

THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI



MIT-I

No. 577/HCF/Gaz/Directions-Instructions/2025

Dated: 08th Sept, 2025

To:

1. All the District & Sessions Judges, in Sindh.
2. All Judicial Officers and Court Staff subordinate to the High Court of Sindh

Subject: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Use of Social Media by Judicial Officers and Staff of District Judiciary in Sindh

In continuation of this office letter dated 21-11-2022 No.HC/Gaz/Directions-Instructions with the subject "USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY JUDICIAL OFFICERS," the Honourable Chief Justice has expressed deep concern regarding continued violations of the above orders by judicial officers and staff members of the District Courts and all subordinate Courts, and is pleased to issue the following SOPs/Guidelines for strict compliance:

1. All judicial officers and staff are required to observe decorum, impartiality, and objectivity in all public and private forums, including social media platforms including but not limited to Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), WhatsApp, Instagram, Microblogging, YouTube or any other mobile App or website of like nature etc. The use of social media must not undermine the basic code of conduct, dignity, authority, or impartiality of the judiciary, nor bring the institution or any officer into disrepute.
2. No judicial officer or staff member shall comment on, disclose, or discuss any official correspondence, document, order, or proceeding of the courts or the High Court of Sindh on any social media platform, nor shall they share confidential information without prior approval of the competent authority, as per rules as such practice is violative of instructions contained in the Sindh Civil Servants (Conduct) Rules 2008.
3. No comments, posts, or opinions shall be made on pending, disposed of, or prospective cases, or on any policy matters of the judiciary, on any social media or digital platform.
4. Judicial officers and staff must not express political, sectarian, or caste-based views, or make any statement that could offend public order, decency, or morality, embarrass the judiciary, or amount to contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to any offence.

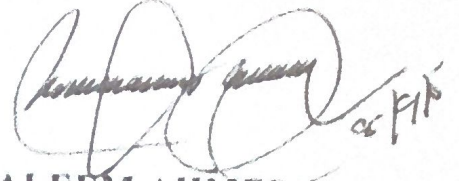
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5. Disparaging, derogatory, or disrespectful remarks aimed at any individual, group, sect, faith, office, or officer are strictly prohibited and shall render the person liable to disciplinary action.
6. Judicial officers and staff must not use their official titles, designations, or status to promote personal, political, or business interests on social media. Official or court-created digital groups (e.g., WhatsApp, Telegram) must only be used for their defined, work-related purpose. No irrelevant content shall be posted in these groups.
7. Judicial Officers and staff must exercise utmost caution in accepting friend or contact requests, particularly from lawyers, litigants, or persons who may appear before the court, to avoid perceptions or risk of conflict of interest.
8. Judicial officers and staff must not engage in unauthorized disclosure of official information or share official documents or any other information they come across during the course of performing their duties via social media.
9. In order to maintain their impartiality and objectivity in performance, they shall not partake in any discussion on social media or exchange or forward information or messages that express their opinion on political issues or like matters.
10. Judicial Officers and staff shall not participate in furthering of any information especially pertaining to government matters that, prima facie, appears to be unauthentic and misleading.
11. Judicial officers and staff must always uphold and demonstrate the highest standards of judicial conduct and ethics in all social media activity, refraining from any conduct—direct or indirect—that could compromise the dignity, independence, or impartiality expected of the judiciary.
12. Above instructions are in addition to any other instructions contained in any applicable conduct rules or any instructions issued from to time by the Government or this Court.
13. Any violation of the above instructions shall be deemed misconduct under the relevant Conduct Rules and may result in disciplinary proceedings, including action against group administrators or other responsible officials, as per the Civil Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules, 1973, or corresponding provisions.

The District & Sessions Judges are directed to ensure these SOPs are circulated amongst all judicial officers and court staff under their administrative control, with acknowledgment of compliance to be sent to this office within three (03) days.

(03)

These instructions take immediate effect and are to be followed in letter and spirit. Any instance of non-compliance shall be reported to the office of the Member Inspection Team-I for appropriate action.



(HALEEM AHMED)

MEMBER INSPECTION TEAM-I

Copy for information & necessary action to:

1. The Secretary to the Honourable Chief Justice.
2. PA. to the Learned Registrar, High Court of Sindh
3. The Additional Registrars (Principal Seat, Bench at Sukkur, Circuit Courts Hyderabad, Larkana & Mirpurkhas)
4. The Director General (I.T.), High Court of Sindh – for uploading on the Court's website.