

**HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI**

**Roc.No.48/SO/2024**

**Dated: 15.02.2024**

**CIRCULAR No. 01/2024**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in it's Order dated 10.01.2024 passed in ***Shama Sharma versus Kishan Kumar*** (Transfer Petition (Civil) No. 1957 of 2023) directed all the High Courts to ensure that the caste/religion of a litigant does not appear in the memo of parties in any petition/suit/proceeding filed before the High Court or/and the Courts before District Judiciary under their respective jurisdictions. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the said order inter alia observed as under;

***"10. Before parting with this matter, we have noted with surprise that the caste of both the parties has been mentioned in the memo of parties, besides their order details. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that if the memo of parties as filed before the courts below is changed in any manner, the Registry raises an objection and in the present case as the caste of both the parties was mentioned before the court below, he had no option but to mention their caste in the Transfer Petition.***

***11. We see no reason for mentioning the caste/religion of any litigant either before this Court or the courts below. Such a practice is to be shunned and must be ceased forthwith. It is therefore deemed appropriate to pass a general order directing that henceforth the caste or religion of parties shall not be mentioned in the memo of parties of a petition/proceeding filed before this Court, irrespective of whether any such details have been furnished before the courts below. A direction is also issued to all the High Courts to ensure that the caste/religion of a litigant does not appear in the memo of parties in any petition/suit/proceeding filed before the High Court or the Subordinate Courts under their respective jurisdictions.***

***12. The above directions shall be brought to the notice of the members of the Bar as well as the Registry for immediate compliance. A copy of this order shall be placed before the Registrar concerned for perusal and for circulation to the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts for strict compliance."***

In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, as above, all the concerned Officers/Officials of the Registry are hereby directed to strictly adhere to the aforesaid directions that henceforth the caste or religion of parties shall not be mentioned in the memo of parties of a petition/proceeding filed before the Courts, irrespective of whether any such details have been furnished before the Courts below.

All the Judicial Officers in the State are hereby directed to strictly adhere to the directions issued supra by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The members of the Advocates' Association, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, and Bar Associations in Districts and mofussil areas in Andhra Pradesh are also requested to take note of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, quoted herein above.

*J. Lakshmana Rao*  
15/02/2024  
**REGISTRAR GENERAL**

To

1. The P.S. to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice (with a request to place before the circular before the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for his His Lordship's kind perusal).
2. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Andhra Pradesh (with a request to place the circular before the Hon'ble Judges for their Lordship's kind perusal).
3. All the Registrars, High Court of Andhra Pradesh.
4. The Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Andhra Pradesh, for communicating the circular among the Scrutiny Officers and Section Officers under his control.
5. The Registrar (I.T. cum Central Project Coordinator), High Court of Andhra Pradesh (with a request to instruct the concerned to place the circular in High Court's website).
6. The Director, Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.
7. The Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, High Court Buildings, Nelapadu.
8. All the Principal District Judges/Unit Heads in Andhra Pradesh (with a request to communicate the same to all the Judicial Officers in the District).
9. The Chairman/Secretary, Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh (with a request to communicate the circular to all Bar Associations in Districts and Mofussil areas of Andhra Pradesh)
10. The President and Secretary, Advocates' Association, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati, with a request that this Circular may be given wide publicity for the information of Members of the Association.
11. The Director, Mediation and Arbitration Centre, High Court of Andhra Pradesh.
12. The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh High Court Legal Services Committee, Amaravati.
13. All the Section Officers, High Court of Andhra Pradesh.