



COVID - 19 - IMPACT ON LITIGATION

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has issued an advisory cautioning against mass congregation considering the seriousness of pandemic Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

In view thereof and considering the safety and welfare of all the visitors, litigants, lawyers, court staff etc., all the Courts in India (including some of the Tribunals) have restricted their functioning and are hearing only urgent matters.

The restriction has been imposed since March 16, 2020 and the period of restriction varies from court to court. The courts which have imposed restriction only for a week from March 16, 2020 are likely to extend the same to March 31, 2020 or for any subsequent period, which the Government of India/court may deem fit at the relevant time.

During the restriction period, in relation to matters which are not urgent, the courts have clarified that neither the lawyer nor the litigant needs to be present in the court, and the matter shall be adjourned by default. The courts have also assured that till the present situation persists, no adverse/default orders will be passed in matters where parties/lawyers are absent.

While the restriction imposed by the courts may not have any adverse impact on the merits of the case, the effective hearing on the matters is unlikely to take place until further orders by the courts, which shall depend upon the situation of Covid-19.

We continue business as usual and our attorneys and staff are available to provide our clients uninterrupted service. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns at any time. We hope that you and your family remain healthy and safe throughout this global health challenge.

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