

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CWP-PIL No. 54 of 2020 (O&M)

Date of decision:- 29.05.2020

Ferry Sofat

.....Petitioner

Versus

Registrar General, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh
and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAVI SHANKER JHA, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN PALLI, JUDGE.

Present:- Mr. Ferry Sofat, Advocate-petitioner in person.
Mr. Rajiv Anand, Advocate, for respondent No.1.
Mr. S.P.Jain, Addl. Solicitor General of India with
Mr. Dheeraj Jain, Standing Counsel for UOI.
Mr. Deepak Balyan, Addl. Advocate General, Haryana.
Mr. P.S.Bajwa, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab.

* * * *

RAVI SHANKER JHA, C.J. (ORAL)

With the consent of the petitioner and learned counsel for the respondents, the matter is being taken up and heard via video conferencing (Webex App software).

This petition has been filed by the petitioner allegedly in public interest praying for a direction to all the District Courts in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh to follow the video conferencing guidelines issued by the Supreme Court for hearing of the cases and not to insist upon physical appearance of the Advocates while hearing and deciding the matters during Covid-19 period. It is also prayed that a direction be issued to all the jail authorities to forward e-vakalatnama(s) and power of attornies of the inmates for the purposes of filing the cases in Courts.

We have heard the petitioner in person and learned counsel for the respondents and have also examined the petition.

There is nothing on record to indicate that any Court has insisted upon or forced any Advocate to appear in person for hearing and deciding any matter. Infact, the District Courts in the States of Punjab,

Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh are following the guidelines regarding hearing through video conferencing or otherwise issued by the High Court and have been doing exemplary work in this regard.

As far as the issuance of e-vakalatnama(s) and power of attornies are concerned, it is observed that not hundred but thousand of cases are being filed in various District Courts every day on the basis of such e-vakalatnama(s) and power of attornies. There is no instance of any complaint in this regard and in the circumstances general directions as sought for in the petition based on no factual foundation cannot be issued.

In the circumstances we do not find any merit in the petition which is accordingly dismissed.

(RAVI SHANKER JHA)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ARUN PALLI)
JUDGE

29.05.2020

ravinder sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No