient cause for exceptional and unavoidable reasons in filing the written statement within 30 days, it may extend the time for filing the same by a further period not exceeding 90 days, but not thereafter. For such extension of time, the party in delay shall be burdened with costs as deemed appropriate. The written statement shall not be taken on record unless such costs have been paid/ deposited. In case the defendant fails to file the affidavit of admission/ denial of documents filed by the plaintiff, the documents filed by the plaintiff shall be deemed to be admitted. In case, no written statement is filed within the extended time also, the Registrar may pass orders for closing the right to file the written statement.

5. Replication.—The replication, if any, shall be filed within 30 days of receipt of the written statement. If the Court is satisfied that the plaintiff was prevented by sufficient cause for exceptional

¹⁴ The title of Chapter “APPEARANCE BY DEFENDANT, WRITTEN STATEMENT, SET OFF AND COUNTER-CLAIM” substituted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

¹⁵ Added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

¹⁶ Rule 2(ii) substituted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

¹⁷ Added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

and unavoidable reasons in filing the replication within 30 days, it may extend the time for filing the same by a further period not exceeding 15 days but not thereafter. For such extension, the plaintiff shall be burdened with costs, as deemed appropriate. The replication shall not be taken on record, unless such costs have been paid/ deposited. In case no replication is filed within the extended time also, the Registrar shall forthwith place the matter for appropriate orders before the Court. An advance copy of the replication together with legible copies of all documents in possession and power of plaintiff, that it seeks to file along with the replication, shall be served on the defendant and the replication together with the said documents shall not be accepted unless it contains an endorsement of service signed by the defendant/ his Advocate.

6. Affidavit of admission/ denial of documents with replication.-Alongwith the replication, the plaintiff shall also file an affidavit of admission/ denial of documents filed by the defendant, without which the replication shall not be taken on record. ¹⁸[Such affidavit referred to in this Rule shall be in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 of Order XI of the Code, as applicable under the Commercial Courts Act.]

7. Affidavit of admission/ denial of documents, even if replication not filed.-Irrespective of whether the plaintiff files the replication or not, the plaintiff shall be bound to file affidavit of admission/ denial of documents filed by the defendant alongwith the written statement within the time permissible for filing replication. In case the plaintiff fails to file the said affidavit, the documents filed by the defendant shall be deemed to be admitted. The Court or the Registrar, as the case be, shall exhibit documents admitted by the parties. ¹⁹[The affidavit referred to in this Rule shall be in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4 of Order XI of the Code, as applicable under the Commercial Courts Act.]

²⁰[**7A. Document Schedule.**- After the filing of the affidavit of admission / denial, before framing of issues, parties shall jointly prepare a ‘Document Schedule’ in the form provided herein to be presented to the Court.

DOCUMENT SCHEDULE

1	2	3	4	5	6
Particulars of Documents	Plaintiff’s Admission/ Denial	Defendant No. 1’s Admission/ Denial	Defendant No. 2’s Admission/ Denial	Defendant No. 3’s Admission/ Denial	Court Order
Plaintiff’s documents					
Defendant’s documents					

***Parties are to write ‘Admit’/‘Deny’ against each document. In case, receipt of a document is admitted and contents are denied, parties may write Admit (Receipt).**

¹⁸ Added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.
¹⁹ Added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.
²⁰ New Rule 7A inserted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

The Court would make an endorsement as to the exhibited documents in last Column of the Schedule. The ‘Document Schedule’, duly containing the Exhibit Nos, if any, shall form part of the proceedings of the day.

The Court may also direct filing and preparation of a similar ‘Document Schedule’ before the stage of final arguments.]

8. Cost where document denied without just reason or cause.—Where any party, without just reason or cause, denies a document, which the party propounding is compelled to prove, the Court may, award costs of proof of such document on the party denying the same.

9. Orders as to claims for set-off.—Where a defendant pleads a set-off under Order VIII, rule 6 of the Code, the Court on application of the plaintiff made in that behalf may, at any stage of the proceedings, and after hearing the defendant, make an order directing that the claim for set-off be tried separately or make such other order as may be just.

10. Counter-claim by defendant.—(a) A defendant in a suit, in addition to his right of pleading a set-off under Order VIII, rule 6 of the Code may set up by way of counter-claim against the claims of the plaintiff, a right or claim, whether such counter-claim is founded in damages or otherwise. The counter-claim shall be numbered separately, in accordance with categorization and nomenclature, as provided in these Rules.

(b) Such counter-claim shall have the same effect as a cross-suit so as to enable the Court to pronounce a final judgment in the same suit, both on the original claim and on the counter-claim.

(c) Rules relating to plaints shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to counter-claim. Rules 2 to 8 of this Chapter shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to counter-claim.

11. Counter-claim to be specifically pleaded.—Where any defendant seeks to rely upon any grounds as supporting the right of counter-claim, he shall, in his written statement, state specifically that he does so by way of counter-claim.

Where a defendant sets up a counter-claim, the Court on the application of the plaintiff, made in that behalf at any stage of the proceedings, and after hearing the defendant, may make an order directing that the counter-claim be tried separately or make such other order as may be just.

12. Proceeding with the counter-claim where suit is stayed etc.—Where in a case in which the defendant sets up a counter-claim, the suit of the plaintiff is stayed, discontinued or dismissed, the counter-claim may be proceeded with in accordance with these Rules.

13. Order XX rule 19 of the Code to apply to decree in such suits—sub-rules (1) and (2) of rule 19 of Order XX of the Code shall apply to the decree in a suit in which counter-claim is made.

14. No documents to be filed after completion of pleadings.—Except as provided in Order XIII of the Code and these Rules, neither party shall be entitled to file any documents after completion of pleadings in the suit. Upon failure of parties to file their respective documents and/ or file the respective documents on completion of filing of pleadings, in accordance with these Rules, the Registrar shall forthwith place the matter before Court.

²¹[**15. Commencement of Trial.**— The expression ‘commencement of trial’ used in Order VI Rule 17 of the Code would mean the stage of tendering of evidence of the first witness in the proceeding before the Court/Registrar/Commissioner.

16. Marking of Exhibits.—The marking of exhibits will be on the basis of the affidavit of admission and denial and originals will not be required to be produced before the Joint Registrar for the purpose of marking of exhibits. Upon marking of Exhibits the suit shall be placed before the Court within a period of four weeks for settlement of issues/Case Management hearing.

²¹ New Rules 15, 16 & 17 added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

17. Confidentiality Club.-When parties to a commercial suit wish to rely on documents/ information that are commercially or otherwise confidential in nature, the Court may constitute a Confidentiality Club so as to allow limited access to such documents/ information. In doing so, the Court may setup a structure/protocol, for the establishment and functioning of such Club, as it may deem appropriate. An illustrative structure/protocol of the Confidentiality Club is provided in ANNEXURE F. The Court may appropriately mould the structure/ protocol of the Club, based upon the facts and circumstances of each case.]

CHAPTER VIII DISCOVERY, INSPECTION AND INTERROGATORIES

1. Applications for Discovery, Inspection and Interrogatories by plaintiff.-In addition to the right of the plaintiff to file applications as provided in Rule 1(f) of Chapter IV of these Rules, the plaintiff shall also be entitled to file such application within 15 days of receipt of written statement from the defendant. No such application by the plaintiff, except with leave of Court, shall be entertained thereafter.

2. Applications for Discovery, Inspection and Interrogatories by defendant.-In addition to the right of the defendant to file applications as provided in Rule 3 of Chapter VII of these Rules, the defendant shall also be entitled to file such application within 15 days of receipt of replication from the plaintiff. No such application by defendant, except with leave of Court, shall be entertained thereafter.

3. Service of such applications.-On the Court allowing the application for interrogatories, the same shall be served upon and answered in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

CHAPTER IX MEDIATION/ SETTLEMENT, JUDGEMENT WITHOUT RECORDAL OF EVIDENCE, EXAMINATION OF PARTIES AND FRAMING OF ISSUES

1. Reference to Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism.-Where it appears to the Court/ Registrar that there exists elements of a settlement which may be acceptable to the parties, the Court/ Registrar shall direct parties to the suit, to opt for any mode of settlement outside the Court, as specified in Section 89(1) of the Code. In case parties opt for Mediation, the Court/ Registrar shall direct them to proceed in accordance with Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Rules, 2004. In case the parties opt for an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, the Court/ Registrar shall fix the date of appearance before such person, forum or authority as may be opted by the parties.

2. Personal appearance -The Court may, at any stage of the proceedings, require personal attendance of the parties/ authorized representative to ascertain facts, if circumstances so warrant.

3. Judgment at the first hearing. — On the first hearing of proceedings, the Court shall ascertain from each party, whether they admit allegations of fact made against them by the other. If any party makes such an admission, the Court, after recording such admissions, may proceed to pronounce a judgment. If on that date the defendant appears and the plaintiff does not appear, the Court shall make an order that the suit be dismissed, unless the defendant admits the claim or part thereof, in which case, the Court shall pass a decree against the defendant upon such admission, and where only a part of the claim has been admitted, shall dismiss the remainder claim in the suit.

4. Examination of parties etc. at the first hearing.—If at the first hearing the defendant does not admit the claim, the Court shall examine any party appearing in person or present in Court, or any person able to answer any material questions relating to the suit by whom such party or his Advocate is accompanied. The Court may, in its discretion, permit any party to suggest questions to the Court for being put to the person under examination.

5. Examination to be recorded.-The substance of the examination shall be reduced into writing and shall form a part of the record. Where after such examination it appears that the parties are not at issue on any question of law or fact, the Court may at once pronounce judgment.

6. Disposal of the matter at the first hearing.—(1) Where the parties are at issue on some question(s) of law or fact, the Court may frame issues, and if satisfied, no further argument or evidence other than that the parties can at once adduce is required upon such of the issues as may be sufficient for the decision of the suit, and that no injustice will result from proceeding with the suit forthwith, may, proceed to determine such issues, and if the finding thereon is sufficient for the decision, may pronounce judgment accordingly. Except for reasons recorded in writing, framing of issues and trial of the suit shall not be delayed or postponed on account of pendency of application(s).

(2) Where the finding is not sufficient for a decision, the Court shall adjourn the matter directing the parties to file their respective lists of witnesses in accordance with these Rules.

(3) Upon filing of list of witnesses, within the time prescribed, the Court shall examine the same and pass appropriate orders as provided in Rule 5 of Chapter XI of these Rules.

²²**[7. Settlement offer with prejudice.- A proposal to settle shall be in writing and shall be with prejudice to the proposer. The proposal shall remain valid till the conclusion of the suit/petition/original proceeding unless otherwise provided.**

A proposal to settle may be responded by a counter proposal in writing, which shall also be with prejudice and would remain valid till the conclusion of the suit/petition/original proceeding, unless otherwise provided.

Where a proposal/counter proposal is declined and/or refused, and the suit/petition/original proceedings results in terms less favourable than those contained in the proposal/counter proposal, the party declining and/or refusing to accept the proposal/counter proposal, notwithstanding being entitled to grant of relief, as awarded by the Court, shall however, be burdened with costs as provided in Rule 2(i) of Chapter XXIII of these Rules.

In case the suit/petition/original proceedings results in terms more favourable than those contained in the proposal/counter proposal, the party declining/refusing to accept the same shall, in addition, to the grant of reliefs, as awarded by the Court, be also entitled to full costs of the suit/petition/original proceedings.]

²² New Rule 7 added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

**CHAPTER X
INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATIONS**

1. Form.—Every interlocutory application shall be instituted in the suit or matter in which it is filed.

2. Contents of applications.—(i) Except where otherwise provided by these Rules or by any law for the time being in force, an interlocutory application:

- (a) shall contain only one prayer or one series of alternative prayers of the same kind;
- (b) shall not contain any argumentative matter;
- (c) shall be supported by an affidavit, stating clearly the grounds and the facts on which the application is based. Where the application is for condonation of delay, the exact period of delay and the reasons thereof shall also be clearly stated in the application;
- (d) an advance copy of the application together with its affidavit and other documents/ material, filed along therewith, shall be served upon the opposite party. The applicant shall intimate all Advocates in the matter about the filing and likely date of listing of the said application and give an undertaking on the index of the application to the effect that all parties to the litigation have been duly served. The application shall be accompanied by written proof of such intimation and their respective service and number of non-applicants. The application shall not be listed by the Registry unless it complies with this sub-rule.

(ii) Where an advance copy of the application has been served on the non-applicant or his Advocate, the Court shall proceed to hear the application and pass such orders as may be considered appropriate on the application without issuing any notice to the non-applicant or his Advocate, unless it directs otherwise. The applicant shall be bound to intimate the opposite parties by any or all modes including SMS/ e-mail/ fax or any other recorded delivery of the date on which the application is scheduled to be listed. Non-appearance of the non-applicant on the said date may result in adverse orders being passed against the non-applicant.

(iii) Notwithstanding Rule 2(ii) of this Chapter, the Registry may direct filing of additional copies for service of the opposite party.

(iv) Where an applicant desires that he be heard in Camera for the purpose of passing an ex-parte interim order, he shall file an application stating reasons thereof.

On such application being allowed, only the name/ pseudo name of the applicant shall appear in the cause list as may be directed by Court.

3. Listing - All fresh interlocutory applications should be listed on the dates that the matters are listed next before the Court/ Registrars, if the next date is within 10 days of the Applications being numbered.

4. Urgent Listing - Any application seeking urgent relief, if accompanied by an application setting out reasons for urgency and filed before noon, and if in order, shall be placed for orders before the Court on the following working day.

²³[**CHAPTER XA
CASE MANAGEMENT**

1. Summary Judgment.-At the time of Case Management hearing, a Court, may of its own, decide a claim pertaining to any dispute, by a summary judgment, without recording oral evidence.

2. ‘Claim’.-For the purposes of this Order, the word “claim” shall include –

- (a) part of a claim.

²³ New Chapter XA introduced vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

- (b) any particular question on which the claim (whether in whole or its part) depends;
or
- (c) a counter claim, as the case may be.

3. Grounds for summary judgment.-The Court may, of its own, give a summary judgment against a plaintiff or defendant on a claim if it considers that -

- (a) the plaintiff has no real prospect of succeeding on the claim or the defendant has no real prospect of successfully defending the claim, as the case may be; and
- (b) there is no other compelling reason why the claim should not be disposed of before recording of oral evidence.

4. Other orders / directions.- The Court may, *inter-alia*, pass orders / directions as it may think fit for the speedy disposal of the suit or narrowing the controversy between the parties, including:-

- a) calling upon the parties to admit or deny such allegations of fact as are made in the plaint or written statement and are not expressly or by implication admitted or denied by the party against whom they are made as provided in Order X Rule 1 of the Code.
- b) recording the statement of the parties under Order X Rule 2 of the Code with a view to elucidate the matter in controversy or answer the material questions relating to the suit.
- c) calling upon parties to conduct inspection of documents as required under Order XI Rule 3 of the Code as applicable and direct the inspection to be conducted at any place convenient to the parties within a fixed time schedule not exceeding 30 days from the date of filing of the written statement;
- d) calling upon the parties to, after inspection of the documents, file statements of admission/denial as per Order XI Rule 4 of the Code.
- e) passing an order of admission of a document under Order XII Rule 2A of the Code, in case a party to which a notice has been given under Order XII Rule 2 of the Code, has failed to deny specifically or by necessary implication and also passing an order of compensation where a party unreasonably neglects or refuses to admit a document after the service of notice.
- f) passing an order for paying cost of proving a document or a fact by a party, refusing or neglecting to admit a document.
- g) direct listing of the matter before the Registrar for marking of exhibits on all admitted documents as also public documents of third parties for e.g., documents issued by government authorities, reputed publications, newspaper articles, electronic printouts from websites which are accessible openly.
- h) conduct a Case Management hearing under Order XV-A of the Code and as part of the said case management hearing –
 - i. explore the possibility of settlement between the parties as per Section 89 of the Code.
 - ii. explore the possibility of deciding the dispute by a summary judgment, without a specific application for the said purpose, on the basis of pleadings dispensing with the trial of the suit on the questions of law or of facts on which the parties are not at issue.
 - ii-a. strike out defences or pleas or claims which the Court considers either unreasonable, frivolous or not maintainable.
 - iii. frame only such issues that arise for adjudication and upon insistence by any parties for framing of issues which the Court considers either frivolous or not maintainable, affix costs on a per issue basis to be paid by the losing party after trial.
 - iv. decide such issues which do not require evidence as preliminary issues.
 - v. fix a date for filing of list of witnesses by both parties.

- vi. examine the list of witnesses and direct only such witnesses to be examined as are essential for adjudication of the issues so framed so as to not permit unnecessary protraction of trial with large number of witnesses.
- vii. fix time schedules for filing of affidavits in evidence by all parties including rebuttal evidence, if any.
- viii. Where Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner deems appropriate, keeping in view volume/ number of documents required to be marked/ identified, it may dispense with marking of documents in presence of witnesses, by directing a pre-trial hearing before Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner, when identification and marking of exhibits/ affixation of suitable marks of identification can be carried out in terms of respective affidavit(s) of witnesses filed. While doing so the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner would record objections, if any, of any party objecting to marking/ identification of documents.
- ix. monitor the trial being carried out by fixing periodic dates before itself every 3 months after the Case Management hearing.
- x. direct consolidation of trials in cases where identical or similar issues arise;
- xi. direct filing of synopsis in the suit.
- xii. direct pagination of the record and convert them to digital copies to be given to all parties in the case.
- xiii. fix time limits for final arguments.]

**CHAPTER XI
EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES**

1. Evidence. - (i) For the purpose of recording evidence, cases would be categorized in the following classes:

- (a) cases where evidence is to be recorded in Court;
- (b) cases where evidence is to be recorded before the Registrar; and
- (c) cases where evidence is to be recorded before a Commissioner;

(ii) The Court shall appoint Registrars and Commissioners to record evidence. However, in appropriate cases the Court may, considering the nature of the case, issues involved and the nature of the witness(es) to be examined and such other factors which may be relevant for this purpose, give directions with regard to recording of evidence of such witness(es) before itself. The Court may also give directions as to whether in a given case, the examination-in-chief of a witness shall be on affidavit or his entire testimony is to be recorded orally. The Court may, at any time, change the category of a case, if circumstances so require.

2. List of witnesses.-(i) Within fifteen days of the framing of issues or within such time as ordered by the Court, all parties shall file their respective lists of witnesses stating whom they seek to produce in support of their respective cases. Such lists shall also state particulars of witnesses, as required by these Rules.

(ii) The Registry shall return with objections any list of witnesses that does not comply with the provisions of this Chapter.

3. Form of List of witnesses. – (i) The list of witnesses will be in the form below:

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
 Suit No.....of.....
 Plaintiff/Petitioner.....v.....Defendant/Respondent

NEXT DATE OF HEARING

List of witnesses filed by the.....

Serial No.	Full name and complete address	Facts Sought to be proved by the evidence of the witness	Documents sought to be proved by the evidence of the witness

Part—A Witnesses required to be examined on Commission and Video conferencing.

Part—B Witnesses required to produce documents only and who are not required to give oral evidence.

Part—C Witnesses required to give oral evidence and also to produce documents, including expert witnesses.

Part—D Witnesses required to give oral evidence but from whom no documents are required to be proved.

Filed by Advocate for
the Plaintiff/Defendant/ Petitioner/Respondent

Filed on.....

4. Language of witness.-In such list, the language in which the witness(es) will depose, shall, as far as possible, be indicated, so that services of an interpreter, if required may be suitably arranged for by the concerned party.

5. Scrutiny of witnesses by court.-The Court shall examine the list of witnesses and pass appropriate orders directing deletion of name of any witness(es) that it deems irrelevant to the issues and pass such further orders in relation to the same and thereafter direct trial in the suit/ proceedings and evidence to be recorded.

6. ²⁴[**Expert witnesses.**-The Court may, either on its own motion, or on an application of any party, permit an expert witness to testify. In such a case, the Court may pass appropriate orders for recordal of his testimony (including, by hot tubbing technique, etc.), manner of recordal, document relied upon by the expert and the fee payable to him. An illustrative protocol for using the “hot tubbing” technique is provided in ANNEXURE G. The Court may appropriately mould the protocol for hot tubbing, based upon the facts and circumstances of each case.]

7. Summoning of witnesses.-(i) Soon after the filing of list of witnesses, the party may get summons issued to its witnesses mentioned in Part B, C and D subject to the provisions of Rule ²⁵[**1A**] of Order XVI of the Code.

(ii) An application for summoning witness(es), shall set out names of witness(es) proposed to be summoned for a specified date.

(iii) A party shall not be entitled to obtain process to enforce attendance of or call or produce any witness at trial who is not named in the list of witnesses filed by him, without an order of Court stating reasons thereof.

²⁴ Rule 6 substituted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

²⁵ The alphabet and number “**3A**” substituted with the alphabet and number “**1A**” vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

(iv) Summons for appearance of witnesses shall be issued only upon deposit of [26] diet money into Court which shall be calculated by the office and deposited by the party concerned within seven days.

(v) The Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may permit a party to effect service of summons on witness(es), in which event, the Registry shall give the summons to such party for service.

(vi) Service of such summons shall be effected by or on behalf of such party by personally delivering or tendering the summons signed by Court/ Registrar/ any officer authorized in this behalf and sealed with the Seal of the Court.

(vii) Provisions of Order V, rules 16 and 18 of the Code shall apply to summons so allowed to be served, as if the person effecting service, were a serving officer. Summons shall be returned to the Court, with the affidavit of the person serving the same, giving complete details of the time, place, and name of the person to whom they were delivered or tendered as also the name of the person in whose presence the same were delivered or tendered. Where summons have not been served by the party itself, they shall also be counter signed by such party, verifying correctness of the report in the affidavit.

(viii) In case, a witness fails to appear or comply with summons served in the manner provided in the preceding sub-Rules, consequences provided in Order XVI, rules 10 and 12 of the Code may ensue.

(ix) Where summons are delivered or tendered in accordance with Rule 7, sub-Rules (iv) and (v) of this Chapter, expenses, referred to in sub-rule (1) of rule 2 of Order XVI of the Code, shall be paid to the witness(es) by the party or his agent in accordance with directions of Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner.

(x) If such summons, when delivered or tendered, is refused, or if the person served refuses to sign an acknowledgment of service, or for any reason such summons cannot be delivered or tendered personally, the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner shall, on an application of the party, order re-issue of such summons to be delivered or tendered, in the same manner as a summons to a defendant, as provided in these Rules.

(xi) Notwithstanding anything else contained in these Rules, the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may also order issue of summons to witness in accordance with any mode provided in Chapter VI of these Rules. Expenses for such service shall be borne by the party summoning the witness(es).

8. Process, travelling expense, boarding and lodging of out station witnesses.-(i) In the event of summons being sought for a witness who resides outside Delhi, the case shall be listed before the Registrar for assessment of the travelling, boarding and lodging expenses of the witness(es). Process for appearance of the witness shall be issued only upon deposit of the assessed expenses by the party in Court within the time prescribed by these Rules.

(ii) So far as expert witnesses are concerned, expenses would be prescribed by the Court taking into consideration the subject matter of the testimony, the qualification of the expert, the position held by the expert, time likely to be spent and any other relevant matter.

9. Witnesses-Part B.-(i) A witness named under Part B summoned to produce a document shall be deemed to have complied with summons, if he causes such document to be produced, alongwith authorization, instead of appearing personally.

(ii) While issuing summons to witness(es) the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may order, that suitable instructions be provided, on summons itself making the witness aware of the purpose of his summoning. Such summons may also indicate that, if for absolutely unavoidable reasons the witness concerned is unable to attend Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner, on the date(s) fixed by the summons, he

²⁶ The words “**process fees and**” in between the words “deposit of” and “diet money” deleted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

would inform Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner in advance, with his undertaking to appear on the date(s) intimated to him. Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may, if it considers appropriate, exempt the witness from personal appearance for the date fixed.

(iii) The Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner for adequate reasons, if considered necessary, may keep copies or extracts of the summoned documents produced by the witness and return the original with directions to produce the same as and when so directed.

(iv) The Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner shall mark exhibit on the documents so retained, subject to objection(s), if any.

10. Recall of witness.—The Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may (for reasons to be recorded in writing) recall any witness in terms of Order XVIII, rule 17 of the Code.

11. Objections to exhibition of documents.—(i) Objection(s) to exhibiting any document or its production, shall be recorded to be decided at the time of decision of the suit/ other original proceeding or at such time as the Court considers appropriate.

(ii) In case, the Registrar/ Commissioner considers that the objection(s) needs to be decided forthwith, he shall place the matter before Court, without delay after recording of reasons for the same.

12. Failure to summon or examine summoned witness.—If steps for summoning a witness(es) are not taken by a party, or if a summoned witness(es) is not examined by a party, such party shall forfeit its right to again summon the said witness(es), unless Court/ Registrar is satisfied that such a party was prevented by any sufficient reason from summoning the witness(es) or examining the witness(es).

13. Evidence of outstation witnesses.—Recording of evidence of outstation witness(es), shall be on day-to-day basis, till the witness(es) is discharged.

14. Cost of adjournment.—(i) In case, an adjournment is necessitated for examining or cross examining witness(es), reasons for such adjournment shall be recorded by Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner. In such event, actual reasonable costs of travel/ stay/ loss of income of such witness(es) shall be recorded in the order sheet. The party at whose instance such adjournment is necessitated will be required to deposit, within one week of the adjournment or in such time granted by the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner, such costs so recorded, irrespective of reasons for adjournment.

(ii) In case, the party, at whose instance such adjournment has been granted fails to deposit the costs, such party shall not only forfeit the right to examine or cross examine the witness(es), as the case may be, but will also be liable for consequences as laid down in these Rules.

15. Power to proceed with hearing of suit.—Notwithstanding anything contained in Order XVIII of the Code or these Rules, the Court/ Registrar may, for sufficient reasons, proceed with the hearing of the suit, although evidence of the party, having the right to begin, has not been concluded. The Court/ Registrar may also allow either party to produce any witness(es) at any stage of the suit.

16. Re-attendance of witnesses on adjourned hearing.—When hearing of a case is adjourned, re-attendance of witnesses present may be secured by payment to them of travelling and subsistence allowances and by binding them down for the date fixed by the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner for re-attendance without having to issue fresh process to them.

17. Production of public document.—(a) Every application for summons for production of a public document shall be supported by an affidavit stating—

(i) the description of the document(s), the production of which is required;

(ii) the relevancy of the document(s);

(iii) the reasons why production of a certified copy of the same would not serve the purpose; and

(iv) in case where production of a certified copy would serve the purpose, whether application was made to the proper officer for a certified copy and the result of such application.

(b) The Court/ Registrar shall not issue such summons unless he considers the production of the original necessary and is satisfied that application for supply of its certified copy has been duly made and has not been granted. The Court/ Registrar shall in every case record his reasons.

(c) Nothing in this rule shall apply to an application under Order XIII, rule 10 of the Code for production of the record of any suit of proceeding.

18. Return of original public record after its production in evidence.—When public records are produced and put in evidence in original, the Court, unless it thinks it necessary to retain the original, shall direct a copy to be made at the expense of the applicant, and shall return the original to the party/ person producing the original.

19. *Suo motu* power to Court to summon public records.—Nothing in Rule 17 of this Chapter shall prevent the Court of its own motion from sending for public records or other documents in custody of a public officer, or Court if it thinks it necessary for meeting ends of justice. Expenses for such summoning and of production of such records or documents shall be paid by such party as the Court directs.

20. Party to appear first.—If a party or his authorized agent or the representative of a corporate body party intends to appear as a witness, he shall so appear before any other witness, on his or its behalf, has been examined.

Provided Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may, on an application made in this behalf and for reasons to be recorded, permit him to appear as his or its own witness at a later stage.

21. Court to ascertain time.—Before fixing a date for evidence or allotting time, the Court/ Registrar will ascertain from all the Advocates of parties, the estimate of the likely time that may be required in examination/ cross-examination of witnesses by them.

22. Undertaking from witness.—In case, witnesses are present at the time of fixing the date(s) for evidence they would be informed accordingly and an undertaking would be taken from them that they would appear on the date fixed for evidence.

23. Scrutiny of case.—In case, where the matter has been sent to the Registrar/ Commissioner for recording evidence, the Court shall fix a date for scrutiny to assess the progress of the case. On the date fixed for scrutiny, the Court shall, if necessary, give such directions as may be considered necessary for expeditious conclusion of the trial.

24. Reception of electronic evidence - A party seeking to tender any electronic record shall do so in a CD/ DVD/ Medium, encrypted with a hash value, the details of which shall be disclosed in a separate memorandum, signed by the party in the form of an affidavit. This will be tendered along with the encrypted CD/ DVD/ Medium in the Registry. The electronic record in the encrypted CD/ DVD/ Medium will be uploaded on the server of the Court by the Computer Section and kept in an electronic folder which shall be labeled with the cause title, case number and the date of document uploaded on the server. Thereafter, the encrypted CD/ DVD/ Medium will be returned to the party on the condition that it shall be produced at the time of admission/denial of the documents and as and when directed by the Court/ Registrar. The memorandum disclosing the hash value shall be separately kept by the Registry on the file. The compliance with this rule will not be construed as dispensing with the compliance with any other law for the time being in force including Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

25. Recording of evidence on the basis of electronic record- (i) After the settlement of issues, when date is fixed for recording of evidence before the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner, if all parties agree, the electronic file can be made available and trial be conducted on the basis of the electronic record, with all sides extending cooperation to the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner to exhibit/ mark original documents on the electronic file and then proceed with the trial based on electronic record. This electronic file will also be available to the Commissioner to enable him to record evidence at a location outside the Court in accordance with these Rules.

(ii) If any further exhibit/ or other markings are to be done on the original record, the Commissioner can make that as a part of his order and then putting of exhibit/ or other mark would be done on the original file on a mutually convenient date and time, even without presence of witness, but in presence of Advocates for parties.

26. Document filed in sealed cover.-Wherever a document has been filed in a sealed cover, the Registry will ensure that the sealed cover is made available at the time of recording the evidence in the event, a party requisitions the same.

27. Court record.-The record of the case or relevant portion thereof, shall not be taken outside the Court premises except unless directed by the Court/ Registrar General/ Registrar in exceptional circumstances and for reasons to be recorded by the Court/ Registrar General/ Registrar.

28. Manner of recordal of evidence.— (i) The evidence shall be taken down in writing/ typing and as far as possible in the narrative. However, if so required, the evidence may be recorded in question-answer form. Any objection raised during the recording of evidence before the Registrar or the Commissioner shall be recorded by him and decided by the Court at the stage of final arguments, unless the Registrar or the Commissioner is of the opinion that it will not be possible to further proceed with the matter without the decision on the objection raised. Such objection shall be immediately placed before the Court for decision.

(ii) It will be permissible for the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner to use transcription facilities or tools for recordal of evidence, and costs for the same shall be borne as per the orders of Court/ Registrar.

(iii) Parties/ Witnesses shall be entitled to a copy of the deposition, free of cost, at the conclusion of each date.

29. Numbering of witnesses and documents.—(i) Depositions of witnesses shall be numbered in one consecutive series.

(ii) The Court Master of the Court/ Registrar, or the Commissioner, as the case may be, shall take charge of every document or article, produced during the trial for the first time.

(iii) Documents/ articles admitted in evidence shall be numbered/ marked/ exhibited in one consecutive series. The exhibit or mark of every such document or article shall be done with an alphabet and/ or numerals that indicate the party by whom the exhibit/ marked document has been filed and / or the witness by whom it is proved.

30. Deposition to be read over and signed by the witness.—After recording of deposition of a witness, the same shall be got signed/ thumb impression affixed on all pages. However, where required the deposition shall be read over and, when necessary, interpreted to the witnesses, before obtaining his signature/ thumb impression thereon. The Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner shall affix his signatures and date of examination.

31. Examination of documents.-The Court Master of the Court/ Registrar or the Commissioner, as the case may be, shall examine all documents produced or offered in evidence and bring any apparent insufficiency of court-fee or other stamp to the notice of Court for orders. He shall endorse all documents admitted in evidence and all documents rejected, with particulars required by law, and sign or initial such endorsements.

32. Endorsement on documents.-A document, when tendered in evidence or produced before Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner, shall not be so endorsed or marked with the Seal of the Court or any exhibit mark, as to make any part thereof illegible. Such endorsement, Seal of the Court or exhibit mark shall always be made on such part or parts of the document as do not contain any writing and preferably on the side, top or bottom margin or cover page, if any, of the document.

Provided that, if in any exceptional case, no such part or parts of the document are available for placing the endorsement, Seal of the Court or mark, then the same shall be placed on a separate slip of paper and then such slip shall be attached to the document. Such corresponding observations shall be made in the order sheet.

33. Witnesses not to be present in Court during hearing of the suit.— Where a party has more than one witness, whilst evidence of that party is being recorded, witnesses of that party who are yet to depose, would remain outside the court room till such time they are called to depose.

34. Exhibits other than in English to be translated.—Except with leave of the Court, no document, not in English language, shall be read or received in evidence, unless it is translated in English in accordance with these Rules.

35. Interrogatories to witnesses. - The Court/ Registrar shall have the power to order delivery of interrogatories to a witness instead of ordering recording of his evidence before the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner. For this purpose, the party to whom such directions are issued shall, within 10 days of such order, file the interrogatories with advance copy to the other party. The concerned witness shall answer to the interrogatories, in forms provided by the Code, within 30 days of delivery of interrogatories or such other period as the Court/ Registrar may specify.

36. Official Translator/ Interpreter.-The Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may utilize services of an official translator/ interpreter from authorities/ bodies duly recognized by the Court, Central or State Governments, for the purpose of recording evidence.

37. Reception, retrieval, authentication and preservation of Electronic Records.-The extant rules/ guidelines/ procedures made applicable to reception, retrieval, authentication and preservation of ‘electronic records’, as defined in the Information and Technology Act, 2000 stand incorporated by inclusion in these Rules.

38. Recording of evidence by video conferencing.-The Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner may, if it deems appropriate, direct use of video conferencing in accordance with guidelines issued by Court, from time to time, for conduct of court proceedings between Court(s) and remote site(s). Guidelines presently enforce are incorporated by inclusion in these Rules and annexed hereto as Annexure B.

CHAPTER XII COMMISSIONS

1. Commissions.-Court may issue commission(s) from time to time, inter-alia, for –

- (i) making local investigation;
- (ii) scientific investigation;
- (iii) performance of a ministerial act;
- (iv) sale of movable or immovable property;
- (v) examination and/ or adjustment of accounts;
- (vi) recording evidence;
- (vii) carrying out partition of immovable property;
- (viii) carrying out partition of movable assets;
- (ix) carrying out search and seizure orders; and
- (x) any other purpose considered appropriate by the Court.

2. Order to be sent to Commissioner.-Where commission has been issued, the order appointing him shall be sent to him at the earliest and no later than seven days from the date of such order.

3. Power of Commissioner to serve.-Where a Commissioner has been appointed by the Court for local investigation, search, seizure, taking inventory or for carrying out any other act/ assignment in accordance with the order of the Court, for proper elucidation of any matter in dispute and the defendant has not been served, the Court may, in addition to the other modes of service, direct the Commissioner to serve the summons on the defendant along with plaint, documents, interlocutory application and copy of the orders of the Court, with a further direction to mention such service in his report. Such report of service would be deemed as sufficient service of the concerned person.

4. Execution of Commission.-The Court may, if it considers appropriate, in such order, issue directions, as may be necessary, for execution of the commission, including directions to Commissioner to take copies of documents; take custody of documents, books of accounts, balance sheets etc.; to release the goods, documents on *superdari* to a named person/ party. Such documents/ copies shall be placed before Court alongwith the report of the commission. If Court considers

appropriate, it may treat such documents as evidence, after giving opportunity of objection(s) to opposing party(s).

5. Disclosure of conflict of interest.-Commissioner shall make a disclosure that he does not have any conflict of interest with any of the parties or the lawyers/ law firm involved in the matter.

6. Fee of the Commissioner.—(a) The Commissioner shall be paid the fees and in such manner as may be ordered by Court.

(b) The Court or the Registrar, as the case may be, may order that such amount, as it or he considers proper, be deposited in Court in advance towards fee payable to Commissioner or paid directly to the Commissioner, together with expenses for execution of the commission, within seven days of the grant of commission or letter of request or within such further time as may be allowed. In default, the matter shall, unless otherwise ordered, for reasons recorded in writing, be fixed for further proceedings.

(c) If at any subsequent time, the Court is satisfied that the deposit made under these Rules is not sufficient to cover remuneration of the Commissioner, it may, after notice to parties or their Advocates, order such further amount, as it considers proper, be deposited in Court or paid directly to the Commissioner, within seven days from the date of such order or within such further time as the Court may allow. In default, the procedure prescribed in these Rules shall be followed.

(d) The fees directed to be paid by the Court shall not be varied or altered by the Commissioner even with mutual consent of parties.

7. Database of Commissioner(s).-The name(s) of persons appointed as Commissioner(s) together with details of cases in which they have been appointed; their dates of appointment(s); schedule of fee ordered to be paid and received by the Commissioners and whether such commissions are pending or completed shall be maintained in the database.

Commission to Examine Witnesses

8. Commission to examine witness.-(i) The court may pass orders for appointment of Commissioners in order to expedite the recordal of evidence. The Court shall, at the time of appointing a Commissioner for recording evidence, give such directions as may be considered necessary for this purpose, including in relation to manner of recordal, making available judicial record, timings for recordal of evidence, manner of recordal of objections, outer time limit for conclusion of oral evidence, imposition of time limits for cross examination, fee to be paid, party who should pay the fees for the Commissioner etc. The Court while appointing a Commissioner for recordal of evidence, would consider the number of cases already pending before the said Commissioner for recordal of evidence.

Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in these Rules, the Court may, in its discretion, order recording of evidence by commission at any stage of proceedings. Such order shall be passed by the Court after hearing the parties concerned.

(ii) The Commissioner shall ordinarily not adjourn recording of evidence for a period beyond one week. Upon receipt of a request for a longer adjournment, the matter shall be forthwith placed before the Court for appropriate orders.

(iii) The Commissioner shall follow the procedure prescribed by the Code, Indian Evidence Act, 1972 and these Rules, for recording of evidence.

(iv) The Commissioner shall record all objections raised during recording of evidence and shall not delay or adjourn the recording of evidence on that ground. All such objections shall be decided by the Court at the time of the final hearing ²⁷[**or at such time as the Court considers appropriate**]

²⁷ Inserted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

(v) If the Commissioner is of the view that a party is unduly, unreasonably or unjustifiably prolonging examination/cross examination of a witness; the Commissioner shall record the same and immediately bring it to the notice of ²⁸[**Court/Registrar**] for appropriate orders.

(vi) The Commissioner shall file his reports and record of proceedings on a hearing-to-hearing basis. The Commissioner shall in his record of proceedings/ order sheet, mention the time at which the proceedings commenced; the times at which the examination-in-chief, cross examination, and re-examination, if any, respectively, commenced and concluded. In such record the Commissioner shall also mention the time at which commission proceedings closed on the said date.

(vii) The Commissioner shall obtain signatures of witness on every page of his testimony. In case of failure of witness to affix signature, the Commissioner shall make an endorsement to this effect on the statement of the witness.

(viii) Where evidence is to be recorded, the Commissioner shall, to the extent possible, make himself available for recording evidence throughout the working hours of the Court and endeavour to record evidence on a day-to-day basis, except for the reasons to be recorded in writing.

(ix) The Commissioner shall complete recording of evidence, within the time stipulated by the Court and in any case within six months from the date first fixed before him. In case the recording of evidence cannot be completed within the timeline fixed by the Court, the Commissioner shall furnish a report explaining reasons for delay and direct parties to seek appropriate orders from Court. The Court, in its discretion, upon examining the report of the Commissioner, may grant a further period within which the commission is to be completed or pass such orders as it considers appropriate.

9. Examination de bene esse.—Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules, commissions for examination of parties and/or witness *de bene esse* may be issued at any time where the Court considers it not possible for such examination to be conducted by Court.

Commissions for Accounts Etc.

10. Commissioner for taking accounts etc.—The Court may appoint a suitable person as Commissioner for taking accounts, making local investigations and effecting partition of movable/ immovable property.

11. Registrar to send necessary proceedings to Commissioner.—The Registrar shall furnish to the Commissioner with such part of the proceedings as may be necessary.

12. Commission for taking accounts how executed.—(a) The Commissioner shall fix the period within which the statements of accounts and objections thereto are to be filed by parties concerned.

(b) The statement of account shall be in the form of a debtor and creditor account and shall be verified by the party concerned or his agent. The items on each side of the account shall be numbered consecutively and a balance shall be shown.

(c) The statement of objections shall specify the items to which objections are taken by reference to their numbers in the statement of account.

(d) The statement and objections shall also state,

(i) the grounds of each objection, and

(ii) the balance, if any, admitted or claimed to be due: and it shall be verified by the affidavit of the party concerned or his agent.

(e) If any party fails to file his statement of account or objections within the period allowed, the Commissioner shall report the fact to Court.

(f) When the case before him is ready for hearing, the Commissioner shall, after reading the statements filed before him and after examining the parties, if necessary, ascertain the points on which

²⁸ The word “Court” replaced by the words “**Court/Registrar**” vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

the parties are at issue and require them to produce their oral and documentary evidence on such points.

(g) After the evidence has been duly taken and the parties have been heard, the Commissioner shall submit his report together with the entire record and a statement in the form of diary of the proceedings before him. The report shall state:

- (i) The contested items allowed or disallowed by the Commissioner;
- (ii) The reasons for allowing or disallowing the above;
- (iii) The amount found due;
- (iv) The name of the party to whom it is due; and
- (v) The name of the party by whom it is due.

13. Notice of filing of report; filing objections thereto.—(a) On receipt of the report of the Commissioner, other than the report forwarding deposition of a witness recorded by him, the Registrar shall give notice to parties to suit or matter of filing of the report.

(b) Any party desiring such report to be set aside or varied shall, unless the Registrar otherwise directs, within ten days from date of service of such notice on him, file his objections thereto and serve a copy of the same on other parties to the suit or matter. After objections have been filed as aforesaid, the suit shall be set down for hearing of such objections. If any party, after having filed objections, abandons or does not proceed with them, any other party having the same interest, shall be at liberty to proceed with such objections.

(c) Notwithstanding anything elsewhere provided in these Rules, the pendency of any objection to reports furnished by the Commissioner shall not delay the progress of the trial.

14. Foreign Commissions.—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter, Commissions and Letters of Request for examination of witnesses in foreign countries, will be governed by directions issued by the appropriate authorities from time to time.

CHAPTER XIII ADJOURNMENTS

1. Adjournments to be to a day certain.—All adjournments shall be to a day certain. No suit or matter shall be adjourned *sine die* except for reasons recorded in writing. No adjournment shall be granted except on good cause and in exceptional and unavoidable circumstances. Consent of parties by itself shall not be a good cause for seeking adjournment. An adjournment shall be on such terms as ordered by the Court/ Registrar, including imposition of exemplary costs as provided in Chapter XXIII of these Rules.

CHAPTER XIV COMPROMISE IN PAUPER SUITS, HEARING IN FINAL MATTERS, PRONOUNCEMENT OF ORDERS, JUDGMENTS AND DRAWING OF DECREES

1. No compromise without leave of Court in pauper suits.—Where a plaintiff has been permitted to sue *in forma pauperis*, the suit shall not be compromised without leave of the Court.

2. Hearing in final matters.—(a) All final arguments matters shall be paginated by the Registry at least one week before they are listed before Court as a final matter.

(b) It will be duty of Advocates for parties to exchange, at least one week before the date fixed for final arguments, their respective list of judicial precedents to which they are likely to refer.

(c) Advocates for parties shall, at least two days before the date fixed for final arguments, submit a short synopsis, running into, as far as possible, not more than five pages, arranged issue wise, giving the details of oral and documentary evidence relied upon, to prove issues giving reference to relevant pages. In addition, they shall also file compilation of judgments with an index on each point of law that they wish to submit before Court.

3. Recording of time during final hearing.-At the hearing of a suit or other original proceedings in Court, the Court Master shall make a note of the times at which each hearing commenced and terminated respectively on each day on which it was heard. The same shall be recorded as part of the record of proceedings for the day.

4. Written judgment of one or more Judges how pronounced.—(1) Judgments may be either oral or written;

(2) When the Court delivers an oral judgment, it shall be taken down by the shorthand-writer. A transcript shall then be prepared for correction by the Judge or Judges who delivered the judgment. A fair copy of the transcript so corrected shall be signed by the Judge or Judges and dated with the date of delivery and shall be the record of the judgment.

5. When any suit or matter is heard by two or more Judges—

(i) If they have agreed to a written judgment and signed it, one of them may pronounce the judgment in the absence of the other or others;

(ii) if any one or more of them have written separate judgments, one of them may pronounce the judgments written and signed by the other or others in his or their absence.

6. Findings of Court to be read out.-Where a written judgment is to be pronounced, it shall be sufficient if findings of Court on each issue and the final order passed in the case are read out. It shall not be necessary for Court to read out the whole judgment. However, a copy of the whole judgment shall be made available for perusal of parties or their pleaders immediately after the judgment is pronounced.

7. Payment of costs - a condition precedent for bringing a fresh suit.—When a suit is allowed to be withdrawn, with liberty to bring a fresh suit in respect of the same subject-matter, then, unless the Court otherwise directs, a decree shall be drawn up, so as to make payment of costs of the suit, a condition precedent to the plaintiff bringing a fresh suit.

8. Settling of draft of decree.—(i)Where the Registrar considers it necessary that the draft of any decree or other should be settled in presence of parties, or where parties require it to be settled in their presence, the Registrar shall, by notice in writing, appoint a time for settling the same and parties shall attend the appointment and produce their briefs and such other documents as may be necessary to enable the draft to be settled.

(ii) Where any party is dissatisfied with the decree or order, as settled by the Registrar, the Registrar shall not proceed to complete the decree or order without allowing that party sufficient time to apply, by motion to the Court.

9. Copies of decrees to Collector in case of pauper costs.—The Registrar shall cause copies of decrees to be prepared without delay for communication to the Collector, in cases in which pauper costs are recoverable by the Government.

10. Errors how rectified after decree sealed.—After a decree or order has been signed, any application to rectify any inaccuracy, other than a clerical or arithmetical error and to make it in accordance with the judgment, shall be made to the Judge who passed the decree or order, or in the event of his absence, to any other Judge, and the Judge may, after notice to parties, when he deems it necessary, amend the same so as to bring it into conformity with the judgment, or rectify such inaccuracy or error. Save as aforesaid, no alternation or variation shall be made without a review of judgment, and re-hearing under the provisions of Section 114 and Order XLVII of the Code.

CHAPTER XV SUITS BY OR AGAINST MINORS AND PERSONS OF UN SOUND MIND

1. Admission of next friend to bring a suit.—When a suit is brought on behalf of a minor, the next friend shall, in addition to complying with other applicable provisions of these Rules and the Code, make an affidavit, to be presented with the plaint in the suit, that he has no interest directly or

indirectly adverse to that of the minor, and that he is otherwise a fit and proper person to act as such next friend. The age of the minor shall also be stated. No formal appointment of the person instituting the suit as next friend need be made.

2. Next friend to file address for service.—(a) The next friend shall provide particulars for address as stipulated in Rule 3 of Chapter III of these Rules

(b) If the next friend fails to comply with the above while filing the suit, or within the time granted by the Registrar, the plaint shall not be admitted.

3. List of all likely guardians *ad litem* to be filed.—(a) In suits, where the defendant is a minor, the plaintiff shall file with the plaint, a list of relatives and all other persons, with their correct addresses, who *prima facie* are most likely to be capable of acting as guardian for the minor defendant in the suit.

(b) ²⁹[**A notice shall be issued simultaneously to all such persons. Such persons shall be deemed to be unwilling to act as guardian *ad litem*, if, after service of notice, they fail to appear on date fixed.**]

(c) If the persons specified in the list filed under sub-Rule (a) of this Rule 3 are unwilling to act as guardian *ad litem*, the Registrar may, if there be more defendants than one, and their interests are not adverse to that of the minor, appoint one of such defendants, who may be willing to act as guardian *ad litem*; or may appoint, forthwith, one of the officers of the Court as such guardian *ad litem*.

4. Address for service of guardian *ad litem*.—Every guardian *ad litem* of a defendant, other than an officer of the Court, shall, *within seven days* of the order of his appointment as such or within such further time as the Registrar may allow, file in Court, particulars as provided in Rule 3 of Chapter III of these Rules. Failure on his part to do so may be deemed sufficient ground for removing him under Order XXXII rule 11 of the Code.

5. Application of Rules 1 to 4 to persons of unsound mind and to appeals and applications.—The provisions contained in this Chapter, so far as they may be applicable, apply *mutatis mutandis* to persons adjudged to be of unsound mind and to persons who, though not so adjudged, are found by Court on enquiry to be incapable of protecting their interests, when suing or being sued by reason of unsoundness of mind or mental infirmity. These provisions shall apply to appeals and applications connected therewith.

CHAPTER XVI SUMMARY SUITS

1. Summary Suits.—Order XXXVII of the Code, as in force from time to time, shall apply to suits filed under this Chapter, even where the suit is registered as a Commercial Suit.

CHAPTER XVII COMMERCIAL SUITS

1.³⁰[**Commercial Suits.**— In exercise of powers conferred under Section 18 of the Commercial Courts Act, the Court has issued Practice Directions in addition to these Rules to supplement the provisions of Chapter II of the Commercial Courts Act or the Code, in so far as such provisions apply to hearing of commercial disputes of a specified value. The ‘Practice Directions under Section 18 of The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015’ are annexed hereto as Annexure E.]

²⁹ Rule 3(b) substituted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

³⁰ Rule 1 substituted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

CHAPTER XVIII DATES AND CAUSE LISTS

1. Cause lists.— The cause list shall be prepared under the directions of the Registrar General and signed by him. The cause list of the Court would comprise of the categories of cases as follows:

- a. Supplementary matters (fresh matters and fresh applications)
- b. Short matters including Case Management hearings
- c. Short cause matters
- d. Final matters

The Court shall have the discretion to direct listing of any matter in any category.

2. Hearing of matters.—Supplementary matters shall be taken up from 10.30am onwards followed by short matters including case management hearings. Short cause matters shall be taken up thereafter. All matters in which arguments are required to be heard, shall be part of the short cause matters. The Court shall fix actual dates in all these matters except that the Registrar can fix the cases before the Court in Short Matters. Where the actual dates of hearing are yet to be fixed in the cases, the Registrar shall fix the said matters as Short Matters before the Court for fixing the actual dates of hearing.

³¹[**Cases which are coming up for hearing after evidence shall be listed in the category of Finals.**]

3. Short cause matter shall include -

- (i) *Ex-parte* suits;
- (ii) Undefended suits;
- (iii) Suits to which Chapter XVI, applies including summary suits, cases where preliminary issues are to be decided, summary proceedings in commercial matters;
- (iv) Mortgage suits, rent suits on bonds or acknowledgement;
- (v) Objection to Commissioner's report;
- (vi) Such other suits or matters as may, by special order of the Court, be directed to be tried as short causes.

4. Time slots.—The Court may, by order, fix the time allotted for hearing short cause and other matters in accordance with its cause list and as considered appropriate by the Court. The Court may in its discretion, considering the nature of the case, pass such orders as it deems fit and appropriate for speedy and expeditious disposal of the case; cutting short the litigation and taking such steps in this behalf.

5. Final Matters.—The Court may, from time to time, issue any direction reserving specific days or time for hearing Final matters. The Court/ Registrar may order listing of matter in Final as it considers fit and appropriate.

6. Record to be maintained.—For facility of fixation of causes in the Court, bound registers or e-record will be maintained by the Court Masters incorporating the above said classification and the actual dates fixed.

7. Format.—A format, as given below, so far applicable, will be filed by the plaintiff in new matters, and in pending matters the format will be filed by both the parties. Thereafter, the format will be filled in and completed by the Court Masters as and when new applications are filed and disposed of.

³¹ The last sentence of Rule 2 i.e. “Cases in which evidence is to be recorded shall be listed in the category of Long Cause and those coming up for hearing after evidence shall be listed in the category of Finals.” replaced vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
SUIT/PETITION/O.M.P./AA NO.....OF**

.....Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s)

v.

.....Defendant(s)/Respondent(s)

Nature of the matter:

.....

Status invoked:

.....

ADVOCATES

.....
Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s) Defendant(s)/Respondent(s)

INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATIONS (IAs)

S. No.	No. & Yr.	Filed by Plaintiff/ Defendant	Provisions of Law	Nature of Relief Sought	Remarks

CHAPTER XIX AFFIDAVITS

1. Proof of facts by affidavits.—The Court may, at any time for sufficient reasons, order that any particular fact or facts be proved by affidavit, or that the affidavit of any witness be read at the hearing, on such conditions as the Court thinks reasonable:

Provided that where it appears to the Court that either party *bona fide* desires that production of a witness for cross-examination and that such witness can be produced, an order shall not be made authorizing the evidence of such witness to be given by affidavit.

2. Evidence by affidavit.—The Court may upon any application of either party showing sufficient cause, order attendance, for cross-examination of the deponent, and such attendance shall be in Court, unless the deponent is exempted from personal appearance in Court or the Court otherwise directs. Affidavits by way of evidence shall not merely reproduce pleadings and documents already filed.

3. Title.—Every affidavit shall be instituted in the cause, appeal or matter in which it is sworn.

4. Form.—Every affidavit shall be drawn up in the first person, and shall be divided into paragraphs to be numbered consecutively, and shall state the description, occupation if any, and the true place of abode of the deponent.

5. Contents of affidavit.—Affidavits shall be confined to such facts as the deponent is able, of his own knowledge to prove, except on interlocutory applications, on which statements of his belief may be admitted, provided that the grounds thereof are stated.

6. Interpretation of affidavits.—An affidavit requiring interpretation to the deponent, unless interpreted by any of the persons mentioned in Rule 7, shall be interpreted by an interpreter, nominated or approved by the Court, if made within the jurisdiction of the Court, and if made elsewhere, shall be interpreted by a competent person who shall certify that he has correctly interpreted the affidavit to the deponent.

7. Before whom affidavits are to be sworn.— (a) Affidavits for the purposes of any cause appeal or matter may be sworn before a Notary or any authority mentioned in Section 139 of the Code or before the Court/ Registrar, or before the Commissioner generally or specially authorized in that behalf by Court. The authority attesting any such affidavit shall, wherever the person is known to him, append a certificate to that effect on the affidavit, and where the person affirming the affidavit is not known to the authority concerned, the certificate shall state the name of the person by whom the person affirming the affidavit has been identified.

(b) Wherever an affidavit is affirmed by an illiterate person, or a person not conversant with English language, the authority concerned shall, before attesting the same, translate and interpret the contents of the affidavit to the person affirming the same, and certify the said fact separately under his signature.

(c) Affidavits signed outside India, shall be signed and apostilled in accordance with the provisions of the 'Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents, 1961'

8. Pardahnashin women.—Where the deponent is a Pardahnashin woman, unless she is known to the person attesting the affidavit, she shall be identified by a person to whom she is known, and that person shall also prove the identification by a separate affidavit.

9. Marking, dating and initiating on exhibits.—Every exhibit annexed to an affidavit shall be marked, initialed and dated by the authority before which it is sworn.

CHAPTER XX RECEIVERS

1. Application for appointment of Receiver to be by petition supported by affidavits.—(i) Every application for the appointment of a receiver shall be made in writing and shall be supported by an affidavit.

(ii) No Judicial Officer shall be appointed as a Receiver in any proceedings in Court.

(iii) A copy of the order of appointment shall be sent to the Receiver.

2. Database of Receiver(s).— The name(s) of persons appointed as Receivers together with details of cases in which they have been appointed; their dates of appointment(s); schedule of fee ordered to be paid and received by the Receiver(s) shall be maintained in the database.

3. Receiver other than official Receiver to give security.— (a) Where an order is made directing a Receiver to be appointed, the person appointed, if not the Official Receiver, shall, unless otherwise ordered, first give security to the satisfaction of the Registrar for the due performance of his duties as receiver. Unless the Court otherwise orders, the Registrar shall take the personal bond of the receiver with such number of sureties as he may consider necessary. The amount of the bond shall be double the annual rental of the immovable property, or the value of the movable property which is likely to come into the hands of the receiver. Such annual rental or value shall be estimated after notice to the parties and the receiver and in case of disagreement the matter shall be placed before a Judge in Chambers for orders.

(b) The sureties shall leave with the Registrar, an address within the jurisdiction of the Court for service of any notice on them.

4. Surety may point out omission or neglect of duty cast on receiver.—If the security mentioned in Rule 3, be furnished by the receiver by his executing a bond with a surety or sureties (including in the latter term, a guarantee Company or society), the surety or sureties shall be entitled, by an application to bring to the notice of the Court any act, omission or neglect of any duty cast on the receiver by law or any other circumstance, which would entitle the surety or sureties to be discharged from the obligation created by such bond and the Court may thereupon make such order and on such terms as it may think fit.

5. Receiver to submit report.—Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the Receiver shall, within one week of the appointment, submit to the Court a detailed report regarding the property with an inventory of the property, account books, etc. taken charge of documents by him.

6. Directions for investment of monies in the hands of the Receiver.—Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the Registrar shall, in consultation with the parties, give appropriate directions for the investment of all monies received by a Receiver. Ordinarily such monies shall be deposited in a Scheduled Bank or invested in Government securities.

7. Notice to surety of application effecting surety's risk.—The surety or sureties mentioned in Rule 4, shall be entitled to notice of any application to the Court, on the part of the receiver, or any other party interested relating to any property in the management or under the control of the receiver which may affect the risk undertaken by the surety or sureties under the security bond furnished by the

receiver and the Court upon hearing the said surety or sureties may make such order as to his or their cost of appearance in such application as it may think fit.

8. Powers of Receiver.—In the absence of any order in that behalf every receiver of immovable property shall have all the powers specified in Order XL, rule (d) of the Code, except that he shall not without the leave of the Court—

- (a) grant lease, or
- (b) bring suits, except suits for rent, or
- (c) institute an appeal in any Court (except from a decree in a rent suit) where the value of the appeal is over Rs.1,00,000/-; or
- (d) expend on the repairs of any property in any period of two years more than one-fourth of the annual rental of the property to be repaired, such rental being calculated at the amount at which the property to be repaired could be let out within fair state of repairs.

9. Receivers' remuneration.—The scale of remuneration of the Receiver shall, unless otherwise ordered by the Court in a particular case, be as under—

- (1) on
 - (a) rents recovered,
 - (b) outstanding recovered except as provided in item (2) below, and
 - (c) value realized on the sale of movable and immovable properties calculated on any one estate:
 - (i) On First Rs.10,000/- 5 p.c.
 - (ii) Above Rs.10,000/- up to Rs.20,000/- 3 p.c.
 - (iii) Above Rs.20,000/- up to Rs.50,000/- 2 p.c.
 - (iv) Above Rs.50,000/- up to Rs.1,00,000/- 1 p.c.
 - (v) Above Rs.1,00,000/- ½ p.c.
- (2) On outstanding recovered from a Bank or from a public servant without filing a suit—
 - (i) Up to Rs.1,00,000/- 1 p.c.
 - (ii) On any further sum exceeding Rs.1,00,000/- ½ p.c.
- (3) For taking charge of movable property which is not sold on debentures, debenture-stock or other securities which are not sold on the estimated value 1 p.c.
- (4) For taking custody of moneys 1 p.c.
- (5) For taking custody of Government securities of stocks, shares, the estimated value 1 p.c.
- (6) For any work, not provided for above, such remuneration as the Court on the application of the receiver shall think reasonable.

Whenever the properties are in charge of an official Receiver the above fees shall be credited to Government revenue.

10. Establishment and costs therefore to be detailed in the appointment order.—The establishment, clerical or otherwise, required by a Receiver, if any, and the cost thereof, chargeable to the state or property of which he is appointed Receiver shall, as far as possible, be detailed in the order of appointments or in subsequent order.

11. No charge for additional establishment allowed.—Unless otherwise ordered, no charge for establishment shall be allowed to the receiver.

12. Receiver to file half-yearly accounts.—(i) Every Receiver shall, unless otherwise ordered file his half-yearly account in Court, the first of such accounts to be filed within one month after the expiration of six months from the date of his appointment, and every subsequent account within one month after the expiration of each succeeding period of six months, or in a case where the purpose for which the Receiver was appointed has been carried out or completed before the expiry of six months from the date of appointment, within one month from the date of such carrying out or completion.

(ii) Every such account shall show the balance in hand, and if so what portion thereof is required for the purpose of the estate and how much may be paid into Court or invested, and shall be verified by an affidavit.

13. Examining and vouching of accounts by Registrar.—Every such account, before being submitted to the Court, shall be examined and verified by the Registrar, who may for this purpose require the attendance of the Receiver or his explanation or his evidence upon oath or affirmation or the production of any document by him and receive within such time as he may appoint and decide objections to the account and shall embody the result of his examination in a report.

14. Appointment of date for passing accounts—Notice thereof.—After the Registrar shall have submitted his report to the Court under Rule 13, he shall obtain a date from the Court for passing such accounts, or which date notice shall be given to the person interested including the sureties and to the receiver.

15. Objection to report to be filed.—Objection, if any to the report shall be filed in Court, one week before the day fixed for the passing of the accounts or within such further time as may be allowed by the Court. They shall specify, in a concise form, the nature of the objection and shall be signed and verified.

16. Passing of accounts by Court.—Where no objections are filed, the Court shall, if otherwise satisfied, pass such accounts. Where objections have been filed, the Court shall, subject to Rule 18, after hearing the objections, make such order as it may think proper.

17. Procedure of hearing of objections.—The Court may, from time to time, adjourn the hearing of any objections or may refer them to an officer of the Court or to any other person, with such directions as the Court may deem fit.

18. Auditing of difficult and complicated accounts.—In any case where the accounts are difficult and complicated, Court may order such accounts to be audited at the expense of the estate by a Chartered Accountant.

19. Order as to payment of balance.—The Court, on the passing of the Accounts, may make such order as to the payment of the balance, or any part thereof, either into Court or in such other manner as may seem proper.

20. Consequence of Receiver's negligence to file accounts or pay the balance etc.—Where any Receiver neglects to file his accounts, or to pass the same or to pay the balance or any part thereof as ordered the matter shall be reported by the Registrar to Court, and the Court may, from time to time, when the accounts of such Receiver are produced to be examined and passed, not only disallow, the remuneration therein claimed by such Receiver but also charge him with interest not exceeding nine per cent per annum upon the balance, if any, so neglected to be paid by him during the time such balance shall appear to remain in the hands of such Receiver.

21. Consequence or default by Receiver.—Where any Receiver fails to file any account or affidavit or to make any payment or commits any other default, the Receiver or persons interested or any of them, may be required by notice to attend before the Court to show cause why such account or affidavit has not been filed or such payment made or any other proper proceeding taken and thereupon the Court may give such directions as may be proper, including the discharge of the Receiver and appointment of another and also the payment of costs by the defaulter.

22. Rule 8 applicable to manager or guardian.—Subject to the order of the Court, Rule 8 shall apply to a guardian of the person or estate of a minor and the manager of the estate of a lunatic appointed by the Court.

23. Interim Receiver.—Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the provisions of this Chapter shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to orders for appointment of interim receivers.

Chapter XXI

SECURITY PROCEDURE

1. Security Summons.—(a) Subject to any directions given by the Court, where security is ordered to be given to the satisfaction of the Registrar the party ordered to give security shall take out summons within 14 days of the date of the order and shall serve the same upon the opposite party.

(b) The summons shall state the name and address of each surety to be tendered and a full and sufficient description of the property to be given as security.

2. Affidavit to Justification.—(a) Simultaneously, every person offering himself as a surety shall make and file an affidavit of justification touching the value of his property and the debts and liabilities to which it is subject and also a draft of the bond proposed to be given. Copies of such affidavits and the draft bond will be served alongwith the summons on the opposite party.

(b) Affidavits of justification shall be deemed insufficient unless they state that each person justifying is worth the amount required, over and above what will pay his just debts and over and above every other sum for which he is then surety.

3. Time for inquiry.—Unless time be extended by the Court, the Registrar shall allow or disallow the surety within 60 days of the date of the order requiring security.

4. Production of title deeds etc. and examination.—(1) Every person offering himself as surety, shall produce before the Registrar all his title deeds, vouchers and other relevant and necessary documents on the day fixed for his examination. Such person may be examined by the Registrar on oath or solemn affirmation touching the value of his property, and the debts and liabilities to which it is subject. After being examined and allowed, he shall sign the requisite bond and shall deposit his title deeds, vouchers and such other documents as the registrar may require:

Provided that in any case the Registrar may, on good cause shown, dispense with the deposit of some or all of the said documents and may return the same to the surety with an endorsement thereon as follows:

To Whomsoever it May Concern

Take notice that the property to which this document relates stands charged for the payment of a sum of Rs.....by a bond executed on.....day of (month), (year)by.....in suit No.....oftitledvpending in the High Court of Delhi.

(2) The endorsement referred to in the proviso to sub-Rule (1) shall be cancelled by the Registrar when the surety is or stands discharged.

5. Property in respect of which surety may justify.—The title deeds may relate to immovable property situated beyond the local limits of the ordinary jurisdiction of the Court, but shall in all cases be in the name of the proposed surety. A surety may justify also in respect of movable property of which he can produce evidence satisfactory to the Registrar, such as, deposit receipts, Government Promissory Notes, or other evidence of title.

6. More than two sureties irregular.—A tender of notice of more than two sureties shall not be accepted except by order of the Court.

7. Who may be present at the examination.—Except with the specific permission of the Registrar, no person other than the party giving security, the sureties and their respective Advocates, the party or parties, if any, on whom notice has been served and his or their Advocate or Advocates, shall be present at the examination of any surety by the Registrar.

8. Who are not competent sureties.—Unless the Court otherwise orders, an Advocate practicing within the limits of the jurisdiction of the Court, a clerk of such Advocate or an officer of the Court, shall not be accepted as a surety.

9. Security for costs.—If a party is required to give security for costs, unless the Court otherwise orders, the penal sum in the bond shall not be less than twenty five thousand rupees.

10. Custody of securities and security bonds.—All papers and records relating to the taking of security, including securities and security bonds, shall be kept by the Registrar in safe custody in his safe in the strong room after making an appropriate entry in a register to be maintained by him for the purpose.

CHAPTER XXII COURT DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

1. Payment of money.—(a) The Registrar and subject to his directions, any other officer of the Court shall receive all monies paid into the Court and shall pay out all monies duly ordered to be paid out of Court. All money received in Court shall be kept in fixed deposit for a reasonable period, subject to the orders which may be passed by the Court.

(b) Money may be paid or deposited in Court by postal money order. In that case, the person making the payment shall send to the Registrar a statement containing full particulars regarding the intended payment or deposit.

2. Notice of payment or deposit to decree-holder or Collector.—(a) A person paying money into or depositing property in the Court in part or full satisfaction of a decree or order shall give notice through the Court of such payment or deposit to the decree-holder.

(b) Where the decree directs payment of Court-fees to Government under Order 33, rule 10 of the Code, no order shall be made on the application for payment of such money or delivery of such property without giving notice thereof to the Collector at the expense of the applicant.

3. Delivery of securities jewelry or other valuables into Court.—When jewelry or other valuables are brought into Court, three copies of a descriptive list thereof shall be presented and shall be checked and signed by the Registrar in the presence of the depositor. The jewelry or other valuables shall be placed in a box furnished with a lock and key to be provided by the Depositor. A copy of the list shall be kept in the box and the box shall then be locked and sealed with the Seal of the Court. One copy of the list shall be given to the depositor and the third copy of the said list and the key of the box shall be retained by the Registrar. The box shall thereafter be kept in safe custody by the Registrar or in such other custody as the Court may direct.

4. Application for payment of money etc.—Every application for payment of money or delivery of property deposited in Court, shall be instituted in the suit or matter and shall also show the number of the execution application, if any, pending, showing the right and interest of the party applying and the amount claimed.

5. Applications to be checked.—Applications to make or receive payments shall be duly checked by reference to the record of the suit or matter before submission for orders to the Registrar.

6. Payment by money order, bank draft, etc.—On the application of the decree-holder or other person entitled to any money deposited in Court and not expended for the purpose for which it was deposited, if there is no objection to the payment of money on the ground of attachment or otherwise, the Registrar may order that the amount, after making all necessary and lawful deductions, be sent to the applicant at his risk.

(i) By money order, or

(ii) By bank draft by registered post acknowledgement due; or

(iii) In any other manner specified by the applicant, which the Registrar approves:

Provided that before payment is ordered to be made under clause (ii) or (iii), the applicant shall submit a duly stamped receipt for the amount due in the form given below:—

FORM OF RECEIPT

Received the sum of Rs..... (Rupees.....only) from the High Court of Delhi bearing the amount deposited in the said Court in (particulars of case) connection with (diet money/decreed/costs etc.).

Dated (Stamp)

(Signature of the payee)

7. Written authority of client requisite for payment for Advocate.—Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, no payment in excess of Rs.1,000/- shall be made to an Advocate on behalf of his client unless specifically directed by court and without special authorization in that behalf by the client in favour of the Advocate.

8. Account books to be kept.—The following account books shall be kept in hard copy or electronic form:

- (a) Book of receipts for money paid into Court.
- (b) Process-fee receipt book.
- (c) Register of deposit receipts, viz., register of sums received in Court in connection with suits or judicial proceedings and deposited with Government (to be kept in duplicate).
- (d) Register of deposit payments, viz., register, of payments from sums received into Court in connection with suits or judicial proceedings and deposited with Government (to be kept in duplicate).
- (e) Files of applications for refund of lapsed deposits and of statements of lapsed Civil Courts deposits.
- (f) Register of attached property.
- (g) Register of money received on account of subsistence money of civil prisoners, expenses of witnesses and miscellaneous petty items required for immediate disbursement.
- (h) Register of payments on account of subsistence money of civil prisoners, expenses of witnesses and miscellaneous petty items required for immediate disbursement.
- (i) Cash Book.
- (j) Ledger.
- (k) Bank of Treasury pass book.
- (l) Bank of Treasury cheque/voucher book.
- (m) Register of receipts and of withdrawal of property left in the custody of the Registrar.
- (n) Such other registers as may be directed by the Chief Justice to be kept.

9. Signing of cheques and checking of accounts.—The Registrar or such other officer, as may be specifically authorized by the Chief Justice in that behalf, is authorized to sign cheques. He shall, at least once a month, call for the registers and accounts and satisfy himself that the entries have been carefully and properly made. When such inspection is made, he should note the fact in his own hand on the register or account inspected.

10. Notice to other party.—At the time of depositing any amount/ security/ property, the party making the deposit shall intimate to the other party all particular details of the deposit including the amount so being deposited.

CHAPTER XXIII COSTS & TAXATION OF COSTS

1. Power of Court/ Registrar General/ Registrar to impose cost.—(i) If the Court considers any party abusing the process of Court or in any manner considered dilatory, vexatious, mala fide and abuse of process by them, the Court shall require the delinquent party to make deposit / payment upfront, in the manner directed by Court of such costs as the Court deems appropriate, before

proceeding further in the matter. For the purpose of this Chapter, the expression “Court” shall mean and include the Court, the Registrar General and the Registrar, as the case may be.

(ii) In addition to exercise of powers under Rule 1(i) above, the Court may impose suitable costs upon any party at any stage of the proceedings, including at the stage of filing any interlocutory application; framing of issues; determining order and conduct of recording evidence etc., if it considers imposition of such costs just, necessary and proper, according to the proceedings in the matter.

(iii) While determining costs, the Court may also take into consideration factors, such as, inconvenience caused to parties/ witnesses/ other persons connected with the proceedings; previous conduct of parties; the stage at which the offending conduct is committed by the delinquent party; the probability and likelihood of success of vexatious efforts of the delinquent party; the relevancy of number and nature of witnesses; questions (*including depositions by way of examination-in-chief*) put to the witnesses and such other conduct as the Court considers inappropriate.

(iv) Failure of the said party in making payment/ deposit of costs may result in all consequences provided in the Code for defaults and adverse orders being passed against the said party, as the Court deems appropriate and proper, besides enabling the other party to file execution proceedings against the delinquent party for recovery of said costs.

2. Imposition of actual costs.—In addition to imposition of costs, as provided in Rule 1 of this Chapter, the Court shall award costs guided by and upto actual costs as borne by the parties, even if the same has not been quantified by parties, at the time of decreeing or dismissing the suit. In this behalf the Court will take into consideration all relevant factors including (but not restricted) the actual fees paid to the Advocates/ Senior Advocates; actual expenses for publication, citation etc.; actual costs incurred in prosecution and conduct of suit including but not limited to costs and expenses incurred for attending proceedings, procuring attendance of witnesses, experts etc.; execution of commissions; ³²[**whether any reasonable offer to settle is made by a party and unreasonably refused by the other party, denial of documents due to frivolous reasons at the stage of admission / denial**] and all other legitimate expenses incurred by the party, which the Court orders to be paid to any party.

In addition to imposition of costs as above, the Court may also pass a decree for costs as provided in Sections 35-A and 35-B of the Code or under any applicable law.

3. Taxing Officer.—The Registrar or such other officer, as the Chief Justice may appoint for the purpose, shall be the Taxing Officer of the Court.

4. Time for filing Bill of costs.—(a) Parties shall file their respective Bill of costs at the following stages:—

- (i) at the stage of framing of issues;
- (ii) at the stage of the defendant being proceeded ex-parte or where the defendant has stopped appearing;
- (iii) at the stage of conclusion of evidence of the parties; and
- (iv) at the stage of delivery of judgment or final order.
- (v) additionally, each party may be required to file composite Bill of costs not later than fifteen days from the date on which the judgment is delivered or order is passed, or within such time as the Taxing Officer may allow.

(b) Notwithstanding Rule 4(a) of this Chapter, the Court may award costs at all or any stage of the case, as the facts and circumstances may warrant.

5. Contents of the Bill of costs.—The Bill of costs shall, inter-alia, set out:—

- (a) court fee
- (b) process fee spent;

³² Added vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

- (c) expenses of witnesses, including the actual reasonable expenses incurred on travel, boarding and lodging, if any, and other incidental expenses;
- (d) Advocate's fee including the fee of a Senior Advocate, if any;
- (e) expenses of typing, photocopying and expenses incurred for sending summons by Registered post, speed post, courier, fax, electronic mail service and by such other modes as may have been directed by Court.
- (f) such other amounts as may be allowable under these Rules or as may be ordered by the Court as costs taking into account:—
 - (i) judicial time consumed in litigation;
 - (ii) delay in service of summons or efforts made in serving summons on the defendant, as the case may be;
 - (iii) delay caused by any of the parties by raising frivolous issues or unnecessary objections during the proceedings or during recording of evidence;
 - (iv) failure of a party to effect discovery of documents or its refusal to answer interrogatories;
 - (v) incorrect denial of facts/ documents, thus, protracting trial;
 - (vi) monetary and other stakes involved in the proceedings;
 - (vii) costs incurred on execution of commission; and
 - (viii) any other cost which Court may deem fit and proper.

6. Evidence for Bill of Cost.—Documentary evidence, if any, in support of payments made shall accompany Bill of costs. If any party raises any objections to the Bill of costs/documents so filed, costs shall then be determined by Court.

7. When an Advocate appears for different parties in the same matter.—Where an Advocate appears for different parties in the same suit or matter, only one set of fees shall be allowed.

8. Review of taxation only on notice to opposite side.—No application for review of taxation, (*unless taxation was ex parte*), shall be made, except on notice to the opposite side.

9. No review of taxation of costs, if Bill of costs not filed.—Subject to any orders passed by Court, if Bill of costs is not filed within time allowed, under Rule 4 of this Chapter, the Taxing Officer shall compute costs in accordance with these Rules. No application for review of taxation shall be allowed, unless made before the decree is signed.

10. Costs after taxation.—The Court may allow, after preparation and signing of decree, only such costs as it deems fit and appropriate incurred by a party for effecting transmission of the decree to another court. In addition, the Court executing the decree/ the executing court may also award costs of execution as it considers fit and appropriate, in accordance with these Rules/ rules applicable to the executing court.

11. Meaning of proportionate costs.—Where '*proportionate costs*' or '*costs in proportion*' are allowed, such costs shall bear the same proportion to the total costs, as the successful part of the claim bears to the total claim.

12. Costs against multiple plaintiffs/defendants.— Court to order proportion in which payable, time period for payment and mode of recovery.

13. Application to Court for review of taxation.—Any party, who may be dissatisfied with the decision of the Taxing Officer as to any item or part of any item, may, not later than fifteen days from the date of the decision, or within such further time as the Court may allow, apply to the Court for an order to review taxation as to the said item or part of any item, and the Court may thereupon, after notice to the other side, if necessary, make such order as seems to it just. Subject to the above, taxation by the Taxing Officer shall be final and conclusive as to all matters.

14. Hearing of application under Rule 13.—An application under Rule 13 of this Chapter, shall be heard and determined by Court upon the evidence and material provided to the Taxing Officer and no further evidence or material shall be received by Court, unless otherwise ordered.

**CHAPTER XXIV
PROCEEDINGS IN EXECUTION**

1. Interpretation.—In this Chapter the word “decree” includes order.

Application for Transmission

2. Transmission of decree for execution.—(a) An application for transmission of a decree to another Court for execution shall be in the form prescribed and shall specify the Court to which the transmission of the decree is sought and whether the decree has already been satisfied in part and if so, to what extent. The same shall be supported by an affidavit. It shall also be accompanied by a certified copy of the decree or an application for the same.

(b) The Registrar shall transmit by registered post, at the cost of the applicant, the certified copy of the decree together with the other documents mentioned in Order XXI rule 6 of the Code, to the Court to which the transmission is sought in accordance with the provisions of rules 4 and 5 of Order XXI of the Code.

Application for Execution

3. Application under Order XXI rule 15 of the Code to be supported by affidavit.—An application under Order XXI rule 15 of the Code shall be in the prescribed form and supported by an affidavit. The Rules of payment of one time process fee as applicable to a plaintiff/defendant shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to execution proceedings.

4. Checking and admission of execution petition.—Applications for execution shall ordinarily be checked in accordance with these Rules.

5. Procedure in execution application under Order XXI rule 15 of the Code.—When an application is made by one or more of several joint decree-holders, unless a written authority signed by the other decree-holders for the applicant to execute the decree and to receive the money or property recovered is filed in Court, the Court or the Registrar, may give notice of the order, if any, passed for the execution of the decree to all the decree-holders who have not jointed in the application and may also give notice of any application for payment or delivery to the applicant of any money or property recovered in execution.

6. Procedure when cause not shown.—When execution is for arrest of a judgment debtor and the judgment-debtor does not appear on the day of hearing fixed under the notice issued or on such other day to which the hearing thereof is postponed, the notice and the affidavit of service thereof shall be filed and the Registrar, shall thereafter, place the matter before the Court for orders.

7. Registrar not to issue execution simultaneously against person and property.—Execution shall not be issued against the property of a judgment-debtor at once with the issue of execution against his person. But a decree-holder desiring to proceed against both simultaneously, shall apply to the Court and in case of such application being refused, shall not be allowed to include the costs thereof, in his costs as against the judgment-debtor without the special order of the Court. Where a warrant for the arrest has not been executed, a warrant for attachment may, at the request of the decree-holder, be issued.

8. Application for appointment of Receiver in execution of decree.—An application for the execution of a decree by the appointment of a Receiver under Section 51 and Order XI, rule 1 of the Code to realize or otherwise deal with property under attachment shall be made to the Court, and such receiver shall, unless otherwise ordered, be subject to the rules of the Court, applicable to persons appointed as receivers of property in a suit.

MODE OF EXECUTION

Execution of Documents

9. Copies of draft to be filed.—The decree-holder shall file two copies of the draft referred to in Order XXI rule 34(1) of the Code and two copies of the notice in the prescribed form [³³] for service thereof. One of the copies of the draft shall be served on the person directed to execute the document in the manner prescribed for service of summons on the defendant to a suit.

10. Execution of document under Order XXI, rule 34(5) of the Code.—Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, a document shall be executed or a negotiable instrument endorsed under Order XXI, rule 35(5) of the Code by the Registrar.

ARREST

11. Deposit with warrant of arrest—With every application for warrant of arrest, before or after judgment, a sum of Rs.10,000/- shall be deposited with the Registrar for the intermediate subsistence of the judgment-debtor, pursuant to Order XXI, rule 39(1) to (4) of the Code.

ATTACHMENT AND SALE

12. Application of encumbrancer to be made a party to the suit or to join in the sale.—An encumbrancer, not a party to the suit, may at any time before the sale, apply to the Court to be made a party, or for leave to join in the sale; such order shall be made thereon in protection of his right and as to costs as the Court shall deem fit.

13. Receipt of attached property to be given.—A bailiff attaching movable property shall, furnish to the judgment-debtor or other person, from whose possession the movable property is attached, a receipt in the form of a list of the said property signed by the said bailiff and take an acknowledgment to that fact on the warrant of attachment.

14. Deposit of cost for removal or maintenance of property.—Before making any order for the attachment of live-stock or other movable property, or at any time after any such order has been passed, the Court or the Registrar, may require the person at whose instance the order of attachment is sought or has been made to deposit in Court, such sum of money as the Court or the Registrar may consider necessary:

- (a) for the removal of the property to the Court premises or other appointed place and its maintenance, guarding and custody till arrival thereat;
- (b) for the maintenance, guarding and custody of the property at the Court premises or other appointed place till it is sold or otherwise disposed of; and
- (c) for the maintenance, guarding and custody of the property at the place at which it was attached or elsewhere.

In case of failure to deposit such sum within the time prescribed by the Court or Registrar, the Court or Registrar may, either, refuse to issue or may cancel the order of attachment, as the case may be.

15. Account to be rendered on demand.—An account of the expenses actually incurred shall, on demand being made on or before the date of the sale, be furnished to the attaching creditor and to the person whose property was attached. After hearing objections to the account, if any, made within three days of its receipt by a party, the amount that the Registrar finds, to be properly due shall be deducted at first charge from the proceeds of the sale of the property and paid to the attaching creditor along with any balance of the deposit made by him.

16. Restoration of attached property on payment of costs incurred.—(a) If in consequence of the cancellation of the order of attachment or for any other reason, the person whose property has been attached, becomes entitled to receive back the live-stock or other movable property attached, he shall be given a notice by the Registrar that he should take delivery of it within the time specified by the

³³ The words “together with the prescribed process fee” deleted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

Registrar on payment by him of the charges, if any, found by the Court or the Registrar to have been properly incurred and which have not been defrayed or for the defrayal of which, no money has been deposited by the attaching-creditor.

(b) If he commits default in taking delivery of the property, by failure to pay the requisite charges or otherwise the Court may order that the property be sold by public auction and that after defraying the charges referred to in sub-Rule (a), if any, and the expenses of the sale, the balance of the sale-proceeds be credited to his account.

SALE OF ATTACHED PROPERTY

17. Notice regarding sale of guns and other arms, etc., attached.—Whenever guns or other arms in respect of which licences have to be taken by purchasers under any law in force for the time being or any other articles in respect of which licences have to be taken under any law in force, are sold by public auction in execution of decrees, the Registrar shall give due notice to the District Magistrate concerned, or other appropriate officer, of the names and addresses of the purchasers and of the time and place of the intended delivery to the purchaser of such arms or other articles. No such arm or other article shall be delivered to the purchaser unless he holds a licence for the same.

18. Immediate sale of movable property.—In the case of property to be sold under the proviso to rule 43 of Order XXI of the Code, if such property, in the custody of the Registrar, he may authorize an officer of the Court to sell the same by public auction and may give such directions as to the date and time and place of sale and the manner of publishing the same as the circumstances of the particular case admit.

19. Contents of sale proclamation.—In addition to the particulars specified in Order XXI sub-rule (2) of Rule 66 of the Code, the sale proclamation shall contain a notice that only the right, title and interest of the judgment-debtor is to be sold. The title, deeds or an abstract of the judgment-debtors title, if available, will be open for inspection at the office of the Registrar.

The proclamation shall, whenever such information is available, also state in whose possession and occupation the property is and the tenancy or terms on which any person is in occupation or possession.

20. Appearance of judgment-debtor.—(a) If the judgment-debtor appears before the Registrar pursuant to the notice issued, under Order XXI rule 66(2) of the Code, the Registrar shall examine him on any matter affecting his title to the attached property. The decree-holder may also examine him on any matter relating thereto. If the judgment-debtor fails to attend, the Registrar shall proceed ex parte.

(b) The Registrar may also exercise powers under Order XXI, rule 66(4) of the Code. If any documents are produced relating to the attached property by any person, the same shall be left with the Registrar, and shall be subject to his directions both as to their custody pending the sale and their ultimate disposal, such directions being subject to appeal to the Court.

21. Publication of proclamation.—Whenever the sale of land or of a house or houses exceeding Rs.10,000/- in value or movable property exceeding Rs.10,000/- in value is ordered, the Registrar shall, with the permission of the Court, advertise such sale in a local newspaper or newspapers.

22. Copy of sale proclamation to be sent to Collector in case of sale of land.—When any land or share of land is ordered to be sold in execution of a decree, the Court shall send a copy of the proclamation of sale issued under Order XXI rule 67 of the Code to the Collector concerned.

23. Arrest on sale on holidays.—No arrest shall be effected and no sale shall be held in execution on Sundays or during holidays or vacation of the Court, except by leave of the Court or the Registrar.

24. Leave to bid and reserved price.—(a) An application for leave to bid by the decree-holder at the sale shall be supported by an affidavit giving reasons why the applicant should be permitted to bid.

(b) In cases in which the Registrar considers that the applicant should not be allowed to bid for less than a sum to be fixed, it shall be competent for the Registrar to give leave to bid at the sale only on condition that the applicant's bid shall not be less than the amount so fixed, which amount shall as far

as practicable, be determined with reference to the market value of the property or of the lot or lots into which the property is divided for sale.

25. Sale.—On the day and at the time and place appointed for the sale, the proclamation of sale shall be read out before the property is put up for sale.

26. Postponement of sale or want of sufficient bidding.—If there be no bid or the highest bid be below the reserved price (if any), or be deemed insufficient by the Registrar or other officer conducting the sale, he shall postpone the sale and record the reason for such postponement in the bidding paper.

27. Postponement of sale otherwise than under Rule 26.—The Registrar or other officer conducting the sale may for sufficient cause postpone the sale. The costs of a postponement rendered necessary by the absence of the Registrar or other officer conducting the sale shall be costs in the cause. The costs of a postponement, made at the request of the party or by reason of his conduct, shall be borne by him.

28. Bidding paper.—The name of each bidder at the sale of property shall be noted on a paper to be called “the bidding paper”, each bid shall be signed by the bidder and the amount of the bid shall be entered opposite his name. If there be no bid, the words “no bid” shall be written in the bidding paper opposite the property or, as the case may be the number of the lot. If the highest bid be deemed insufficient, the word “not sold” shall be written opposite the property or the number of the lot. If the property be sold, the highest bid shall be inserted opposite the property or the number of the lot, wherein the full name and address of the bidder be taken and his signature obtained and purchaser shall write his full name opposite such entry and shall add his address and occupation. All notices thereafter served at the address so given shall be deemed to have been duly served on the purchaser.

29. Agent to produce Authority.—A person purchasing for another as his duly authorized agent shall produce his authority in writing at the time of bidding, and sign the bidding paper as such, giving the full name, address occupation both of himself and his principal. All notices thereafter served at either of the addresses given shall be deemed to have been duly served.

30. Declaration of purchase.—If the highest bid be equal to or higher than the reserved price, if any, the Registrar or other officer conducting the sale shall make an entry in the bidding paper to the following effect.—

“I(name) declare to have been the highest bidder for the purchase of the property above set forth (or of lot No.) for the sum of Rs.....”

31. Report of sale.—Upon the completion of the sale the Registrar or other officer conducting the sale shall file in Court his report of the sale.

32. Time for confirming sale.—A sale of immovable property shall not be confirmed until after the expiration of 30 days from the date thereof.

CHAPTER XXV REVIEW

1. Review.-Where the Judge or the Judges, or any of the Judges, who passed the decree or made the order a review of which is applied for, continues or continue attached to the Court at the time when the application for a review is presented, and is not or are not precluded by absence or other cause for a period of six months after the application from considering the decree or order to which the application refers, such Judge or Judges or any of them shall hear the application, and no other Judge or Judges of the Court shall hear the same.

Provided that if the said Judge or Judges, or any one of the Judges, who passed the decree or made the order, is or are precluded by absence or other cause for a period of six months after the application from considering the decree or order to which the application refers, it shall be heard by a Bench consisting of as many Judges as the Bench whose decree or order a review is applied for. Where the Judge(s), who passed the decree or made the order, is/ are available, such judge(s) shall be members of the Bench aforesaid.

CHAPTER XXVI ELECTION PETITIONS

1. Extant Rules made by the Court regarding election petitions under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 shall stand incorporated by inclusion in these Rules.

2. The Registry shall not return election petitions to the party filing the same under any circumstances once it has been presented. The defects/ objections if any pointed out by the Registry shall be placed before the Judge for orders:

3. The following endorsements shall be made on the election petition at the time of presentation:-

Presented by Shri

Petitioner/s

in person

Accompanied by/identified by Sh.

, Advocate on (DATE) at AM/PM (TIME)

CHAPTER XXVII E-FILING

1. **E-Filing.**-‘Practice Direction(s) for Electronic Filing (E-Filing) in the High Court of Delhi’ shall stand incorporated by inclusion in these Rules and are annexed hereto as Annexure C.

CHAPTER XXVIII

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION

1. Extant rule(s), notification(s), scheme(s) and Practice Directions in relation to proceedings under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended from time to time, shall stand incorporated by inclusion in these Rules.

2. Extant rule(s), notification(s), scheme(s) and Practice Directions in relation to mediation, as contemplated under Section 89 of the Code, including Practice Directions for Mediation dated 12.03.2009 published vide Notification No.7/Rules/DHC shall stand incorporated by inclusion in these Rules, as Annexure D.

CHAPTER XXIX

TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION

1. **Application for grant of probate or letters of administration.**-No application for grant of probate or letters of administration will be received by the Registry, except where the Administrator General is the applicant, unless: —

(i) it is accompanied by an affidavit of valuation as required by Section 19-1 of the Court Fees Act, 1870, prepared strictly in the form set forth in the Third Schedule thereof; and

(ii) is also accompanied by an affidavit of proof or certificate of death.

2. **Verification.**-An application for probate shall be verified by at least one of the witnesses to the will, when procurable, in the form set forth in Section 281 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, and the affidavit of such witness shall also be filed. If no affidavit by any of the attesting witnesses is

procurable, evidence on affidavit must be produced of that fact and of the handwritings and/ or any circumstances which may raise a presumption in favour of due execution of the will.

3. Memo of parties.-In all applications for probate; for letters of administration with the will annexed; or for administration of the estate, the petitioner shall state the name(s) and all available particulars, as provided in Rule 3 of Chapter III of these rules, of members of the family or other relatives upon whom the estate would have devolved in case of an intestacy.

4. Application by creditor.-In all applications by a creditor for letters of administration, it shall be stated particularly how the debt arose and whether the applicant has any, and if so what, security for the debt.

5. Notice.-(i) The Registrar shall give notice of all application(s) for probate or letters of administration to the Chief Controlling Revenue authority in accordance with Section 19-H of the Court-fees Act, 1870, and it will be the duty of the petitioner or his Advocate to ask for issuance of the same.

(ii) In all applications for probate or letters or administration, notice of the application shall be given to all heirs and next of kin of the deceased mentioned in the application.

(iii) Before setting down an application for probate or letters of administration for final hearing in Court, the Registrar will certify that notice of the application has been served on the Chief Controlling Revenue Authority.

6. Non-contested applications.-Non-contested applications for probate or letters of administration may be disposed off, either on affidavits or evidence, as the Court may deem fit.

7. Valuation of property.-A copy of affidavit of valuation of property of the deceased, accompanying the application for probate or letters of administration, shall be annexed to the grant of probate or letters of administration.

8. Forms.-The forms prescribed in Nos. 173 to 180, both inclusive, in Volume 6 Part A of the “Rules and Orders of the Punjab High Court (1960 edition)”, with such variations or modifications as the circumstances may require, shall be used for the purposes therein mentioned.

9. Grant of probate or letters of administration.-Grant of probate or letters of administration shall issue in the name of the Court and be signed by the ³⁴[**Registrar/Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar**].

10. Administration bond.-(i) An administration bond, unless dispensed with by Court, shall be executed in favour of the Registrar General. Provided if value is less than Rs.1,000/-, one surety only may be given.

(ii) The Court may direct such bond be given with or without surety/ sureties approved by the Registrar for the amount of the value of the property for which the grant is made.

(iii) Administration bonds shall be attested by the Registrar or such other officer(s) of Court, as may be nominated in this behalf.

CHAPTER XXX

CAVEAT

1. Caveat.-In any suit or proceeding to which Section 148-A of the Code applies, the person instituting the same shall state in the plaint, petition or application, whether or not he has received notice of any caveat lodged in the Court in respect thereof, and, if so particulars of the same.

2. Format.-Filing of a caveat shall be in on a format provided below as under: -

³⁴ The word “Registrar” replaced by the words “Registrar/Joint Registrar/Deputy Registrar” vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
CAVEAT NO _____ OF _____

In the matter of a suit/ appeal proceeding instituted (give the particulars), or expected to be instituted, by

.....Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)

Against

.....Respondent(s)

To

The Registrar,
Delhi High Court,
New Delhi

Let no order (here state in detail the precise nature of the order apprehended) be made in the above matter without notice to the undersigned.

Dated this the _____ day of _____.

Sd/-

Name and address of the Caveator and his Advocate, if any

Filed on.....

CHAPTER XXXI
REPEAL AND SAVINGS

1. The Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967 and Practice Directions, applicable to the Original Side of the Court, except to the extent incorporated in these Rules, and not inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed.

2. The repeal of the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967 and Practice Directions, applicable to the Original Side of the Court shall, however, not affect:-

(a) the previous operation of the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967 and Practice Directions, applicable to the Original Side of the Court, so repealed or anything duly done or suffered thereunder; or

(b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967 and Practice Directions, applicable to the Original Side of the Court, so repealed; or

(c) any liability incurred in respect of any contravention under the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967 and Practice Directions, applicable to the Original Side of the Court, so repealed; or

(d) any proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, or liability, as aforesaid, and any such proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such obligation may be imposed or made as if the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 1967 and Practice Directions, applicable to the Original Side of the Court, had not been repealed.

Provided however, in respect of Commercial disputes, the Commercial Courts Act read with these Rules shall apply, as provided in the Commercial Courts Act.

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS/ NOTICES THROUGH SPEED POST/ REGISTERED POST WITH PROOF OF DELIVERY (POD) IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI

1. These practice directions will apply in all cases where the Hon'ble Court has ordered issuance of summons/notices through Speed Post or Registered Post. These Practice Directions will come into force immediately.
2. In all cases where summons/notices have been ordered by Hon'ble Court to be served through Speed Post or Registered Post the following procedure will be followed:
 - a) The Advocate/Party-in-Person will file Process Fee at the Filing Counter, Delhi High Court, clearly mentioning therein his contact number and address along with copies of the petition/application to be sent with the summons/notices and adequate numbers of the envelopes specially designed, containing proof of delivery (PoD) bearing the address of the respondent/addressee. These envelopes are available at the Extension Counter set up by the Department of Posts in the Receipt and Despatch Branch, Main Building, 'A' Block, Delhi High Court.
 - b) The Process Fee Form along with envelope(s) and the copies of petition/application so filed will be sent by the Filing Counter to the concerned Branch for preparation of summons/notices.
 - c) The concerned branch will prepare the summons/notices within a period of three working days of receiving the process fee form from the filing counter. The branch will immediately thereafter send the copies of summons/notices, envelope(s) and copy of the petition/application to the Receipt & Despatch Branch, which will seal the process in the envelope(s).
 - d) The Advocate/Party-in-Person will collect sealed envelope(s) from the Receipt and Despatch Branch and submit them directly at the extension counter set up by the Department of Posts.
 - e) The Advocates will pay the following charges directly at the Counter set up by the Department of Posts.
 - i) Speed Post charges for the article as determined by the Department of Posts.
 - ii) Speed Post charges for the PoD as determined by the Department of Posts.
 - iii) Handling charges @ Rs.5/- per acknowledgment (PoD) at the time of booking of the article.
 - iv) Scanning charges for the PoD @ Rs.10/- at the time of booking of the article.
3. The Speed Post charges paid once will not be refunded even if the article is not delivered or is received back unserved.
4. The concerned Advocate/Party-in-Person will file an affidavit of service along with the receipt of summons/notices sent in the specially designed envelope(s) through Speed Post

and the tracking report as available on the net.

5. The Department of Posts will send the scanned copy of the PoD electronically to the e-mail ID of the nominated officer of the Delhi High Court immediately on receipt of the same in the concerned Post Office.
6. The undelivered/refused articles or the duly signed PoD (or its scanned copy) received in the Receipt & Despatch Branch will be sent to the concerned Branches for further necessary action.
7. If the advocate/party concerned desires to have a scanned copy of the POD then he may furnish his e-mail ID at the time of filing of Process Fee form and should send a request to the Assistant Registrar (Appellate) (Email arappellate.dhc@nic.in) through email in this regard, who shall forward the scanned copy of the POD received electronically from the Department of Posts.

VIDEO CONFERENCING GUIDELINES ISSUED
BY THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI

Guidelines for the Conduct of Court Proceedings between Courts and Remote Sites

Introduction

Video conference facilities enabling audio and visual communication between persons at different locations have now been installed in:

- Delhi High Court
- All the District Courts in Delhi, i.e. Tis Hazari, Patiala House, Karkardooma, Rohini, Dwarka and Saket Courts
- Prisons in Delhi i.e. Tihar and Rohini Prison Complex

Video-conferencing facilities provide Courts in Delhi with the capacity to receive evidence and submissions from witnesses or persons involved in Court proceedings in circumstances where it would be expensive, inconvenient or otherwise not desirable for a person to attend a Court in person. An over-riding factum: is that the use of video-conferencing in any particular case must be consistent with furthering the "interests of justice and should cause minimal disadvantage to the parties. However, it is for the Court to decide whether evidence should be recorded by video-conferencing.

Even with the advancement of technology, there is a delay of milliseconds between video picture seen and sounds being heard. Allowances appropriate to this time gap need to be made to avoid one participant talking over another.

Microphones set up at the bench, the bar table and at the witness box are highly

sensitive. Persons during a video conferencing should assume from the time the video conference is activated until the same is disconnected that microphones are "liven and as such all remarks are audible to the Court.

1. General

1.1 In these guidelines, reference to the 'court point' means the Courtroom or other place where the Court is sitting or the place where Commissioner appointed by the Court to record the evidence by video conference is sitting and the 'remote point is the place where the person to be examined via video conference is located, for example, a prison.

1.2 Person to be examined includes a person whose deposition or statement is required to be recorded or in whose presence certain proceedings are to be recorded.

1.3 Wherever possible, proceedings by way of video conference shall be conducted as judicial proceedings and the same courtesies and protocols will be observed. All relevant statutory provisions applicable to judicial proceedings including the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 shall apply to the recording of evidence by video conference.

1.4 Video conferencing facilities can be used in all matters including remands, bail applications and in civil and criminal trials where a witness is located intrastate, interstate, or overseas. However, these guidelines will not apply to proceedings under section 164 of Cr. P.C.

1.5 The guidelines applicable to a Court will *mutatis mutandis* apply to a Local

Commissioner appointed by the Court to record the evidence.

2. Appearance by video conference

A Court may either *suo moto* or on application of a party or a witness direct by a reasoned order that any person shall appear before it or give evidence or make submissions to the Court through video conference.

3. Preparatory arrangements for video conference

3.1 There shall be Co-ordinators both at the Court point as well as at the remote point.

3.2 In the High Court, Registrar (Computers) shall be the co-ordinator at the court point.

3.3 In the District Courts, official-in-charge of the Video Conferencing Facility (holding the post of Senior Judicial Assistant/Senior Personal Assistant or above) nominated by the District Judge shall be the co-ordinator at the court point.

3.4 . The Co-ordinator at the remote point may be any of the following:-

(i) Where the person to be examined is overseas, the Court may specify the co-ordinator out of the following.-

(a) the official of Consulate/Embassy of India,

(b) duly certified Notary Public/Oath Commissioner,

(ii) Where the person to be examined is in another State/U.T, a judicial Magistrate or any other responsible official as may be deputed by the District Judge concerned or Sub.-Divisional Magistrate or any other responsible official as may be deputed by the District Collector concerned,

(iii) Where the person to be examined is in custody, the concerned Jail Superintendent or any other responsible official deputed by him,

(iv) Where the person to be examined is in a hospital, public or private, whether run by the Central Government, the State Government, local bodies or any other person, the Medical Superintendent or In-charge of the said hospital or any other responsible official deputed by him.

(v) Where the person to be examined is a juvenile or a child who is an inmate of an Observation Home/Special Home/Children's Home/Shelter Home, the Superintendent/Officer In-charge of that Home or any other responsible official deputed by him,

(vi) Where the person to be examined is in Nirmal Chhaya, the Superintendent/Officer In-Charge of the Nirmal Chhaya or any other responsible official deputed by him,

(vii) Wherever, a co-ordinator is to be appointed at the remote point under Clause 3.4. sub Clause (ii); (iii), (iv), (v) & (vi), the Court concerned will make formal request through the District Judge concerned to concerned official.

(viii) In case of any other person, as may be ordered by the Court.

3.5 The co-ordinators at both the points shall ensure that the minimum requirements as mentioned in the Guideline No.4 are in position at the court point and the remote point and shall conduct a test between both the points well in advance, to resolve any technical problem so that the proceedings are conducted without interruption.

3.6 It shall be ensured by the co-ordinator at the remote point that:-

(i) the person to be examined or heard is available and ready at the room earmarked for the video conference at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time.

(ii) no other recording device is permitted except the one installed in the video conferencing room.

(iii) entry into the video conference room is regulated.

3.7 It shall be ensured by the co-ordinator at the court point that the co-ordinator at the remote point has certified copies or soft copies of all or any part of the court record in a sealed cover directed by the Court sufficiently in advance of the scheduled video conference.

3.8 The Court shall order the co-ordinator at the remote point or at the court point wherever it is more convenient, to provide:-

(i) a translator in case the person to be examined is not conversant with Court language;

(ii) an expert in sign language in case the person to be examined is speech and/or hearing impaired; .

(iii) for reading of documents in case the person to be examined is visually challenged;

(iv) an interpreter or special educator, as the case may be in case the person to be examined is temporarily or permanently mentally or physically disabled.

4. Minimum requisites for video conference

- (i) A desktop or laptop with internet connectivity and printer
- (ii) Device ensuring uninterrupted power supply
- (iii) Video Camera
- (iv) Microphones and speakers
- (v) Display unit
- (vi) Document visualizer
- (vii) Comfortable sitting arrangements ensuring privacy
- (viii) Adequate lighting
- (ix) Insulations as far as possible/proper acoustics
- (x) Digital signatures from licensed certifying authorities for the co-ordinators at the court point and at the remote point

5. Cost of video conferencing

5.1 In criminal cases, the expenses of the video conference facility including expenses of preparing soft copies/certified copies of the Court record for sending to the co-ordinator at the remote point and fee payable to translator/interpreter/special educator, as the case may be, and to the co-ordinator at the remote point shall be borne by such party as the Court directs taking into account the Delhi Criminal Courts (Payment of Expenses to Complainant and Witnesses) Rules, 2015.

5.2 In civil cases as a general rule, the party making the request for recording evidence by video conference shall bear the expenses.

5.3 In other cases, the court may make an order as to expenses as it considers appropriate taking into account rules/instructions regarding payment of expenses to

complainant and witnesses as may be prevalent from time to time.

6. Procedures generally

6.1 The identity of the person to be examined shall be confirmed by the court with the assistance of the co-ordinator at remote point at the time of recording of the evidence.

6.2. In civil cases, party requesting for recording statement of the person to be examined by video conferencing shall confirm to the Court location of the person, his willingness to be examined by video conferencing, place and facility of such video conferencing.

6.3 In criminal cases, where the person to be examined is a prosecution witness or court witness, the prosecution and where person to be examined is a defence witness, the defence counsel will confirm to the Court his location, willingness to be examined by video conferencing, place and facility of such video conferencing.

6.4 In case person to be examined is an accused, prosecution will confirm his location at remote point.

6.5 Video conference shall ordinarily take place during the court hours. However, the Court may pass suitable directions with regard to timings of the video conferencing as the circumstances may dictate.

6.6 The record of proceedings including transcription of statement shall be prepared at the court point under supervision of the Court and accordingly authenticated.

The soft copy of the transcript digitally signed by the co-ordinator at the court point shall be sent by e-mail through I\TIC or any other Indian service provider to the remote point where printout of the same will be taken and signed by the deponent. A scanned copy of the statement digitally signed by co-ordinator at the remote point would be sent by e-mail through NIC or any other Indian service provider to the court point. The hard copy would also be sent subsequently, preferably within three days of the recording, by the co-ordinator at the remote point to the court point by courier/mail.

6.7 The Court may, at the request of a person to be examined, or on its own motion taking into account the best interests of the person to be examined, direct appropriate measures to protect his privacy keeping in mind his age, gender and physical condition.

6.8 Where a party or a lawyer requests that in the course of video-conferencing some privileged communication may have to take place, Court will pass appropriate directions in that regard.

6.9 The audio-visual shall be recorded at the court point. An encrypted master copy with hash value shall be retained in the Court as part of the record. Another copy shall also be stored at any other safe location for backup in the event of any emergency. Transcript of the evidence recorded by the Court shall be given to the parties as per applicable rules. A party may be allowed to view the master copy of the audio video recording retained in the Court on application which shall be decided by the Court consistent with furthering the interests of justice.

6.10 The co-ordinator at the remote point shall be paid such amount as honorarium as may be decided by the Court in consultation with the pallies.

6.11 In case any party or his/her authorized person is desirous of being physically present at the remote point at the time of recording of the evidence, it shall be open for such party to make arrangement at party's own costs including for appearance/representation at the remote point subject to orders to the contrary by' the Court.

7. Putting documents to a person at remote point

If in the course of examination of a person at a remote point by video conference, it is necessary to put a document to him, the Court may permit the document to be put in the following manner:-

(a) if the document is at the court point, by transmitting a copy of it to the remote point electronically including through a document visualizer and the copy so transmitted being then put to the person;

(b)if the document is at the remote point, by putting it to the person and transmitting a copy of it to the court point electronically including through a document visualizer. The hard copy would also be sent subsequently to the court point by courier/mail.

8. Persons unconnected with the case

8.1 Third parties may be allowed to be present during video conferencing subject to orders to the contrary, if any, by the .Court.

8.2 Where; for any reason, a person unconnected with the case is present at the remote point, then that person shall be identified by the co-ordinator at the remote point at the start of

the proceedings and the purpose for his being present explained to the Court.

9. Conduct of proceedings

9.1 Establishment and disconnection of links between the court point and the remote point would be regulated by orders of the Court.

9.2 The Court shall satisfy itself that the person to be examined at the remote point can be seen and heard clearly and similarly that the person to be examined at the remote point can clearly see and hear the Court.

10 Cameras

10.1 The Court shall at all times have the ability to control the camera view at the remote point so that there is an unobstructed view of all the persons present in the room.

10.2 The Court shall have a clear image of each deponent to the extent possible so that the demeanour of such person may be observed.

11. Residuary Clause

Such matters with respect to which no express provision has been made in these guidelines shall be decided by the Court consistent with furthering the interests of justice.

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC FILING (E-FILING) IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI

1. These practice directions will apply to Electronic Filing (e-filing) of cases in the High Court of Delhi and will be effective from the dates and for the categories of cases as may be notified by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi from time to time.
2. Except as provided elsewhere in these practice directions, all petitions, applications, appeals and all pleadings/documents in fresh, pending and disposed of cases will be filed electronically in the manner hereafter provided.

3. PROCEDURE FOR E-FILING

3.1 The original text material, documents, notice of motion, memorandum of parties, main petition or appeal, as the case may be, and interlocutory applications etc. will be prepared electronically using MS Word or Open Office software. The formatting style of the text will be as under:

Paper size	:	A-4
Margins	:	
Top	:	1.5”
Bottom	:	1.5”
Left	:	1.75”
Justification	:	Full
Font	:	Times New Roman
Font size	:	14
Line spacing	:	1.5

3.2 The documents should be converted into Portable document Format (PDF) using any PDF converter or in-built PDF conversion plug-in provided in the software. Procedure to convert word document to PDF is set out in **Appendix-I** to these Practice Directions.

3.3 Where the document is not a text document and has to be enclosed with the petition, appeal or application or other pleadings, the document should be scanned using an image resolution of 300 dpi (dot per inch) and saved as a PDF document.

3.4 The maximum permissible size of the file that can be uploaded at the time of e-filing is 300 MB.

3.5 The text documents prepared in MS Word/Open Office as well as scanned documents should be merged as a single PDF file and book-marked. The procedure for this purpose is set out in **Appendix-II** to these Practice Directions.

3.6 The merged documents should be uploaded at the time of e-filing by using the facility provided at the e-filing centre in the High Court Lawyers' Chambers Block-I. The screen shots of the manner of accessing the e-filing portal and filling up the relevant columns for the purpose of e-filing are set out in **Appendix-III** to these Practice Directions.

4. DIGITAL SIGNATURE

All electronic documents filed using the e-filing system will have to be digitally signed by the advocate for the parties or where it is being filed in person, by the party concerned. The list of recognized Digital Signature Providers and the procedure involved in appending single or multiple digital signatures are set in **Appendix-IV** to the Practice Directions.

5. PAYMENT OF COURT FEE

Court fee can be paid by purchase of electronic court fee either from the online facility provided by the stock Holding corporation of India Limited (<http://www.shcilestamp.com/>) or the counters provided for the purpose in the Delhi High Court or from any other authorized court fee vendor in Delhi. The payment code whether automatically generated on payment of court fee online through the payment gateway of Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited on the receipt when court fee is purchased from the counter, has to be filed in the appropriate box at the time of e-filing.

6. RETENTION OF ORIGINALS

6.1 The originals of the documents that are scanned and digitally signed either by counsel or parties in person at the time of e-filing should be preserved for production upon being directed by the court at any time.

In any event, signed Vakalatnama, signed and notarized/attested affidavit shall be filed in original in the Registry. Any other document whose authenticity is likely to be questioned should be preserved at least for a period of two years till after the final disposal of the case; (Final disposal shall include disposal of appeals if any) and the following documents be preserved permanently:-

(a) A negotiable instrument (other than a cheque) as defined in section 13 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (26 of 1881).

(b) A power-of-attorney as defined in section 1A of the Power-of-Attorney Act, 1882 (7 of 1882).

(c) A trust as defined in section 3 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (2 of 1882)

(d) A will as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 (39 of 1925) including any other testamentary disposition by whatever name called.

(e) Any contract for the sale or conveyance of immovable property or any interest in such property.

6.2 The responsibility for producing the originals and proving their genuineness shall be of the party that has electronically filed the scanned copies thereof.

7. ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

Access to documents and pleadings filed electronically in a case will be provided only to advocates for the parties in that case or the concerned parties themselves. The advocate or the party may obtain documents from the Filing Counter by mailing an application along with a blank CD-R/DVD- R to be provided by the party.

8. EXEMPTION FROM ELECTRONIC FILING

Exemption from e-filing of the whole or part of the pleadings and/or documents may be permitted by the Court upon an application for that purpose being made to the Court in the following circumstances:

- (i) e-filing is, for the reasons to be explained in the application, not feasible; or
- (ii) there are concerns about confidentiality and protection of privacy; or
- (iii) the document can not be scanned or filed electronically because of its size, shape or condition; or
- (iv) the e-filing system is either inaccessible or not available for some reason; or
- (v) any other sufficient cause.

9. SERVICE OF ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

In addition to the prescribed mode of service, notices, documents, pleadings that are filed electronically may also be served through e-mail by the High Court of Delhi. The e-mail ID of the High Court of Delhi (delhihighcourt@nic.in) will be published on its website so as to enable the recipients to verify the source of the e-mail at the e-mail addresses, if available, of the advocates or parties.

10. COMPUTATION OF TIME

10.1 Electronic filing through the e-filing centre is permissible up to 4 p.m. on the date of filing. All other rules relating to holidays etc. for the purpose of computation of limitation, as specified in the Rules of the High Court of Delhi will apply to online electronic filing as well. The period during which e-filing system is in -operational for any reason will be excluded from the computation of such time. This, however, will not extend limitation for such filing for which the facility of Section 5 of the Limitation Act, 1963 or any other statutory extension of period of limitation is not available.

10.2 For electronic filing done through the e-filing centre in the Delhi High Court premises, the rules relating to time for the purpose of limitation will be no different from those applicable for the normal filing.

10.3 As and when the facility of electronic online filing commences, such electronic online filing would be permissible up to midnight on the date of filing.

11. CAVEATES, SUPPLEMENTARY AFFIDAVITS ETC.

Caveats can be registered, and all written statements, counter affidavits or reply affidavits, affidavits by way of rejoinder, documents, applications in pending matters or indisposed of matters, supplementary pleadings, documents etc in pending cases can be filed electronically

using the e-filing system. The procedure for this purpose is set out in **Appendix V** to these Practice Directions.

12. HARD COPIES OF PLEADINGS AND DOCUMENTS FILED ELECTRONICALLY

Lawyers as well as parties can print hard copies of all pleadings and documents filed electronically for their use in the Court or elsewhere. Likewise the Registry will wherever required, prepare hard copies for use of the courts.

13. STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL OF ELECTRONICALLY FILED DOCUMENTS AND PLEADINGS

The pleadings and documents electronically filed will be stored on an exclusive server maintained under the control and directions of the High Court of Delhi. Each case will be separately labeled and encrypted for this purpose to facilitate easy identification and retrieval. The security of such document and pleadings will be ensured and access to them would be restricted in the manner indicated hereinbefore and as may be notified from time to time. Back-up copies of all electronically filed pleadings and documents will be preserved in the manner decided by the Court on its administrative side.

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In case of any difficulty, please contact:

Mr. Sarsij Kumar, **email@:- sarsij.kumar@nic.in**

Mr. Zameem Ahmad Khan, **email@:- zameem.dhc@nic.in**

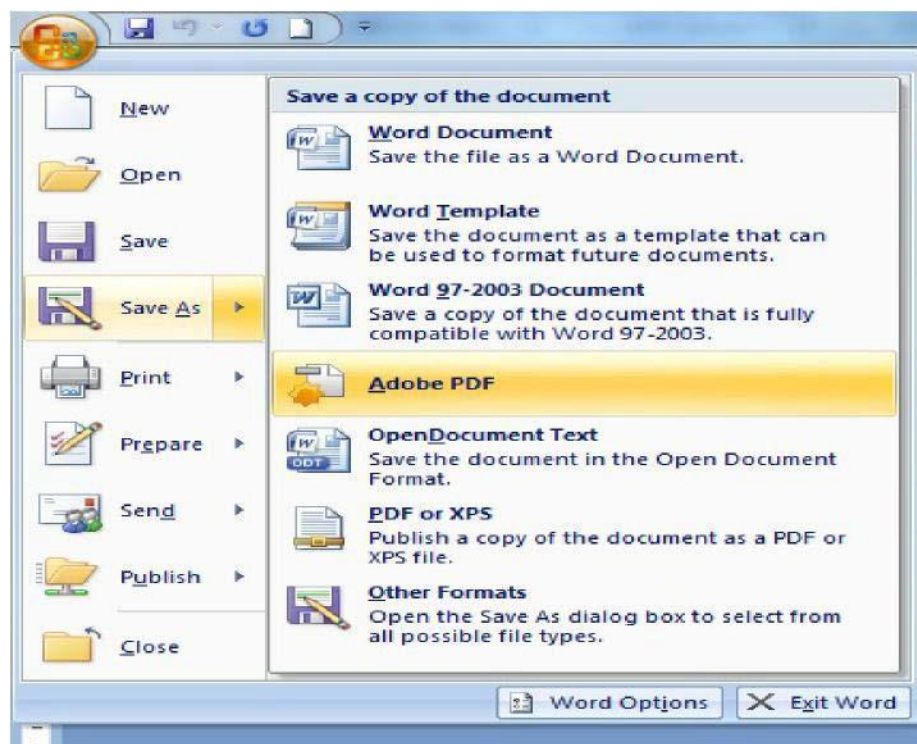
HOW TO CONVERT WORD FILE TO PDF

Word 2007

Open the file you wish to save.

Click the "File" button in the top left-hand corner Go to

"Save As" > "PDF" or

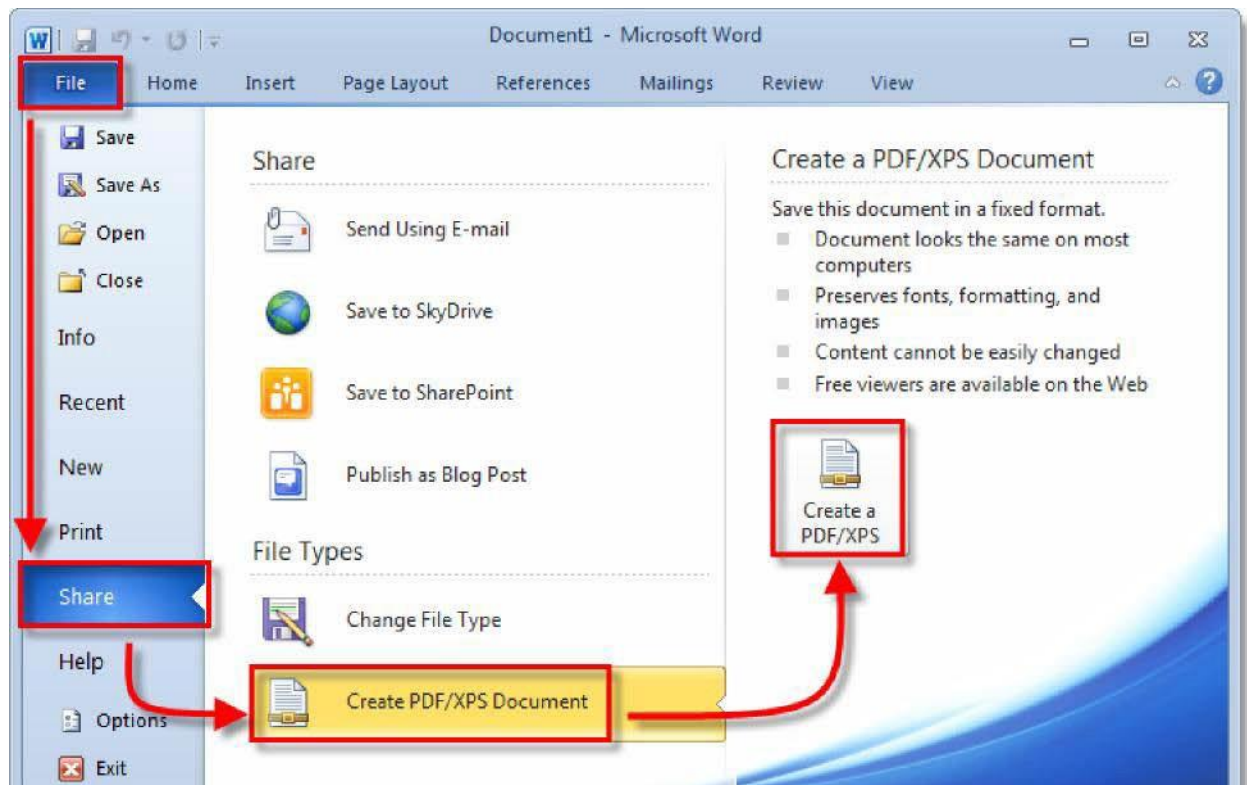


In case of unavailability of above option, open the URL - <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads> for the downloading of Microsoft's free PDF and XPS converter.

Note: It will work only for the Windows (Operating System);

Word 2010/13

Click File, Share. From the Share menu, Click Create PDF Document then on the right-side Click Create a PDF.



Other Versions of Word

Open the file you wish to save. Go

to "File" > "Print".

Click the dropdown list of installed printers and select "PDF". Newer versions of Microsoft Word have this option; if it does not appear on your version, try one of the methods below. Click "OK". This will convert your document and open it in Adobe Reader (if you have already installed it otherwise need to be install it at first).

PDF Conversion Website

Go to a free PDF conversion website.

Examples include

- <http://printinpdf.com>
- <http://www.freepdfconvert.com>,
- <http://www.pdfonline.com/convert-pdf>
- <http://docupub.com/pdfconvert>

Do not use a site that asks you to pay, install unnecessary software, or anything else you're uncomfortable with. There are many free, easy-to-use PDF conversion sites available online.

Click "Browse" to locate the desired Word file(s).

Provide your email address if necessary. Some sites will email the file directly to your inbox. If you don't want to provide your email address, note that "Print in PDF does not require your email address".

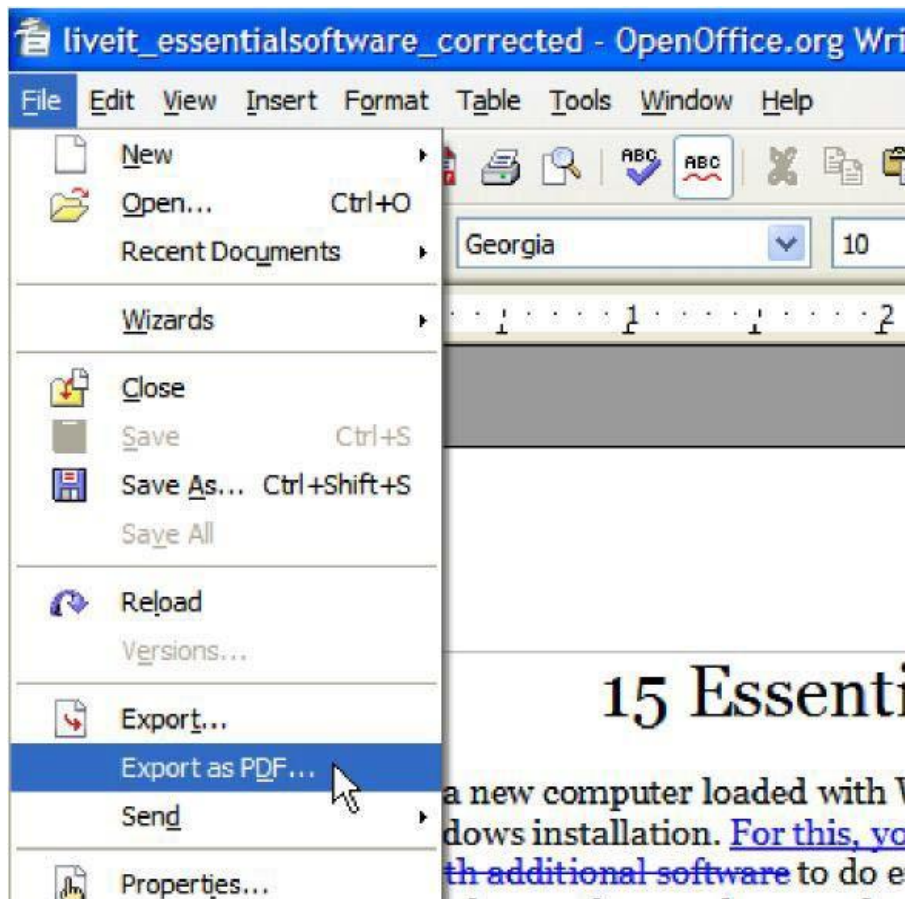
Click "Convert" and wait for it to process.

Check your file. Check the website for your converted file; otherwise, look for the file in your inbox.

Click on your PDF file(s) to open and/or download them. Save if necessary.

Using Open Office

1. Download OpenOffice. This is a free, open-source word processor that is fully compatible with Word.
2. Double click on the downloaded file to install OpenOffice on your computer. Open the Word document you want to convert in Open Office.
3. From the main menu, select "File" > "Export as PDF". There is also an export to PDF button right on the main taskbar.
4. Choose a file name for your PDF. Make sure that everything else is how you want it.
5. Click "Okay" or "Save" to convert. This will convert your document and open it in Adobe Reader (if you have already installed it otherwise need to be install it at first).
- 6.

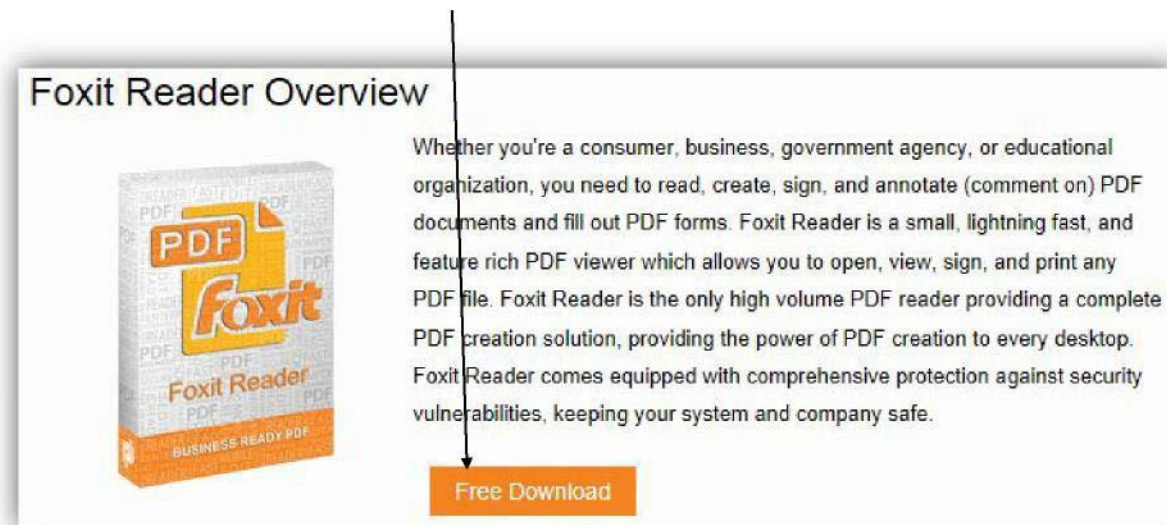


Merging file and Bookmarking

There are many free software programs available online that can be downloaded from internet for creating bookmarks in PDF document, merging and splitting PDF files. These include Foxit Reader, PDFsam, Jpdf etc.

Example 1:- Foxit Reader(Using for Bookmark)

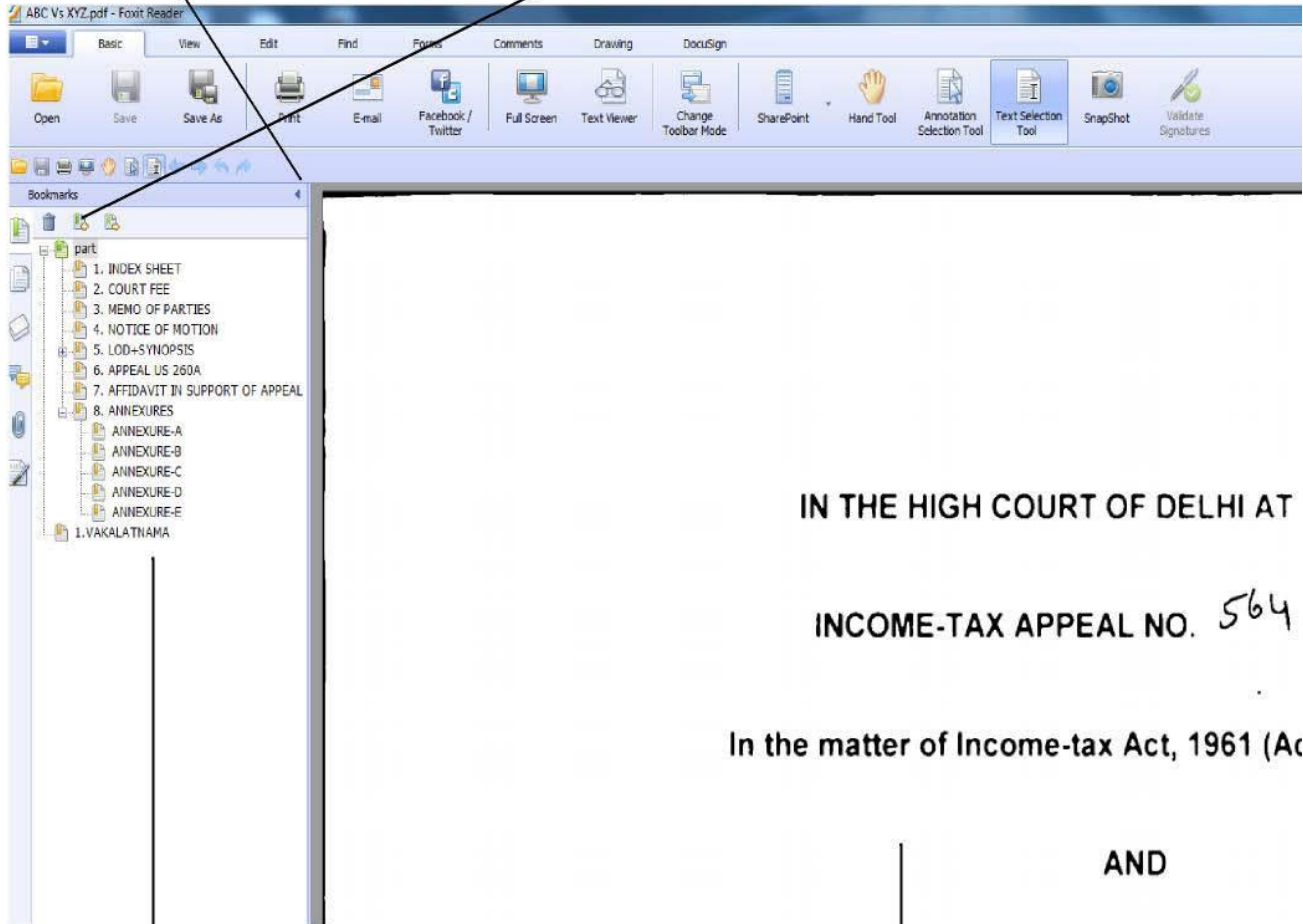
Download the software from website [http://www.foxitsoftware.com/Secure Pdf Reader](http://www.foxitsoftware.com/Secure_Pdf_Reader). The software program may be downloaded by clicking on Free Download link available on website.



Once the software is downloaded, get it installed by clicking on downloaded program. Start the Foxit Reader program. We can navigate through the pdf document. The bookmark items will automatically be kept in sync with page being displayed.

handle to hide or show the bookmark

New Bookmark



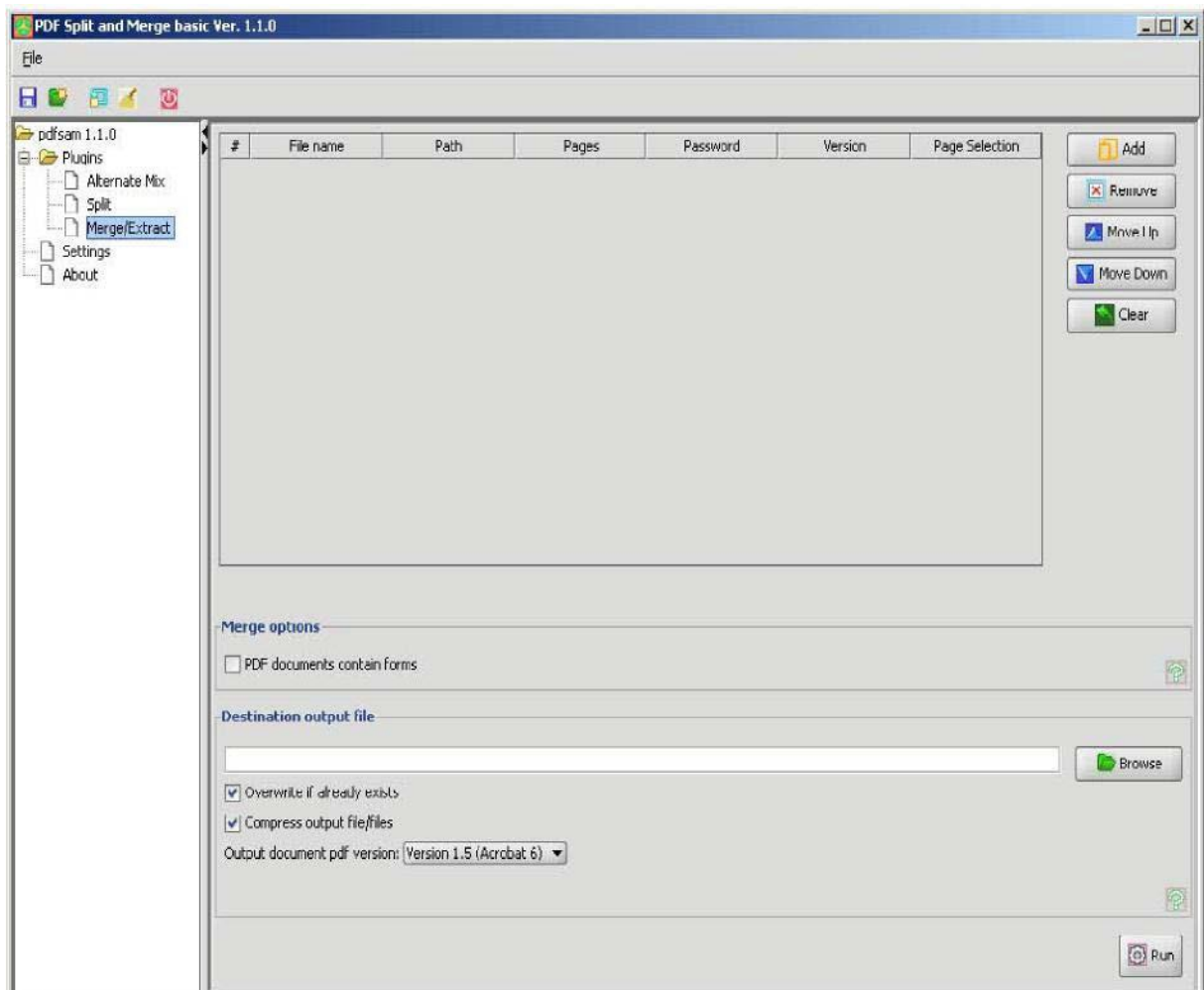
Navigation Panel
(Bookmark panel
displayed)

Document panel

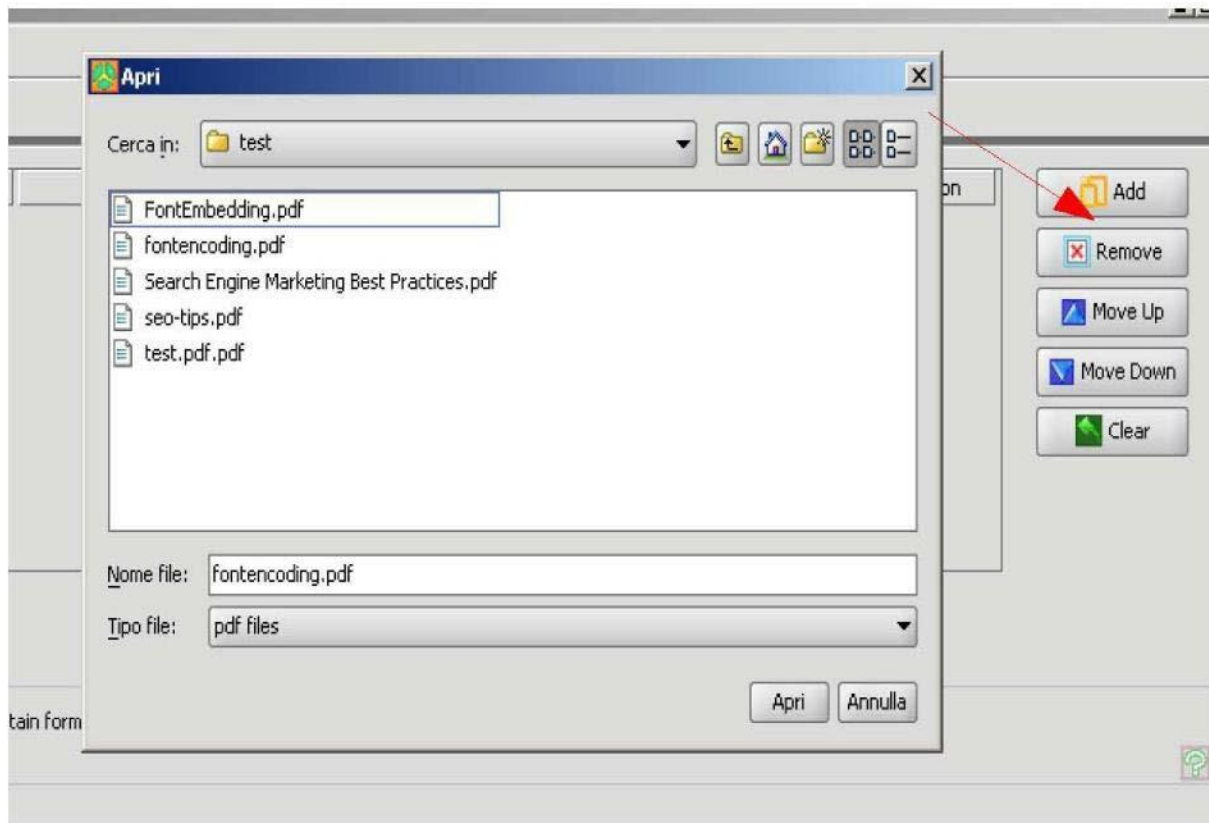
Example 2:- Pdfsam PDF MERGE AND SPLIT

PDF Split and Merge is a very simple, easy to use, free, open source utility to split and merge pdf files. It has a simple graphical interface to let the user choose pdf files, split or merge them. a simple, **open source** and free software for pdf manipulation.

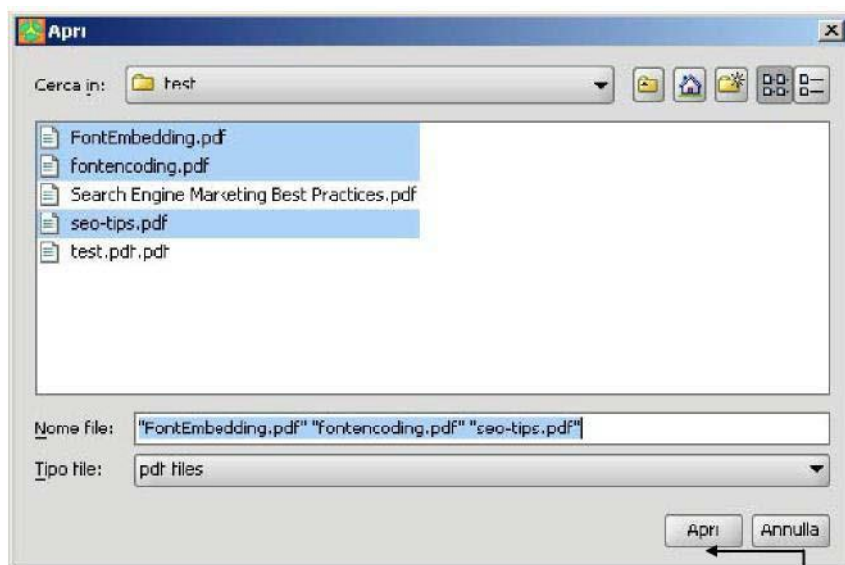
MERGE into PDF Here is the Merge/Extract main window:



Click the "Add" button to choose the pdf files you want to merge together.



Select pdf files you want to merge; if you want to select more the one file press the



"shift" or "ctrl" button on your keyboard.

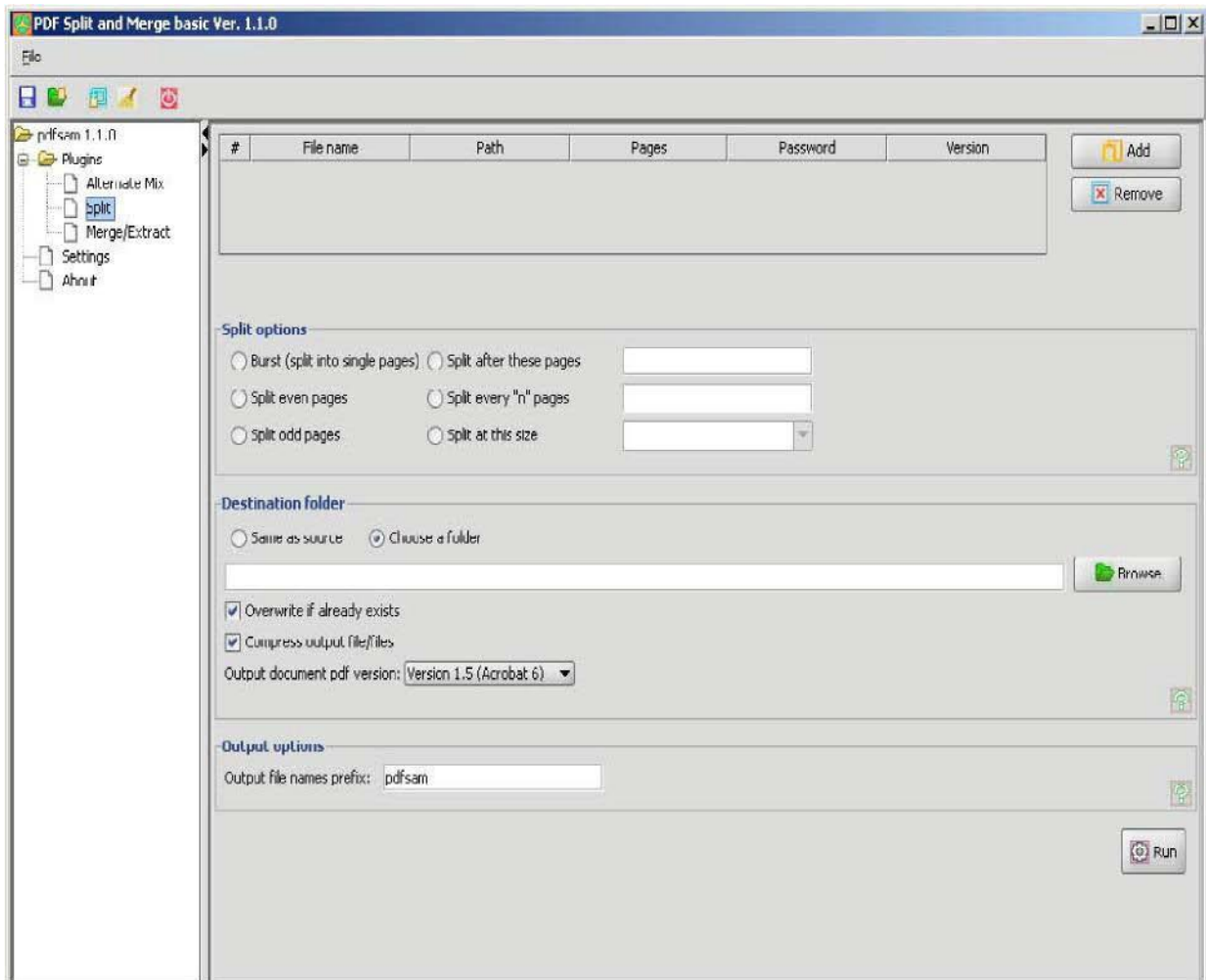
Once your files have been selected you'll see the selection table containing files details:

Use the buttons "Move Up", "Move Down" to change the files order or select one or more documents and drag&drop. Press "Remove" to remove unwanted files from the list. Press "Clear" to clear the selection table. Click on the columns header to have the table ordered on that column values.

Double click the Page Selection cell if you want to merge only a subset of the document. Click the "Run" button.

SPLIT into PDF

Here is the split main window:



Click the "Add" button to select the pdf file to split.

Select the split option you need:

Burst splits the pdf file into single pages, one pdf file-one page.



e-Filing High Court of Delhi



USER REGISTRATION AS ADVOCATE

Registration is free. Once registered, one can immediately begin e-filing. At the time of registration provide a valid email address which is used to send an electronic notification which confirms the status of filing.

TO REGISTER:

1. Click Register as Advocate
2. You will be directed to the Registration Page where you can Register as an Advocate or a party In-person

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

Log In

[User Guide](#)

Login ID * :

Password * :

Login ID and Password are case sensitive

Not Registered ? [Register as Advocate/In-Person](#)
[Law Firm Registration](#)



USER REGISTRATION AS ADVOCATE

The registration form requests information about you.

1.) Select **Advocate** radio button.

2.) Enter your Bar Council Enrolment Number and Date of Enrolment

3.) Enter Your Personal Information

4) Upload your Photograph

5) Click **Register** Button to register your profile

e-FILING :: REGISTRATION FORM

You want to register as : Advocate In-Person

*Bar Council Enrolment-No. [D] [2006] [2012] *Date of Enrolment [10/10/2012]

Name *First [FIRST] Mid [MIDDLE] Last [LAST]

*Sex Male Female

*e-Mail [ptp@mail.com] *Mobile No. [9999999999]

Phone No. Off. [] Phone No. Res. []

*Correspondence Address [NEW DELHI] (max 250 characters) *Pin Code [110001]

Is Permanent and Correspondence are same ? YES NO

*Permanent Address [MUMBAI] (max 250 characters) *Pin Code [210025]

Up Load Photo (118x118 & 100 kb) [Browse...]

[Back] [Register]

(NOTE: * fields are mandatory)



USER REGISTRATION AS ADVOCATE

After filling of the details click on the Register button. An alert will pop-up to get confirmation about the information. If all the information is correct click on **OK** button else on Cancel button to correct the details.

e-FILING :: REGISTRATION FORM

You want to register as : Advocate In-Person

*Bar Council Enrolment-No. [D] [2006] [2012] *Date of Enrolment [10/10/2012]

Name *First [FIRST] Mid [MIDDLE] Last [LAST]

*Sex Male Female

*e-Mail [ptp@mail.com] *Mobile No. [9999999999]

Phone No. Off. [] Phone No. Res. []

*Correspondence Address [NEW DELHI] (max 250 characters) *Pin Code [110001]

Is Permanent and Correspondence are same ? YES NO

*Permanent Address [MUMBAI] (max 250 characters) *Pin Code [210025]

Up Load Photo (118x118 & 100 kb) [Browse...]

[Back] [Register]

Message from webpage

Are you sure you want to continue ...

[OK] [Cancel]



USER REGISTRATION AS ADVOCATE

Once registration is complete, you get Login ID and your password (should be changed by user)



A mail has been sent at e-mail : ptp@mail.com.
Your Login ID is: D20062012

[Please Click here to Login In](#)



USER REGISTRATION AS PARTY-IN PERSON

Registration is free. Once registered, one can immediately begin e-filing. At the time of registration provide a valid email address which is used to send an electronic notification which confirms the status of filing

To register:

1. Go to www.delhihighcourt.nic.in----> **e-filing**
2. Click **Register as Party-In-Person** link
3. You will be directed to the Registration Page where you can Register as a Party-In-Person

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

Log In [User Guide](#)

*Login ID ** :

*Password ** :

Login ID and Password are case sensitive

Not Registered ? [Register as Advocate Party-In-Person](#)

[Law Firm Registration](#)



USER REGISTRATION AS PARTY-IN PERSON

1.) Select **In-Person** radio button.

2.) Enter Your Personal Information

3.) Upload your Photograph

4.) Click **Register** Button to register your profile

e-FILING :: REGISTRATION FORM

You want to register as : Advocate In-Person

Name *First Mid Last

*Sex Male Female

*e-Mail *Mobile No.

Phone No. Off. Phone No. Res.

*Correspondence Address (max 250 characters) *Pin Code

Is Permanent and Correspondence are same ? YES NO

*Permanent Address (max 250 characters) *Pin Code

Up Load Photo (118x118 & 100 kb)

(NOTE: * fields are mandatory)



USER REGISTRATION AS PARTY-IN PERSON

After filling of the details click on the Register button. An alert will pop-up to get confirmation about the information. If all the information is correct click on **OK** button else on Cancel button to correct the details.

e-FILING :: REGISTRATION FORM

You want to register as : Advocate In-Person

Name *First Mid Last

*Sex Male Female

*e-Mail *Mobile No.

Phone No. Off.

*Correspondence Address (max 250 characters) *Pin Code

Is Permanent and Correspondence are same ? YES NO

*Permanent Address (max 250 characters) *Pin Code

Up Load Photo (118x118 & 100 kb)

(NOTE: * fields are mandatory)

Message from webpage

Are you sure you want to continue...



USER REGISTRATION AS PARTY-IN PERSON

Once registration is complete, you get Login ID and your password (should be changed by user)



A mail has been sent at e-mail : ramsingh@gmail.com.
Your Login ID is:RAM7

[Please Click here to Login In](#)



LAW FIRM REGISTRATION

Going to the registration page

Registration is free. Once registered, one can immediately begin e-filing. At the time of registration provide a valid email address which is used to send an electronic notification which confirms the status of filing.

To register:

1. Go to www.delhihighcourt.nic.in e-filing
2. Click **Register as Law Firm**
3. You will be directed to the law firm registration page where you can register as a Law Firm

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

Log In [User Guide](#)

Login ID * :

Password * :

Login ID and Password are case sensitive

Not Registered? [Register as Advocate/Party-In-Person.](#)
[Law Firm Registration.](#)



LAW FIRM REGISTRATION

First Register as an advocate with e-filing system if you want to register for Law Firm

1.) Provide bar council enrolment number and click on **Get Details** button.

2) Enter law firm details

LAW FIRM REGISTRATION FORM

*Bar Council Enrolment-No. / /

*Firm Name

*Authorized Person *Date of Enrolment

*Address 1 *Pincode
(max 250 characters)

Address 2 Pincode
(max 250 characters)

Phone No. Mobile

*e-Mail Fax

(NOTE: * fields are mandatory)



LAW FIRM REGISTRATION

Click on **Register** button to register the law firm

LAW FIRM REGISTRATION FORM

*Bar Council Enrolment-No. / /

*Firm Name

*Authorized Person *Date of Enrolment

*Address 1 *Pincode
(max 250 characters)

Address 2 Pincode
(max 250 characters)

Phone No. Mobile

*e-Mail Fax

(NOTE: * fields are mandatory)



LAW FIRM REGISTRATION

After filling of the details click on the Register button.

An alert will pop-up to get confirmation about the information. If all the information is correct click on **OK** button else on **Cancel** button to correct the details.

LAW FIRM REGISTRATION FORM

*Bar Council Enrolment-No.

*Firm Name

*Authorized Person *Date of Enrolment

*Address 1

(max 255 characters)

*Address 2

(max 255 characters)

Phone No.

*e-Mail Fax

(NOTE: * Fields are mandatory)

Message from webpage

Are you sure you want to continue ...



LAW FIRM REGISTRATION

Once registration is complete, you get Login ID and your password (should be changed by user)



A mail has been sent at e-mail : lawfirm@gmail.com.
Your Login ID is:LD20102010

[Please Click here to Login In](#)



FIRST TIME LOGIN

When login first time in e-filing system user will be prompted to change the password.

First Time Log In
Please Change your password

Login ID * : D20102010

Auto Generated Password * : *****

New Password * :

Confirm Password * :



SCREEN AFTER LOGIN

- 1) On login to e-filing system you will get the status of the cases filed under different categories Main, Misc, Document and under Draft.

- 2) There are three main menu items
i) e-Filing :- Under this menu there are sub-menu items for

- ✓ Main Case Filing
- ✓ Miscellaneous Case Filing
- ✓ Document Filing
- ✓ Vakalatnama Filing
- ✓ Process Fee
- ✓ Caveat Filing

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

Welcome FIRST MID
LAST
Login At: Nov 27, 2012
2:40:10 PM

PROFILE

- ▼ e-Filing
 - Main Case Filing
 - Miscellaneous Case Filing
 - Document Filing
 - Vakalatnama Filing
 - Process Fee
 - Caveat Filing
- ▼ Inbox
 - Main Filing Inbox
 - Misc. Filing Inbox
 - Document Filing Inbox
 - Caveat Filing Inbox
 - Pending Cases Inbox
 - Draft Inbox
- ▶ Template

CHANGE
PASSWORD
LOGOUT

Main Inbox		Misc Inbox	
No. of Files		No. of Files	
SCRUTINY (0)	0	SCRUTINY (0)	0
DEFECTIVE (0)	0	DEFECTIVE (0)	0
<input type="button" value="FILES"/>		<input type="button" value="FILES"/>	
Document Inbox		Draft Inbox	
No. of Files		No. of Files	
SCRUTINY (0)	0	DRAFT (7)	7
DEFECTIVE (0)	0		
<input type="button" value="FILES"/>		<input type="button" value="FILES"/>	



SCREEN AFTER LOGIN

- ii) Inbox :- Under this menu there are sub-menu item for
 - ✓ Main Filing Inbox
 - ✓ Miscellaneous Filing Inbox
 - ✓ Document Filing Inbox
 - ✓ Caveat Filing Inbox
 - ✓ Pending Cases Inbox
 - ✓ Draft Inbox

Dashboard showing four inbox categories:

- Main Inbox:** No. of Files 0-6. SCRUTINY (0), DEFECTIVE (0). FILES button.
- Misc Inbox:** No. of Files 0-4. SCRUTINY (4), DEFECTIVE (0). FILES button.
- Document Inbox:** No. of Files 0-4. SCRUTINY (4), DEFECTIVE (0). FILES button.
- Draft Inbox:** No. of Files 0-7. DRAFT (7). FILES button.

- iii) Template :- Template for Criminal, Original and writ are provided under this option



MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT

My Account

Once you are registered as a user you can make changes and edit your account information by clicking the **PROFILE** tab and change password by clicking on **CHANGE PASSWORD** tab. Here you can change your password, edit your information

Profile Tab
Change password

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Bar Council Enrolment-No.	D/2010/2010
Date of Enrolment	06/10/2010
Login ID:	D20102010
Name:	FIRST MID LAST
e-Mail:	<input type="text" value="ptp@mail.com"/>
Mobile No.:	<input type="text" value="9350396654"/>
Phone No. Res.:	<input type="text"/>
Phone No.Off.:	<input type="text"/>
Address 1:	<input type="text" value="DELHI"/>
Pin Code1:	<input type="text" value="110002"/>
Address2:	<input type="text" value="DELHI"/>
Pin Code2:	<input type="text"/>

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Edit



GUIDELINESS FOR USAGE OF PASSWORD

- Sharing User IDs and passwords is prohibited. Access to the online application account is restricted to the individual/firm to whom that account is assigned.
- Do not share passwords with anyone.
- If you fail to enter a valid User ID and password combination in three consecutive attempts then your account will be locked.
- As a user of the E-Filing Application, you can change your password at any time. However, it will be mandatory for the new user to change the password at the time of first login.
- Your account information. A valid E-File Application password must be at least six characters in length and contain at least one special character [@, #, \$, %, &, *].
- The password should not be the same as or a sub set of your User ID. Other methods of protecting your password identity is to make sure that it is not easily discernible, such as a common name or location and should not be posted or stored in a location easily accessible by others.
- If your password has been locked or forgotten, you may request to reset the password at delhihighcourt@nic.in.



HOW TO FILE MAIN CASE

- Login to e-filing application by using the user name and password provided.
- Click on the e-filing link.



MAIN CASE FILING

Click on the link **e-Filing** → **e-Filing**

High Court of Delhi e-Filing Management System

Main Inbox
No. of Files: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
SCRUTINY (0) ██████████
DEFECTIVE (0)

Misc Inbox
No. of Files: 0 1 2 3 4
SCRUTINY (4) ██████████
DEFECTIVE (0)

Document Inbox
No. of Files: 0 1 2 3 4
SCRUTINY (4) ██████████
DEFECTIVE (0)

Draft Inbox
No. of Files: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
DRAFT (7) ██████████

Left sidebar menu:
e-Filing
Main Case Filing
Miscellaneous Case Filing
Document Filing
Vakalatnama Filing
Process Fee
Caveat Filing
Inbox
Main Filing Inbox
Misc. Filing Inbox
Document Filing Inbox
Caveat Filing Inbox
Pending Cases Inbox
Draft Inbox
Template
CHANGE PASSWORD
LOGOUT



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 1: You will be directed to the **MEMO OF PARTIES**
Petitioner/Plaintiff details can be filled in **.xlsx or .xls format**.

- Or
- 1) Enter Petitioner/Plaintiff details
 - 2) To add another Petitioner/Plaintiff, click on button, "ADD".
 - 3) Enter Respondent details
 - 4) To add another Respondent, click on button, "ADD".

High Court of Delhi e-Filing Management System

MEMO OF PARTIES

Upload Template File(containing memo of parties): [Browse...] [Upload]

Plaintiff/Petitioner *
Father/Husband Name Address* e-Mail

Respondent *
Father/Husband Name Address* e-Mail

Buttons: Add, Remove, Next

As you complete each part and save it, the step completed of that part will be displayed at the top of the screen, showing the current step in green.



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: On completion of form for MEMO OF PARTIES, click on the button **Next**. Now the screen for Filing Detail will appear with the Petitioner and respondent details as you entered in the previous screen.

- Petitioner/ Plaintiffs and Respondent
- Select Case Type
- Enter Case Category
- Check the box and case no. for similar matter



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: If there is any similar matter.

Check the box and select **Case Type**, enter **Number** and **Year** of the case. After filling above fields you may fill the following as per your requirement.

- Impugned order detail
- Criminal Matters
- Organization/Bank
- Land Acquisition Matters
- Tax Matters
- Constitutional
- Motor Accident

You can choose any option to fill and can go to the next page anytime.

Impugned order detail: To use this option, Click on the tab **Impugned order detail**



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Impugned Order tab

- Select the Court Name
- Enter case detail
- Enter decision date and select the decision

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

1 2 of 3 3 FILING DETAIL Previous Next

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: GFGGFDG
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: VS BCVB
Case Type* ITA - INCOME TAX APPEAL
Year 2012 URGENT Ordinary
Case Category 1.* 1300.01 - Acquisition/purchase of property
2. Select
Are there any Similar Matter:
Statutes Involved Tax Effect:
Impugned Order Organizational Matters Constitution Matters Criminal Matters Land Acquisition Matters Tax Matters
Court Name INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
Case Type Case No OF Select
Decision Date Decision Select
Previous Next



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Criminal Matters: To use this option, Click on the top Criminal Matters.

- Select Police Station
- Enter FIR No.
- Enter FIR Date
- Enter Section IPC

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

1 2 of 3 3 FILING DETAIL Previous Next

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: GFGGFDG
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: VS BCVB
Case Type* ITA - INCOME TAX APPEAL
Year 2012 URGENT Ordinary
Case Category 1.* 1300.01 - Acquisition/purchase of property
2. Select
Are there any Similar Matter:
Statutes Involved Tax Effect:
Impugned Order Organizational Matters Constitution Matters Criminal Matters Land Acquisition Matters Tax Matters
Police Station Select
FIR No. FIR Date
Sections IPC
Previous Next



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Organization/Bank: To use this option, Click on the tap ORGANISATION/BANK

Enter Organization Name.

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

1 2 of 3 3 FILING DETAIL Previous Next

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: GFGGFDG
 DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: VS BCVB
 Case Type* ITA - INCOME TAX APPEAL
 Year 2012 * Urgent Ordinary
 Case Category 1.* 1300.01 - Acquisition/purchase of property
 2. Select
 Is there any Similar Matter:
 Statutes Involved Tax Effect:

Impugned Order Organizational Matters Constitution Matters Criminal Matters Land Acquisition Matters Tax Matters

Organization/Department.

Previous Next



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Land Acquisition Matters: To use this option, Click on the tap LAND ACQUISITION MATTERS.

Enter details

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

1 2 of 3 3 FILING DETAIL Previous Next

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: GFGGFDG
 DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: VS BCVB
 Case Type* ITA - INCOME TAX APPEAL
 Year 2012 * Urgent Ordinary
 Case Category 1.* 1300.01 - Acquisition/purchase of property
 2. Select
 Is there any Similar Matter:
 Statutes Involved Tax Effect:

Impugned Order Organizational Matters Constitution Matters Criminal Matters Land Acquisition Matters Tax Matters

Village Notification Date Sec4
 Sec6 Sec17
 No. of Award Date of Award

Previous Next



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Tax Matters: To use this option, Click on the tap TAX MATTERS.

Enter details

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

1 2 of 3 3 FILING DETAIL Previous Next

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: GFGGFDG
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: VS BCVB
Case Type* ITA - INCOME TAX APPEAL
Year 2012 Urgent Ordinary
Case Category 1.* 1300.01- Acquisition/purchase of property
2. Select
Is there any Similar Matter:
Statutes Involved Tax Effect:
Impugned Order Organizational Matters Constitution Matters Criminal Matters Land Acquisition Matters Tax Matters
Assessment Year Select - NL
Previous Next



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Constitutional: To use this option, Click on the tap CONSTITUTIONAL

Enter details

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

1 2 of 3 3 FILING DETAIL Previous Next

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: GFGGFDG
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: VS BCVB
Case Type* ITA - INCOME TAX APPEAL
Year 2012 Urgent Ordinary
Case Category 1.* 1300.01- Acquisition/purchase of property
2. Select
Is there any Similar Matter:
Statutes Involved Tax Effect:
Impugned Order Organizational Matters Constitution Matters Criminal Matters Land Acquisition Matters Tax Matters
Title Statute Rule
Previous Next



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Motor Accident: To use this option, Click on the tap **MOTOR ACCIDENT**

Enter details



HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

1 2 of 3 3 FILING DETAIL Previous Next

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: CFGGFDG
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: VS BCVB
Case Type* ITA-INCOME TAX APPEAL
Year 2012 Urgent Ordinary
Case Category 1.* 1300.01- Acquisition/purchase of property
2. Select
Is there any Similar Matter:
Statutes Involved Tax Effect: 0.0
Impugned Order Organizational Matters Constitution Matters Criminal Matters Land Acquisition Matters Tax Matters **Motor Accident**
Name of Insurance Company

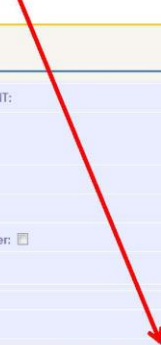
Previous Next



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 2: Select Act

Enter Details



HIGH COURT OF DELHI
e-Filing Management System

DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:
Case Type*
Case Category 1.*
2.
Is there any Similar Matter:
Statutes Involved

Acts

Act	Type	Name	Remarks
Select Act	Select	Select	

Add Row

Act	Type	Name	Remarks

Remove

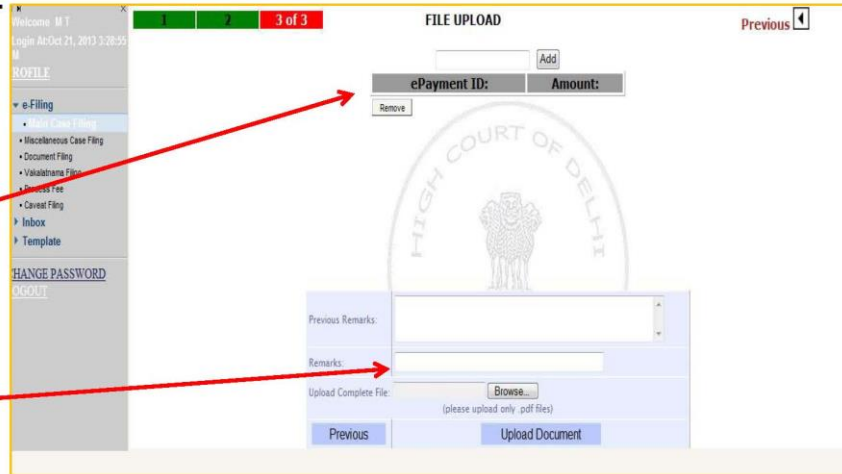


MAIN CASE FILING

Step 3: After completing the complete Filing Details of the case. Enter the digit code of the e-Stamp Court Fee for payment of court fees and then upload Documents.

1.) Enter the 17 digit unique e-Court Fee ID and click on the **Add** button to add e-Court Fee ID. Here one can add as many as e-Court Fee IDs

2.) Advocate Remarks



MAIN CASE FILING

Step 3: Enter the 17 digit code of the e-Stamp Court Fee for payment of court fees and then upload Documents.

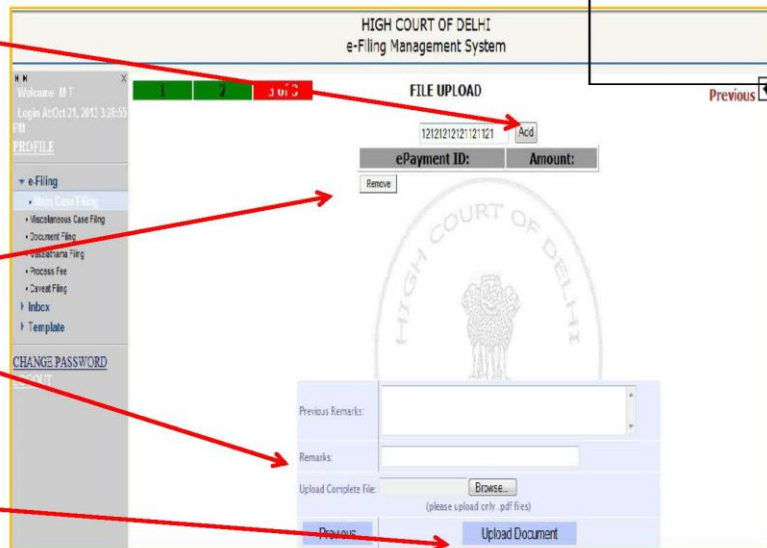
1.) Multiple e-Court Fee ID's are added

2.) You can also remove e-Court Fee ID if it is wrongly added by selecting the checkbox before the e-Court Fee ID and click on **Remove** button

3) Remarks can be added

4.) Upload the prepared petition in PDF format.

5.) Click on **Upload Document** button to complete the process of main case filing





MAIN CASE FILING

On completion of upload following screen will appear with the diary number for the filled case you have filed

- Diary no. for the current filed case.
- Email has been sent to your email id.
- File is under scrutiny.
- Check inbox for status.



MAIN CASE INBOX

INBOX: Now you can track the status of case filed by you through your inbox.

1.) In the system the facility of tracking the status of different types of filings viz Main, Misc etc.

2.) Click on the **Main Case** sub menu under Inbox menu

3.) under main case inbox there are two tabs under main case inbox viz **SCRUTINY** --- Lists the cases **DEFECTIVE** --- Lists the cases which are in defective stage

S/No	Diary No.	Case Type	Case No.	Petitioner Vs Respondent	Date of Filing	Status	Mail
1	33/2013	ITA		F5 & ANR. Vs FGDPSF	04-04-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
2	32/2013	ITA		Y Vs B	25-03-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
3	31/2013	ITC		SDFDPSDF Vs FGDG	14-03-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
4	29/2013	ITA		WWWWW Vs WWWWW	21-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
5	27/2013	ITA		CHANU SINGH Vs COMMISSIONER OF TAX	05-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
6	25/2013	ITA		ARUN SINGH Vs GARUN SINGH	05-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
7	24/2013	ITA		TWEWEW Vs CGDG	05-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
8	23/2013	ITA		OOOOOOOOOOO & ANR. Vs PPPPPPPPPP & ANR.	05-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
9	22/2013	ITA		ABC Vs KBC	05-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
10	21/2013	ITA		BBBBBBBBBBB Vs BBBB8888BCC & ORS.	05-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
11	19/2013	ITA		SDFDSD Vs SDFDSD	02-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
12	18/2013	ITA		DFD Vs FSDFDS	31-01-2013	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
13	17/2013	ITA		SDFDSD Vs SDFDSD & ANR.	29-01-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
14	16/2013	ITA		DSDF Vs SDFDSD	29-01-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent



MAIN CASE INBOX

INBOX: Now you can track the status of case filed by you through your inbox.

1.) **DEFECTIVE**--- Lists the cases which are in defective stage .

2.) In **DEFECTIVE** tab – option is given to **Re-File** the defective cases.

3.) To view the defect in case click on **DEFECTIVE** link.

SNo	Diary No.	Case Type	Case No.	Petitioner Vs Respondent	Date of Filing	Status	Mail
1	28/2013	ITA		COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX Vs ABC	Memo of Party 05-02-2013	DEFECTIVE	ReFile Get Mail
2	9/2013	ITA		DDDDDD VS CCCCCC	Memo of Party 09-01-2013	DEFECTIVE	ReFile Get Mail
3	183650/2012	ITA		GHJHJH Vs WQWQWQ	Memo of Party 10-12-2012	DEFECTIVE	ReFile Get Mail
4	183648/2012	ITA		FS & ANR. Vs FGFDGD	Memo of Party 01-12-2012	DEFECTIVE	ReFile Get Mail



MAIN CASE INBOX , scrutiny report

On clicking of **DEFECTIVE** link scrutiny report of case will be displayed

SNo.	Defects marked during Scrutiny	Date of Defects	
		Marked	Remove
1)	(3)- Service be effected to the nominated counsel for the respondent. [- <input type="text"/> x	12/12/2012	-
2)	(5)- Date of receipt of the notice / order of the Tribunal be given in the appeal. [- <input type="text"/>	12/12/2012	-
3)	(128)- A note to the effect that if any similar/connected matter is filed or pending in this Court be mentioned on the INDEX & indicate the Court where it is pending. [- <input type="text"/>	12/12/2012	-
4)	(131)- Blanks be filled. [- <input type="text"/>	12/12/2012	-
5)	(130)- Application for condonation of delay in filing/refiling be filed along with affidavit. [- <input type="text"/>	12/12/2012	-

SAVE



MISCELLANEOUS FILING

1) There is a submenu **Miscellaneous Case Filing** available in **e-Filing** menu .

2) Select Case Type, Case No., Year and click on Go button



MISCELLANEOUS FILING

1) Select Filing Type

2) Select Application Type

3) Select parties

4) Add e-court fee Ids

5) Select document To upload

6) Click on Save button to submit the form.



MISCELLANEOUS FILING

On completion of upload following screen will appear with the diary number for the filled case you have filed.

Diary No. E-35/2013

Confirmation E-mail Message has been sent.

- e-filing is subject to scrutiny of case.
- Click here to see the defects.

Inbox for...



MISCELLANEOUS CASE INBOX

1.) In the system the facility of tracking the status of different types of filings viz Main, Misc. etc.

2.) Click on the Misc Case sub menu under Inbox menu

3.) under main case inbox there are two tabs under main case inbox

SCRUTINY---
Lists the cases which are in scrutiny stage

DEFECTIVE---
Lists the cases which are in defective stage

Search By: Diary No [] ALL [] Go []

SCRUTINY (10)		DEFECTIVE (0)				
SINo.	Diary No.	Case Type	Case No.	Date of Filing	Status	Mail
1	35/2013	CS(OS)	23/2012	09-04-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
2	34/2013	CS(OS)	23/2010	08-04-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
3	183653/2012	ITA	6/2012	12-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
4	183652/2012	ITA	648/2012	12-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
5	183645/2012	ITA	648/2012	01-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
6	183641/2012	ITA	648/2012	29-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
7	183636/2012	ITA	649/2012	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
8	183632/2012	ITA	648/2012	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
9	183630/2012	ITA	648/2012	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Get Mail
10	183625/2012	ITA	648/2012	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent



DOCUMENT CASE FILING

1) Select Case Type, Case No. Year and click on **Go** button

2) Select Type of Document

3) Select parties

4) Select document To upload

5) Click on **Save** button to submit the form

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Document Filing". At the top, there are dropdown menus for "Case Type:" (set to "CRLA - CRIMINAL APPEAL"), "Case No.:" (set to "1"), and "Year:" (set to "2013"). A "Go" button is located below these fields. The form has two radio buttons: "Urgent" (selected) and "Ordinary". Below this, there is a "Type of Document for Uploading*" dropdown menu. The "Filed For(Party Name)*" section contains two checkboxes: "BRIJESH KUMAR" and "STATE NCT OF DELHI". There are also text input fields for "Previous Remarks:", "Remarks:", and "File Name:". A "Browse..." button is next to the "File Name" field. A "Save" button is at the bottom right of the form.



DOCUMENT CASE FILING

On completion of upload following screen will appear with the diary number for the filled case you have filed.

The screenshot shows a user interface with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains a "Welcome" message, login information, and a menu with sections for "e-Filing" (Main Case Filing, Miscellaneous Case Filing, Document Filing, Vakalatnama Filing, Process Fee, Caveat Filing) and "Inbox" (Main Filing Inbox, Misc. Filing Inbox, Document Filing Inbox, Caveat Filing Inbox, Pending Cases Inbox, Draft Inbox). There are also links for "CHANGE PASSWORD" and "LOGOUT". The main content area displays a success message: "Diary No. E-36/2013" with a checkmark icon and "E-mail Message is delivered successfully". Below this, there are two bullet points: "e-filing is subject to scrutiny of case." and "Click here to see the defects." A smaller version of the sidebar menu is shown below the second bullet point. A large watermark of the High Court of Delhi logo is visible in the background.



DOCUMENT CASE FILING

1.) Click on the Document Filing sub menu under Inbox menu

2.) under Document Filing Inbox there are two tabs under main case inbox viz SCRUTINY--- Lists the cases which are in scrutiny stage DEFECTIVE--- Lists the cases which are in defective stage

S/No	Diary No.	Case Type	Case No.	Filing Category	Date of Filing	Status	Mail
1	36/2013	CS/OS	23/2012	OFFICE LIQUIDATORS REPORT	09-04-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
2	36/2013	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	02-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
3	183651/2012	AR.B.A.	1/2012	AFFIDAVIT	12-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
4	183647/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	01-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
5	183646/2012	ITA	648/2012	EVIDENCE	01-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
6	183642/2012	ITA	648/2012	DOCUMENT	29-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
7	183628/2012	ITA	648/2012	PROCESS FEE	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
8	183627/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
9	183626/2012	ITA	648/2012	REJOINER	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
10	183623/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent



DOCUMENT CASE FILING

1.) Click on the Document Filing sub menu under Inbox menu

2.) under Document Filing Inbox there are two tabs under main case inbox viz SCRUTINY--- Lists the cases which are in scrutiny stage DEFECTIVE--- Lists the cases which are in defective stage

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2	36/2013	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	02-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
3	183651/2012	AR.B.A.	1/2012	AFFIDAVIT	12-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
4	183647/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	01-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
5	183646/2012	ITA	648/2012	EVIDENCE	01-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
6	183642/2012	ITA	648/2012	DOCUMENT	29-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
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8	183627/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
9	183626/2012	ITA	648/2012	REJOINER	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
10	183623/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent



PENDING CASES INBOX

1.) Once the case is passed from scrutiny stage and gets case no, it will come under **Pending Cases Inbox** submenu

2) Registration Number

3) Main case diary number

Serial No.	Registration No	Diary No	Filing date
1.	ITA-650/2012	183654/2012	20/12/2012 12:41 PM
2.	ITA-649/2012	183633/2012	24/11/2012 3:45 PM
3.	ITA-651/2012	183624/2012	24/11/2012 11:23 AM
4.	ITA-648/2012	183621/2012	24/11/2012 10:52 AM

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DRAFT INBOX

- **Draft Inbox:** It keeps the track of cases which are not filed yet due to some reason.

Serial No.	Date of Draft creation	e-Filing	Remove
1.	2012-11-23 17:04:07.0	Click Here	Remove
2.	2012-11-24 11:08:51.0	Click Here	Remove
3.	2012-11-23 11:44:54.0	Click Here	Remove

Appendix – IV

Please go to the website - <http://cca.gov.in> to get the list of Licensed CAs-

The screenshot shows the website for the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA). The header includes navigation links: Home, About CCA, Services, PKI Framework, Root CA of India, Licensed CAs, CA Certificates, Resource Center, FAQ, and Closed CAs. The main content area is titled "Licensed CA's" and features a list of licensed entities on the left and a grid of disclosure records on the right. The footer contains links for Recruitment, Tenders, Disclaimer, Copyright, Website Policies, Archives, Terms & Conditions, and Public Grievances, along with the text "All rights reserved CCA ©2012".

Licensed CAs

- Safescrypt
- IDRBT
- National Informatics Centre
- TCS
- MTNL
- GNFC
- e Mudhra CA

Licensed CA's

Home » Licensed CAs

Licensed CAs

 SAFE SCRIPT the confidence to do more Disclosure Record of Safescrypt CA	 IDRBT Disclosure Record of iTrust CA (IDRBT)	 NIC NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE National Informatics Centre
 TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES Experience certainty. Disclosure Record of TCS CA	 MTNL Disclosure Record of MTNL TrustLine CA	 (n)Code Solutions Disclosure Record of (n)Code Solutions CA
 e mudhra Trust Delivered Disclosure Record of e-Mudhra CA		

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DOCUMENT CASE FILING

1) Select Case Type, Case No.Year and click on **Go** button

2) Select Type of Document

3) Select parties

4) Select document To upload

5) Click on **Save** button to submit the form

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Document Filing". At the top, there are dropdown menus for "Case Type" (set to "CRLA - CRIMINAL APPEAL"), "Case No." (set to "1"), and "Year" (set to "2013"). A "Go" button is located below these fields. The form is divided into several sections: "Type of Document for Uploading" with a "Select" dropdown; "Filed For(Party Name)" with checkboxes for "BRIJESH KUMAR" and "STATE NCT OF DELHI"; "Previous Remarks" and "Remarks" with text input fields; and "File Name" with a "Browse..." button. A "Save" button is at the bottom right of the form.



DOCUMENT CASE FILING

On completion of upload following screen will appear with the diary number for the filled case you have filed.

The screenshot shows a user dashboard. On the left is a sidebar menu with categories: "e-Filing" (Main Case Filing, Miscellaneous Case Filing, Document Filing, Vakalatnama Filing, Process Fee, Caveat Filing), "Inbox" (Main Filing Inbox, Misc. Filing Inbox, Document Filing Inbox, Caveat Filing Inbox, Pending Cases Inbox, Draft Inbox), "Template", "CHANGE PASSWORD", and "LOGOUT". The main content area displays a success message: "Diary No. E-36/2013" with a checkmark icon and "E-mail Message is delivered successfully". Below this, there are two bullet points: "e-filing is subject to scrutiny of case." and "Click here to see the defects." A smaller version of the sidebar menu is also visible in the bottom right of the main content area.



DOCUMENT CASE FILING

1.) Click on the Document Filing sub menu under Inbox menu

2.) under Document Filing Inbox there are two tabs under main case inbox viz SCRUTINY--- Lists the cases which are in scrutiny stage DEFECTIVE--- Lists the cases which are in defective stage

The screenshot shows a web interface for document case filing. At the top, there is a search bar with 'Diary No' selected and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar, there are two tabs: 'SCRUTINY (10)' and 'DEFECTIVE (0)'. The 'SCRUTINY (10)' tab is active, displaying a table of cases. The table has columns for S/No, Diary No., Case Type, Case No., Filing Category, Date of Filing, Status, and Mail. The cases listed are:

S/No	Diary No.	Case Type	Case No.	Filing Category	Date of Filing	Status	Mail
1	36/2013	CS(OS)	23/2012	OFFICE LIQUIDATORS REPORT	09-04-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
2	36/2013	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	02-02-2013	SCRUTINY	Sent
3	183651/2012	ARB.A.	1/2012	AFFIDAVIT	12-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
4	183647/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	01-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
5	183646/2012	ITA	648/2012	EVIDENCE	01-12-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
6	183642/2012	ITA	648/2012	DOCUMENT	29-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
7	183628/2012	ITA	648/2012	PROCESS FEE	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
8	183627/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
9	183626/2012	ITA	648/2012	REJOINDER	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent
10	183623/2012	ITA	648/2012	VAKALATNAMA	24-11-2012	SCRUTINY	Sent



THANK YOU

- In case of any difficulty, please contact:
 - Mr. Sarsij Kumar, email@:- sarsij.kumar@nic.in
 - Mr. Zameem Ahmad Khan, email@:- zameem.dhc@nic.in

HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

No.7/Rules / DHC

Dated: 12.3.2009

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS FOR MEDIATION

Hon'ble the Chief Justice, in supersession of the earlier practice directions bearing No.3/Rules/DHC dated 16.2.2009, has been pleased to issue the following practice directions:-

- 1) Plaintiffs/defendants and appellants/respondents along with the plaints, appeals or the written statement/replies/rejoinder would annex duly filed up proforma as placed at Annexure "A" indicating their willingness to opt for any of the Alternate Dispute Resolution methods i.e. Mediation, Conciliation, Arbitration, Lok Adalat or Judicial Settlement.
- 2) The Registry, while issuing summons or notices of plaints or appeals, shall annex the copy of the options so exercised by the plaintiffs/petitioners/appellants to the summons/notice issued to the defendant/respondent.
- 3) When the case is listed before the Court, the Court may consider the option so exercised by the parties while taking a decision to refer the matter for settlement by mediation or any other alternative dispute resolution method.
- 4) The Courts may refer a case for mediation at any stage of the proceedings.
- 5) On the date when issues are framed, the Court shall consider the feasibility and advisability of referring the case for ADR. If such a case is referred for mediation, then the Court shall fix a date for recording of evidence as per the calendar making it clear that if mediation fails, the evidence shall be recorded on the date fixed and on a day to day basis.
- 6) When a case is referred for mediation, not more than 90 days adjournment for hearing may be given with the direction that the Mediator shall submit his report before the Court prior to the date fixed so as to avoid any delay in trial.
- 7) The Mediator shall maintain strict confidentiality of mediation proceedings and the confidentiality factor should be explained to the parties at the outset.
- 8) The report of the Mediator to the Court should only state whether or not the settlement between the parties has been arrived at. In the event of parties arriving at a settlement, the Mediator shall satisfy himself that settlement covers all the issues between the parties and thereafter shall reduce the terms of settlement into writing. He shall explain the same to the parties and obtain their signatures on the settlement before referring it to the Court.
- 9) The Mediator shall not state in his report as to what transpired during the mediation and what was the stand taken by respective parties and cause for failure of mediation.

- 10) The case which is referred for mediation, if returned without any settlement, will be placed before the same Hon'ble Judge, who in the first instance, referred it for mediation irrespective of whether the Hon'ble Judge is sitting on the same board or not.

By order of the Court,
Sd/-
(Ajit Bharihoke)
Registrar General

FORM 'A'

IN THE COURT OF _____ DELHI

In the matter of a suit/appeal/proceeding instituted (give the particulars)

..... Plaintiff(s)/Appellant(s) Against

..... Defendant(s)/Respondent(s)

I, _____, S/o _____ plaintiff/defendant/
respondent,

appellant/respondent, give my consent to settle this case by
mediation/conciliation/arbitration/lok adalat/judicial settlement.

Signature

PLACE

DATE

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE COMMERCIAL COURTS, COMMERCIAL DIVISION AND COMMERCIAL APPELLATE DIVISION OF HIGH COURTS ACT, 2015

1. These Practice Directions are issued by the Court in exercise of powers conferred under Section 18 of the Commercial Courts Act to supplement the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018, the provisions of Chapter II of the Commercial Courts Act or the Code of Civil Procedure,

1908, in so far as such provisions apply to the hearing of commercial disputes of a specified value. said Act, as applicable, shall apply to all suits/ original proceedings in relation to “commercial disputes”, as defined under Section 2(c) of the Commercial Courts Act.

2. Where parties seek to rely upon any documentary evidence, they must include the same along with the plaint and identify the relevant content of such documentary evidence on which they rely. Where the documentary evidence is in electronic form, parties shall furnish requisite affidavit under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, in support of the said electronic record. They shall also state in such affidavit that to the best of the deponent’s knowledge and belief, such computer system operated properly at the material time, the deponent was provided with relevant data, and the printout in question represents correctly, or it is appropriately derived from, relevant data.

3. The aggregate value of the claim and counter-claim, if any, as set out in the statement of claim and the counter-claim, if any, in an arbitration of a commercial dispute shall be the basis for determining whether such arbitration is subject to the jurisdiction of a Commercial Division, Commercial Appellate Division or Commercial Court, as the case maybe.

4. The Registry shall maintain, regularly, on a monthly basis, a separate statistical data regarding the number of suits, applications, appeals or writ petitions filed before the Commercial Court or Commercial Division, as the case may be.

5. In commercial cases, the index of the case shall also specify whether the originals of the documents filed are in the power, possession, control or custody of the party filing the same as also the mode of execution, issuance or receipt and line of custody of each document [Order XI rule 1(2) of the Code]. The Registry will ensure that the plaints, petitions, applications and presented.

6. Documents shall be filed only with a list of documents. No document shall be filed as annexure to any pleading.

7. Powers conferred upon the Registrar under Chapter II Rule 3 of these Rules, shall be deemed to be conferred upon him in dealing with Commercial Suits also.

8. A list of dates/ brief synopsis shall be filed along with the suit/ plaint/ petition.

9. In the case of commercial disputes, the Court may, *inter-alia*, pass orders as it may think fit

for the speedy disposal of the suit or narrowing the controversy between the parties, including:-

- a) calling upon the parties to admit or deny such allegations of fact as are made in the plaint or written statement and are not expressly or by implication admitted or denied by the party against whom they are made as provided in Order X rule 1 of the Code.
- b) recording the statement of the parties under Order X rule 2 of the Code with a view to elucidate the matter in controversy or answer the material questions relating to the suit.
- c) calling upon parties to conduct inspection of documents as required under Order XI rule 3 of the Code as applicable to commercial disputes and direct the inspection to be conducted at any place convenient to the parties within a fixed time schedule not exceeding 30 days from the date of filing of the written statement;
- d) call upon the parties to, after inspection of the documents, file statements of admission/denial as per Order XI rule 4 of the Code;
- e) passing an order of admission of a document under Order XII rule 2A of the Code, in case a party to which a notice has been given under Order XII rule 2 of the Code, has failed to deny specifically or by necessary implication and also passing an order of compensation where a party unreasonably neglects or refuses to admit a document after the service of notice.
- f) passing an order for paying cost of proving a document or a fact by a party, refusing or neglecting to admit a document.
- g) direct listing of the matter before the Registrar for marking of exhibits on all admitted documents as also public documents of third parties for e.g., documents issued by government authorities, reputed publications, newspaper articles, electronic printouts from websites which are accessible openly;
- h) conduct a case management hearing under Order XV-A of the Court and as part of the said case management hearing –
 - i. explore the possibility of settlement between the parties as per Section 89 of the Code.
 - ii. explore the possibility of deciding the dispute by a summary judgment, without a specific application for the said purpose, on the basis of pleadings dispensing with the trial of the suit on the questions of law or of facts on which the parties are not at issue;
 - iii. frame only such issues that arise for adjudication and upon insistence by any parties for framing of issues which the Court considers either frivolous or not maintainable, affix costs on a per issue basis to be paid by the losing party after trial;
 - iv. decide such issues which do not require evidence as preliminary issues;
 - v. fix a date for filing of list of witnesses by both parties;
 - vi. examine the list of witnesses and direct only such witnesses to be examined as are essential for adjudication of the issues so framed so as to not permit unnecessary protraction of trial with large number of witnesses;
 - vii. fix time schedules for filing of affidavits in evidence by all parties including rebuttal evidence, if any;

- viii. It shall be endeavour of Court/ Registrar to appoint such person as a Commissioner to record evidence, who would be in a position to carry out the commission within the time lines provided by these Rules, and in any case, not a person who is appointed as a Commissioner for recording evidence, and who has not more than ten pending matters as on that date.
- ix. The Commissioner shall, to the extent possible, make himself available for recording evidence throughout the working hours of the Court and endeavour to record evidence on a day-to-day basis.
- x. The Court/ Registrar may require the Commissioner to furnish a report of the progress of commission on such periodicity as it considers appropriate including requiring the Commissioner to file his reports and record of proceedings, on a hearing to hearing basis, and not at the end of the recordal of evidence. The Commissioner shall, in his record of proceedings/ order sheet, mention the time at which the proceedings commenced; the time at which the examination-in-chief, cross-examination, and re-examination, if any, respectively, commenced and ended. In such record the Commissioner shall also mention the time at which commission proceedings closed on the said date.
- xi. The Commissioner shall record all objections raised during recording of evidence and shall not delay or adjourn the recording of evidence on that ground. All such objections shall be decided at the time of decision of the suit/ other original proceeding or at such time as the Court considers appropriate.
- xii. If the Commissioner is of the view that a party is unduly, unreasonably or unjustifiably prolonging cross-examination of a witness; the Commissioner shall immediately bring it to the notice of Court/ Registrar for appropriate orders.
- xiii. The Commissioner shall obtain signatures of witness on every page of the testimony.
- xiv. The Commissioner shall endeavour to complete recording of evidence within six months from the date first fixed before him. In case the recording of evidence cannot be completed within six months, the Commissioner shall furnish a report explaining reasons for delay and direct parties to seek appropriate orders from Court/ Registrar. The Court/ Registrar, in its discretion, upon examining the report of the Commissioner, may grant a further period within which the commission is to be completed or pass such orders as it considers appropriate.
- xv. Where Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner deems appropriate, keeping in view volume/ number of documents required to be marked/ identified, it may dispense with marking of documents in presence of witnesses, by directing a pre-trial hearing before Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner, when identification and marking of exhibits/ affixation of suitable marks of identification can be carried out in terms of respective affidavit(s) of witnesses filed. While doing so the Court/ Registrar/ Commissioner would record objections, if any, of any party objecting to marking/ identification of documents;
- xvi. monitor the trial being carried out by fixing periodic dates before itself every 3 months after the Case Management hearing;

- xvii. direct consolidation of trials in cases where identical or similar issues arise;
- xviii. direct filing of synopsis in the suit ;
- xix. direct pagination of the record and convert them to digital copies to be given to all parties in the case;
- xx. fix time limits for final arguments.

10. Summons for settlement of issues in Commercial Cases shall be as per Form below –

“Summons for Settlement of Issues in a Suit relating to Commercial Dispute (U/s 6 of the Commercial Courts, Commercial Divisions and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015 amending Order V, Rule I of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908)

In the High Court of Delhi at New Delhi

.....Plaintiff versus

.....Defendant

To

(Name, description and place of residence)

Whereashas instituted a suit relating to a commercial dispute against you and you are hereby summoned to file a written statement within 30 days of the service of the present summons and in case you fail to file the written statement along with an affidavit of admission/ denial of documents filed by the plaintiff, within the said period of 30 days, you shall be allowed to file the written statement on such other day, as may be specified by the Court, for reasons to be recorded in writing and on payment of such costs as the Court deems fit, but which shall not be later than 120 days from the date of service of summons. On expiry of One Hundred and Twenty days from the date of service of summons, you shall forfeit the right to file the written statement and the Court shall not allow the written statement to be taken on record.

You are required to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader duly instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions, on the day ofat... O’ clock, to answer the claim; and further you are hereby directed to produce on the said day all documents in your power or possession upon which you base your defence or claim for set off or counter-claim, and where you rely on any other document, whether in your power or possession or not, as evidence in support or you defence or claim for set-off, or counter-claim, you shall enter such documents in a list to be annexed to the written statement.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day and time aforementioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under the hand and the Seal of Court, on thisday of..... 20...

Judge/ Registrar”

³⁵[ANNEXURE F

**CHAPTER VII RULE 17
PROTOCOL OF CONFIDENTIALITY CLUB**

**Procedure to be followed in dealing with
confidential documents/ information**

Upon hearing of an application, the Court may allow constitution of a Confidentiality Club in the following manner:-

- a) All documents/ information considered as confidential (“Confidential Documents/ Information”) by the Court shall be permitted to be filed in a sealed cover to kept in the safe custody of Registrar General.
- b) Each party shall nominate not more than three Advocates, who are not and have not been in-house lawyers of either party, and not more than two external experts, who shall constitute the Confidentiality Club. Members of the Confidentiality Club alone shall be entitled to inspect the Confidential Documents/ Information.
- c) Members of the Confidentiality Club shall be allowed to inspect the Confidential Documents/ Information before the Registrar General, without making copies thereof. After the inspection, the Confidential Documents/ Information shall be resealed and kept in the custody of the Registrar General.
- d) Members of the Confidentiality Club shall not make copies of, or disclose, or publish the contents of, the Confidential Documents/ Information to anyone else in any manner or by any means, or in any other legal proceedings and shall be bound by the orders of the Court in this behalf.
- e) During recordal of evidence with respect to the Confidential Documents/ Information, only members of the Confidentiality Club shall be allowed to remain present.
- f) During proceedings of the Court, when the Confidential Documents/ Information are being looked at or their contents discussed, only members of the Confidentiality Club shall be permitted to be present.
- g) The Court may in its discretion and in an appropriate case, permit copies of the Confidential Documents to be given to the opposite party after redacting confidential information therefrom, if such redaction be possible and not otherwise.
- h) Any evidence by way of affidavit or witness statement containing confidential information derived from the Confidential Documents/ Information shall be kept in a sealed cover with the Registrar General and would be accessible only to the members of

³⁵ New Annexure F inserted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018

the Confidentiality Club. However, a party filing such evidence by way of affidavit shall, if so directed by the Court, give to the opposite party, a copy of such affidavit after redacting therefrom the confidential information, if such redaction is possible and not otherwise.

- i) The Confidential Documents/ Information shall not be available for inspection after disposal of the matter, except to the Party producing the same.
- j) In cases where the Confidentiality Club is constituted or documents are directed to be kept confidential, the Court may consider extending the time for filing of pleadings. However, the same shall be within the overall limits prescribed by the applicable provisions.]

³⁶[ANNEXURE G

CHAPTER XI RULE 6 HOT TUBBING

‘Hot-tubbing’ is a technique in which expert witnesses give evidence simultaneously in each other’s presence and in front of the Judge, who puts the same question to each expert witnesses. It is a co-operative endeavour to identify key issues of a dispute and where possible evolve a common resolution for all of them. However, where resolution of issues is not possible, a structured discussion, allows the experts to give their opinions without the constraints of the adversarial process and in a setting which enables them to respond directly to each other. The Judge is thereby not confined to the opinion of only one expert but has the benefit of multiple experts who are rigorously examined in public.

When parties to a commercial suit wish to rely on the hot tubbing method to record the deposition of expert witnesses, then the Court may adopt the following procedure:

- a) Prior to a hearing taking place, the expert witnesses take parting a meeting, at a mutually convenient place, where they prepare a Joint Statement which shall be filed before Court.
- b) The Joint Statement shall consist of the agreed statement of facts and disputed issues.
- c) Thereafter, suggested questions to be put to the expert witnesses, shall be filed by the parties.
- d) A hearing is then conducted on the disputed issues.
- e) Counsels may put questions to the expert witnesses, as may be permitted by the Court.
- f) At the end of the proceeding, the Court would draw up the issues on which the expert witnesses agree and the issues on which they disagree.
- g) On the issues on which the expert witnesses disagree, the Court shall record their statements.]

BY ORDER
Sd/-
(DINESH KUMAR SHARMA)
REGISTRAR GENERAL

³⁶ New Annexure G inserted vide Notification No. 722/Rules/DHC dated 16.10.2018