

THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI

No. 1089 /2025\

Dated: 08.09.2025

C I R C U L A R

It has been observed that the physical attendance of official witnesses, particularly in criminal trials often results in unnecessary delays, logistical challenges, and expenditure of public resources, especially where such witnesses are stationed in distant Districts. In view of the technological advancements and availability of video link facilities at various criminal courts across the Province, the following directions in the light of decision made by NJPMC are hereby issued for uniform compliance by all trial courts:

1. VIRTUAL APPEARANCE OF OFFICIAL WITNESSES:

- i) Trial Courts may, wherever deemed appropriate and in the interest of justice, allow the attendance of **official** witnesses, particularly police officials and forensic experts, through video link.
- ii) The video link appearance shall preferably be arranged from the **nearest District or Sessions Court** equipped with a reliable video conferencing facility, to the place of posting of the official witness.
- iii) The **trial court shall exercise discretion** to determine the appropriateness of such appearance, keeping in view the nature of testimony, availability of facility, and convenience of all parties.
- iv) Adequate notice and coordination shall be ensured by the prosecuting agency to facilitate smooth conduct of examination-in-chief and cross-examination through video link, without prejudice to the right of fair trial.

2. PROTOCOL AND VERIFICATION:

- i) The identity of the official witness appearing via video link must be **duly verified** by the officer-in-charge of the remote Court where the witness is physically present.
- ii) A **certificate of presence** along with a brief report regarding the conduct of the proceedings shall be issued by the supervising officer of the remote court and forwarded to the trial court for record.

3. JUDICIAL DISCRETION:

- ii) The use of video link for recording testimony should be considered where such an arrangement would advance the cause of **efficient trial**, without compromising on **legal safeguards**, especially under the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order, 1984 and relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

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4. **RECORD MAINTENANCE:**

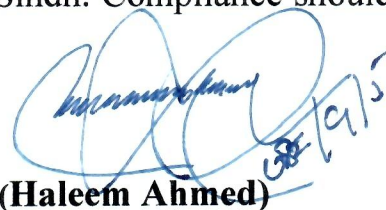
i) Trial Courts shall issue a Certificate clearly stating the reasons for adopting video link, location of the remote court, identity of witness, and verification protocol followed.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION:**

i) District & Sessions Judges are directed to **notify** the courts of 1st Judicial Magistrate at Headquarters under intimation to Registrar, High Court of Sindh, for maintaining a **record of witnesses examined**.

ii) Ensure video link facilities in the Court of 1st Judicial Magistrate of each District of Province to facilitate timely recording of evidence and reduce unnecessary adjournments.

This circular is issued with the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Justice and is to be **circulated to all criminal courts** in the Province of Sindh. Compliance should be ensured with immediate effect.



(Haleem Ahmed)

I/c Member Inspection Team-II

Copy forwarded for Information to

1. The Learned Registrar, High Court of Sindh, Karachi
2. The Learned District & Sessions Judges (All in Sindh)
3. The Prosecutor General, Sindh
4. The Advocate General, Sindh
5. The Learned Presiding Officers, Anti-Terrorism Courts (All in Sindh)
6. The Learned Presiding Officers, Accountability Courts (All in Sindh)
7. The Learned Special Judges (Central-I & II), Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur
8. The Learned Special Judge (Custom, Taxation & Anti-Smuggling-I & II), Karachi)
9. The Learned Special Judges, Anti-Corruption (Provincial), Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur & Larkana
10. The Learned Presiding Officers, Special Court (CNS-I, II and III), Karachi
11. The Learned Presiding Officer, Special Court (Offences in Banks), Karachi
12. The Learned Presiding Officer, Intellectual Property Tribunal, Karachi
13. The Learned Judge, Gas Utility Court, Karachi – Division
14. The Senior Faculty Member, Sindh Judicial Academy, Karachi
15. The Inspector General, Prisons, Sindh
16. The Inspector General of Police Sindh
17. The Director I.T. of this Court
18. The Additional Registrar, Bench at Sukkur, Circuit Court, Hyderabad, Sukkur & Larkana
19. The Deputy Registrar (Gazette) of this Court