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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

NOTIFICATION

No. 3960 – G.

Dated, Calcutta, the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

In pursuance of the judgment dated 18.04.2022, passed by the Hon'ble Division Bench in C.R.A. (DB) No. 29 of 2022 (CRAN 1 of 2022), and in exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (2) and (3) of Article 227 of the Constitution of India, the High Court at Calcutta, with the approval of the Governor of West Bengal, makes the following Rules by way of amendment, for insertion of the same as item No. 10 in CHAPTER-XXXII of the Criminal Rules and Orders of the High Court at Calcutta, laying down the practice directions for ensuring non-disclosure of identity of victims of sexual offences and offences under POCSO Act, in the pleadings and other records of the Court.

**Rules framed under section 228A IPC and 33 (7) of the POCSO Act to lay practice directions pertaining to non-disclosure of identity of victims of sexual offences and offences under POCSO Act:—**

**Rule 713A**

- (a) No petition or application in any proceeding pertaining to offence under sections 376, 376A, 376AB, 376B, 376C, 376D, 376 DA, 376 DB, 376E of the Indian Penal Code as well as offences under POCSO Act filed in Court shall disclose the identity of the victim, that is, the victim's name, parent age, address or any other particulars relating to her identity;

Provided that such disclosure may be made in pleadings/records of the case as per authorisation in writing of the major victim or in case such victim is dead or of unsound mind, by or with the authorisation in writing of the kin of such victim;

Provided further that in case of a minor victim disclosure of identity of the said victim in the pleadings or record of the case shall not be made without the permission of the trial Court and only in the interest of the said victim;

Explanation— In case of a minor victim identity shall include the identity of her family, school, relatives or a any other particular which tends to disclose the identity of such victim.

- (b) Vakalatnama, if any, executed by the victim disclosing her identity shall be filed in a sealed cover;
- (c) Only redacted copies of the police papers/documents disclosing identity of the victim shall be served under section 207 CrPC unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- (d) All documents/annexures filed in the proceedings disclosing identity of the victim shall be kept in sealed cover and wherever possible redacted copies shall be filed and kept as a part of the public record of the Court;
- (e) Inspection of the documents/annexures filed in the proceedings disclosing identity of the victim and kept in sealed cover shall be given only with the permission of the Court;
- (f) Certified copies of documents disclosing identity of the victim shall be available, as per rules, only in redacted form.
- (g) While recording statement u/s 164 Cr.P.C., the learned Magistrate shall not record the name the victim. It shall be recorded only under the heading "the statement of the victim". The learned Magistrate shall take help of the parents of the victim, if available, for identification of the victim and shall make endorsement to the effect of such identification at the top of the statement recorded by him/her.
- (h) After recording the statement of the victim u/s 164 Cr.P.C. and reading over and explaining the same to the victim, the learned Magistrate shall obtain signature or LTI of the victim on a separate sheet and keep it along with his certificate in a separate sealed cover, which shall be opened by the learned Special Judge only, if necessary during trial.
- (i) Signature/LTI of the victim on her deposition shall be taken by the learned Special Judge on a separate sheet and the said sheet along with certificate of the learned Special Judge to that effect shall be kept in a sealed envelope which shall be opened by the Appellate Court only in case issue of identity of the victim is raised.
- (j) Learned Special Judge shall not disclose the name or any particular disclosing identity of the victim in the judgment in any circumstance.
- (k) A declaration shall be made in the body of all the petitions stating that the identity of the victim, as aforesaid, has not been disclosed;
- (l) Without express order from the Court, no petition or application in the matter pertaining to the aforesaid offences shall be received unless they are in conformity to the aforesaid directions.

By order of the High Court,

Sd/-

CHAITALI CHATTERJEE (DAS)  
*Registrar General.*