



## **Delhi High Court directions in Bail matters**

The Indian Courts have enabled several measures to ease the procedural aspects of litigation/court processes during the ongoing COVID -19 lockdown situation. One such instance is the directions issued to all the District Courts in Delhi by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, in its recent order dated 14 May 2020 in ***Hansraj & Ors. Vs. State of Delhi & Ors.*** [W.P. (Crl) No. 804 of 2020], in matters relating to bail applications. The Hon'ble Delhi High Court has passed the following directions:

1. In bail matters, there will be no insistence on filing of the signed/attested vakalatanama (power of attorney to Counsel), signed and attested affidavits or applications where the applicant is in jail and/or if the family members of such an applicant reside outside Delhi.
2. An email, affirming the appointment of Counsel and an undertaking to sign the vakalatanama and other original documents within two weeks of the lifting of the lockdown should suffice in such cases. Aadhaar number and phone/mobile number should also be recorded in such email/authority letter. The aforementioned emails should be accepted without insistence on signatures, as it may not be possible for everyone to append their digital signatures or send the scanned copy.
3. Physically signed and attested vakalatanama of a person, who is in custody or not residing in Delhi will not be insisted upon by the Facilitation Centre in any of the District Courts in Delhi and filing of bail applications with the Facilitation Centre shall not be rejected for this reason.

Clasis Law supports 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' initiative to fight against pandemic COVID-19 crisis. 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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