

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH :: AMARAVATI

CIRCULAR

ROC.No.42/OP Cell/2025

Dated 10.02.2025

This circular is being issued in addition to the circulars issued earlier regarding disposal of old cases, but not in derogation of any one of them.

It has been brought to the notice of State Court Management Systems Committee (SCMSC) of High Court of Andhra Pradesh that number of cases were pending at the stage of execution of NBWs, issuance of Section 82 and 83 of Cr.P.C. (Section 84 and 85 of BNSS, 2023) notices, recording of evidence under Section 299 Cr.P.C.(Section 335 of BNSS, 2023) i.e., for declaration of case as 'Long Pending Case'(LPC) and at the Registers of LPC.

The High Court of Andhra Pradesh had earlier directed the Trial Courts to close the split up cases (when the main case ended in acquittal) wherein NBWs have been pending against the accused for a long time on the basis of the decisions rendered vide ***Jayavula Ram Babu Vs. State of AP¹ and Thallapalli Rajaiah Vs. State of AP² and Garlapati Kamal Kumar Vs. State of Telangana³***.

Besides, Section 258 Cr.P.C.(Section 281 of BNSS, 2023) empowers the Judicial Magistrate of First Class to stop the proceedings in summons cases (instituted otherwise than upon complaint) i.e., instituted by the Police, at any stage, if the Police failed to evince interest in service of summons and in execution of NBW's. However, such summons cases, where the Judicial Magistrate of First Class stopped proceedings, can be revived, if felt necessary, as contemplated under Section 300 (5) of Cr.P.C. (Section 337 (5) of BNSS, 2023).

Further, the Government of A.P. issued GO.Ms.No.54, dated 30.03.2000 (copy annexed) empowering the Superintendents of Police to initiate withdrawal proceedings in all cases of simple in nature (summons cases as defined under

¹ 1992 APLJ (Cri) 183

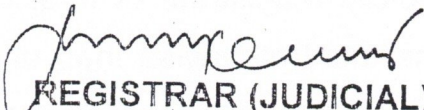
² 2000 (1) ALT (Cri) 174 (AP)

³ 2016 (1) ALD (Cri) 326 (AP)

Section 2(w) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Section 2(x) of BNSS, 2023) and in all other cases the District Collectors is empowered to initiate withdrawal proceedings.

Further, as per the Form 52, B, Criminal-Part II of the AP Criminal Rules of Practice, the records are to be destroyed periodically. One of the points that have been mentioned in the Form 52, B, Criminal-Part II (4) of the Rules is that records of the cases, which were converted to and entered in Register of Long Pending Cases (LPC), are to be retained for a period of 30 years from the date on which the cases were entered into the Register of 'LPC'. Thereafter such case records may be destroyed by following due process of law. It is desirable to keep scanned copies of such LPC records.

Therefore, all the Judicial Officers in the State are directed to bestow their personal attention in disposal of old pending cases particularly the cases which are pending for more than 20 years, Long Pending Cases, by exercising discretion on the basis of the decisions mentioned supra, by following Section 258 Cr.P.C. (Section 281 of BNSS, 2023), the GO.Ms.No.54, dated 30.03.2000 and the Form 52, B, Criminal-Part II of the AP Criminal Rules of Practice.


REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL)
FAC. REGISTRAR (ENQUIRIES)
10/11/25.

To:

1. The P.S to The Hon'ble the Chief Justice
(with a request to place before the Hon'ble Chief Justice for His Lordship's kind perusal).
2. All the Registrars, High Court of A.P (for information).
3. All the Prl. District and Sessions Judges / Unit Heads in the State of A.P.
(with a request to communicate the same to all the Presiding Officers in the District).
4. The Section Officer, Special Officers Section, High Court of A.P
(for codification).
5. Registrar IT-cum-CPC - For placing the same to High Court web site.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

· WITHDRAWAL of criminal cases pending before the Criminal Courts in the State – Guidelines – Orders – Issued.

LAW (LA & J – HOME – COURTS.B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.54

Dated.30.03.2000

Read the following:-

1. Police standing order 724
2. D.O.Letter No.6/DOP/2000, dated.22.2.2000
3. D.O.Letter No.49/JD3/2000, dated.7.3.2000

ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, the procedure for withdrawal of criminal cases pending before the Criminal Courts in the State has been indicated with reference to the government Orders indicated therein.

2. In the reference 2nd and 3rd read above, the Director of Prosecutions had sought for appropriate instructions from the Government to all the District Collectors and Superintendents of Police setting forth the guidelines for withdrawal of criminal cases pending before the Criminal Courts as what are the cases of simple nature referred to in the reference 1st read above are not defined anywhere.

3. The Government after careful examination decided to issue the following guidelines regarding the procedure to be adopted in clarification and amplification of the procedure indicated by reference 1st read above.

- a. Cases of simple nature where the Superintendent of Police can initiate withdrawal under the reference 1st read above shall mean summons cases as defined under Section 2(w) of the code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and cases that can be tried summarily under Chapter XXI of the said Code.
- b. In all other cases it is only the District Collector and District Magistrate or the State Government that can initiate withdrawal of cases.

- c In addition to those cases, specified in paragraph 3 of the reference 1st read above, The District Collector and the District Magistrate should obtain approval of the Government before authorizing or directing the Public Prosecutor or the Assistant Public Prosecutor concerned to withdraw from the prosecution of any case triable by a court of Session;
- d The Superintendent of Police or the District collector and the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall obtain legal opinion of the Public Prosecutor or the Assistant Public Prosecutor concerned before authorizing or directing any withdrawal from the prosecution.
- e The Public Prosecutor or the Assistant Public Prosecutor in charge of a case has to consult the Superintendent of Police or the District Collector and the District Magistrate, as the case may be before seeking permission of the court for withdrawal or prosecution of any person.
- f The provision of Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the principles governing the same as laid down in binding judicial precedents shall be kept in view of the Public Prosecutor or the Assistant Public Prosecutor in advising withdrawal or withdrawing from the prosecution of any person.

The above guidelines shall be followed scrupulously.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

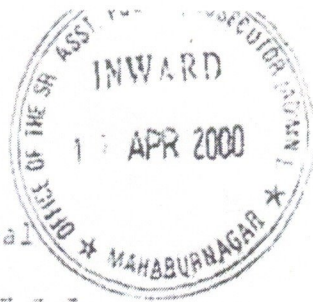
G.BHAVANI PRASAD
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS & JUSTICE.

To
The Director General & Inspector General of Police, AP.Hyd.
The Director of Prosecutions, A.P., Hyderabad
All the Collectors & District Magistrates.
All the Superintendents of Police.
Home (Police.F) Department
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

WITHDRAWAL of criminal cases pending before the Criminal Courts in the State - Guidelines - Orders - Issued.



LAW (LA & J HOME-COURTS.D) DEPARTMENT

G.O. MS. No. 54

Dated: 30-3-2000

Read the following:-

1. Police standing order 724.
2. D.O. Letter No. 6/DOP/2000, dated: 22-2-2000.
3. D.O. Letter No. 49/JD3/2000, dated: 7-3-2000.

* * *

ORDER:-

In the reference 1st read above, the procedure for withdrawal of criminal cases pending before the Criminal Courts in the State has been indicated with reference to the Government orders indicated therein.

2. In the reference 2nd and 3rd read above, the Director of Prosecutions had sought for appropriate instructions from the Government to all the District Collectors and Superintendents of Police setting forth the guidelines for withdrawal of criminal cases pending before the Criminal Courts as what are the cases of simple nature referred to in the reference 1st read above are not defined anywhere.

3. The Government after careful examination decided to issue the following guidelines regarding the procedure to be adopted in clarification and amplification of the procedure indicated by reference 1st read above.

- (a) Cases of simple nature where the Superintendent of Police can initiate withdrawal under the reference 1st read above shall mean summons cases as defined under Section 2(w) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and cases that can be tried summarily under Chapter XXI of the said Code;
- (b) In all other cases it is only the District Collector and District Magistrate or the State Government that can initiate withdrawal of cases;
- (c) In addition to those cases specified in paragraph 3 of the reference 1st read above, the District Collector and the District Magistrate should obtain approval of the Government before authorising or directing the Public Prosecutor concerned to withdraw from the prosecution of any case triable by a court of session;
- (d) the Superintendent of Police or the District Collector and the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall obtain legal opinion of the Public Prosecutor or the Assistant Public Prosecutor concerned before authorising or directing any withdrawal from the prosecution;

(e) the Public Prosecutor or the Assistant Public Prosecutor in charge of a case has to consult the Superintendent of Police or the District Collector and the District Magistrate, as the case may be, before seeking permission of the Court for withdrawal of prosecution of any person;

(f) the provision of Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the principles governing the same as laid down in binding judicial precedents shall be kept in view by the Public Prosecutor in advising withdrawal or withdrawing from the prosecution of any person.

The above guidelines shall be followed scrupulously.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G. BHAVANI PRASAD
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS & JUSTICE

To

The Director General & Inspector General of Police, A.P.,
Hyderabad.

The Director of Prosecutions, A.P., Hyderabad.

All the Collectors & District Magistrates.

All the Superintendents of Police.

Home (Police-F) Department.

Sf/Sc.

// FORWARDED: BY ORDER //

S/-
SECTION OFFICER

DIRECTORATE OF PROSECUTIONS: ANDHRA PRADESH: HYDERABAD

Endt. No. 6/DOP/2000.

Dated: 7-4-2000

Communicated for information and necessary action. The Prosecuting Officers are informed that in respect of Metropolitan areas of Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada & Hyderabad, the orders of Commr. of Police are sufficient in the matter, as they exercise powers of District Magistrate.

To

All the A.P.Ps./Sr. A.P.Ps./Addl. P. Ps. Gr. I/Gr. II, P.S. and Addl. P. Ps. in the State through Senior Asst. Public Prosecutor (Admn.).

DEs. No. 1222
Dt. 10-4-2000

FORM NO. 52

A

Form of Index

Suit application or appeal or calendar No. of 20 on the file of the court of the in the District of.

Serial Number of the papers	Description of the paper and the date	Date when the paper was filed or put up in the case	Number of the part the record to which the paper appertains	Alphabetical numerical marks of the exhibits filed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
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19.				
20.				
21.				

B

Table showing the divisions of the record and the description of the papers following under each division.

CRIMINAL

Part-I

Class of case

Divisions of the record and description of the papers falling under each division.

1. Index
2. Judgment and sentence, if any (Original and appellate) including spare copies of printed Sessions Judgments.

Trial (other than

3. Petition of appeal, or application for revision, or letter of referring Court, judgement and order thereon.
4. Charges.
5. Documentary evidence.

Summary Trial

All papers including register.

Miscellaneous Cases

1. Index.
2. Order and grounds, if any (original and appellate.)
3. Petition of appeal, or application for revision, or letter of referring Court, Judgement and order therein.
4. Documentary evidence.

PART - II

Trials (other than summary).

1. Warrant of commitment to jail, if any.
2. Complaints to Magistrates, when acted upon by the Magistrate.
3. Reports by the Police under Sections 174 and 175 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Act-V of 1898) when following by action on the part of the Courts.
4. Oral evidence.
5. All papers not already specified.

Miscellaneous cases

1. Oral evidence.
2. All papers not already specified

TELANGANA AMENDMENT

* Awards passed by Lok Adalat:

Award copy, compromise petition, proceedings sheet, FIR charge sheet papers both in warrant cases and summons cases]

Table showing the periods prescribed for the retention by various parts of the records in the various cases of proceedings

	Number of years for which records are to be retained	
	Part-I	Part -II
(1) In trial and appeals—		
(a) Sessions cases	*20	
(b) Warrant cases.	20	3
(c) Summons cases.	5	3
(d) Summary trial—		
(A) Forms kept under Section 263 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Judgment recorded under Section 264 in cases where either (i) some of the accused or parties proceeded against have not been apprehended; or (ii) the accused or any of them have been convicted of an offence or repetition of which renders the offender liable to enhanced punishment.	10	—
(B) All other records	3	—

* In cases in which the sentence passed is one of imprisonment for life the Judgement must be preserved until the report is received of the convict's death or release.

1. Added by G.O.Ms.No. 41, Law (LA, LA & J-Home-Courts A-2) Dept., dt. 19-10-2020.

(e) All records in criminal cases before Village Panchayat Courts except documentary evidence	1	—
(f) Documentary evidence in cases before village Panchayat Courts.	3	—
(2) In Miscellaneous Proceedings—		
(a) Maintenance	20	3
(b) Security to keep the peace or for good behaviour.	10	3
(c) Other Miscellaneous Proceedings	3	3
(3) Records in cases referred by the Police or in which further investigation is stopped.	3	—
(4) Records in cases entered in the Register of long pending cases	30	30

From the date on which the cases was entered in the register of long pending cases.

TELANGANA AMENDMENT

11C

- a) Award copy, compromise petition, proceedings Sheet, FIR., charge sheet papers both in warrant cases and summons cases
- b) Miscellaneous papers in Lok Adalat Cases

20 Years

3 years¹

Table showing the periods prescribed for the retention of the various Court Registers, Books and papers

Number and Description of Court Registers, Books and Papers

Number of years for which the registers, etc., to be retained.

1. Register other than of summary trials in the use of Criminal Courts, including Panchayat Courts	5
1-A. Register of long pending cases	30
2. Record destruction register of Criminal cases.	25
3. Register of Court fees.	3
4. Copyists registers and process service Registers	3
5. Challan cheque books	10
6. (a) Magistrate and Judicial Registers of correspondence received and despatched and administrative registers of despatch.	5
7. Other Court of Office Books and registers	3
8. Correspondence with the High Court on important matters and the orders of the High Courts thereon including Administration reports received from the High Court and Government	20
(a) Criminal administration Report salient features	Years from termination.
9. Other correspondence,	3 years from termination

1. Added by G.O.Ms.Ng. 41, Law (LA, LA & J-Home-Courts A-2) Dept., dt. 19-10-2020.