

## NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (FREE AND COMPETENT LEGAL SERVICES) REGULATIONS, 2010

New Delhi, dated 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

No.L/61/10/NALSA. - *In exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987) and in pursuance of the provisions in section 4 of the Act to make available free and competent legal services to the persons entitled thereto under section 12 of the said Act, the Central Authority hereby makes the following regulations, namely: -*

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.** - (1) These regulations may be called the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010.

(2) They shall be applicable to Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, State Legal Services Authorities, High Court Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees in India.

(3) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

**2. Definitions.** - (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, -

(a) "Act" means the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987);

(b) "Form" means a Form annexed to these Regulations;

(c) "front office" means a room in the Legal Services Institution where legal services are made available;

(d) "legal practitioner" shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (i) of section 2 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961);

(e) "Legal Services Institution" means the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, a State Legal Services Authority, the High Court Legal Services Committee, District Legal Services Authority or the Taluk Legal Services Committee, as the case may be;

(f) "Para-Legal Volunteer" means a para-legal volunteer trained as such by a Legal Services Institution;

- (g) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Legal Services Institution;
  - (h) "section" means the section of the Act;
  - (i) "State regulation" means regulation made by the State Authorities under the Act.
2. All other words and expressions used but not defined in these regulations shall have the same meanings assigned to them in the Act.

**3. Application for legal services.-** (1) An application for legal services may be presented preferably in Form-I in the local language or English.

- (2) The applicant may furnish a summary of his grievances for which he seeks legal services, in a separate sheet along with the application.
- (3) An application, though not in Form-I, may also be entertained, if reasonably explains the facts to enable the applicant to seek legal services.
- (4) If the applicant is illiterate or unable to give the application on his or her own, the Legal Services Institutions may make arrangement for helping the applicant to fill up the application form and to prepare a note of his or her grievances.
- (5) Oral requests for legal services may also be entertained in the same manner as an application under sub-regulation (1) and (2).
- (6) An applicant advised by the para-legal volunteers, legal aid clubs, legal aid clinics and voluntary social service institutions shall also be considered for free legal services.
- (7) Requests received through e-mails and interactive on-line facility also may be considered for free legal services after verification of the identity of the applicant and on ensuring that he or she owns the authorship of the grievances projected.

**4. Legal Services Institution to have a front office.-** (1) All Legal Services Institutions shall have a front office to be manned by a panel lawyer and one or more para-legal volunteers available during office hours.

- (2) In the case of court based legal services, such lawyer shall after consideration of the application, forward the same to the Committee set up under regulation 7 and for other types of legal services, the panel lawyer in the front office may provide such legal services.
- (3) The panel lawyer in the front office shall render services like drafting notices, sending replies to lawyers' notices and drafting applications, petitions etc.
- (4) The panel lawyer in the front office may obtain secretarial assistance from the staff of the Legal Services Institutions.
- (5) In case of urgent matters, the panel lawyer in the front office may in consultation with the Member-Secretary or Secretary of the Legal Services Institutions provide legal assistance of appropriate nature:

Provided that the Committee set up under regulation 7 may consider and approve the action taken by the panel lawyer in the front office.

5. **Proof of entitlement of free legal services.** -- (1) An affidavit of the applicant that he falls under the categories of persons entitled to free legal services under section 12 shall ordinarily be sufficient.
  - (2) The affidavit may be signed before a Judge, Magistrate, Notary Public, Advocate, Member of Parliament, Member of Legislative Assembly, elected representative of local bodies, Gazetted Officer, teacher of any school or college of Central Government, State Government or local bodies as the case may be.
  - (3) The affidavit may be prepared on plain paper and it shall bear the seal of the person attesting it.
6. **Consequences of false or untrue details furnished by the applicant.** - The applicant shall be informed that if free legal services has been obtained by furnishing incorrect or false information or in a fraudulent manner, the legal services shall be stopped forthwith and that the expenses incurred by the Legal Services Institutions shall be recoverable from him or her.
7. **Scrutiny and evaluation of the application for free legal services.** - (1) There shall be a Committee to scrutinise and evaluate the application for legal services, to be

constituted by the Legal Services Institution at the level of Taluk, District, State and above.

(2) The Committee shall be constituted by the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution and shall consist of, -

(i) the Member Secretary or Secretary of the Legal Services Institution as its Chairman and two members out of whom one may be a Judicial Officer preferably having working experience in the Legal Services Institution and;

(ii) a legal professional having at least fifteen years' standing at the Bar or Government pleader or Assistant Government Pleader or Public Prosecutor or Assistant Public Prosecutor, as the case may be.

(3) The tenure of the members of the Committee shall ordinarily be two years which may be further extended for a maximum period of one year and the Member Secretary or Secretary of the Legal Services Institution shall, however, continue as the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.

(4) The Committee shall scrutinise and evaluate the application and decide whether the applicant is entitled to the legal services or not within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of the application.

(5) If the applicant is not covered under the categories mentioned in section 12, he or she shall be advised to seek assistance from any other body or person rendering free legal services either voluntarily or under any other scheme.

(6) The Legal Services Institution shall maintain a list of such agencies, institutions or persons who have expressed willingness to render free legal services.

(7) Any person aggrieved by the decision or order of the Committee, he or she may prefer appeal to the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution and the decision or order in appeal shall be final.

**8. Selection of legal practitioners as panel lawyers.** - (1) Every Legal Services Institution shall invite applications from legal practitioners for their empanelment as panel lawyers and such applications shall be accompanied with proof of the professional

experience with special reference to the type of cases which the applicant-legal practitioners may prefer to be entrusted with.

- (2) The applications received under sub-regulation (1) shall be scrutinised and selection of the panel lawyers shall be made by the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution in consultation with the Attorney-General (for the Supreme Court), Advocate-General (for the High Court), District Attorney or Government Pleader (for the District and Taluk level) and the respective Presidents of the Bar Associations as the case may be.
- (3) No legal practitioner having less than three years' experience at the Bar shall ordinarily be empanelled.
- (4) While preparing the panel of lawyers the competence, integrity, suitability and experience of such lawyers shall be taken into account.
- (5) The Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution may maintain separate panels for dealing with different types of cases like, Civil, Criminal, Constitutional Law, Environmental Law, Labour Laws, Matrimonial disputes etc.
- (6) The Chairman of the Legal Services Institution may, in consultation with the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority or National Legal Services Authority as the case may be prepare a list of legal practitioners from among the panel lawyers to be designated as Retainers.
- (7) The Retainer lawyers shall be selected for a period fixed by the Executive Chairman on rotation basis or by any other method specified by the Executive Chairman.
- (8) The strength of Retainer lawyers shall not exceed, -
  - (a) 20 in the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee;
  - (b) 15 in the High Court Legal Services Committee;
  - (c) 10 in the District Legal Authority;
  - (d) 5 in the Taluk Legal Services Committee.
- (9) The honorarium payable to Retainer lawyer shall be, -

- (a) Rs.10,000 per month in the case of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee;
- (b) Rs.7,500 per month in the case of High Court Legal Services Committee;
- (c) Rs.5,000 per month in the case of District Legal Services Authority;
- (d) Rs.3,000 per month in the case of the Taluk Legal Services Committee:

Provided that the honorarium specified in this sub-regulation is in addition to the honorarium or fee payable by the Legal Services Institution for each case entrusted to the Retainer lawyer.

- (10) The panel lawyers designated as Retainers shall devote their time exclusively for legal aid work and shall be always available to deal with legal aid cases and to man the front office or consultation office in the respective Legal Services Institution.
- (11) The panel prepared under sub-regulation (2) shall be re-constituted after a period of three years but the cases already entrusted to any panel lawyer shall not be withdrawn from him due to re-constitution of the panel.
- (12) The Legal Services Institution shall be at liberty for withdrawing any case from a Retainer during any stage of the proceedings.
- (13) If a panel lawyer is desirous of withdrawing from a case he shall state the reasons thereof to the Member-Secretary or the Secretary and the latter may permit the panel lawyer to do so.
- (14) The panel lawyer shall not ask for or receive any fee, remuneration or any valuable consideration in any manner, from the person to whom he had rendered legal services under these regulations.
- (15) If the panel lawyer engaged is not performing satisfactorily or has acted contrary to the object and spirit of the Act and these regulations, the Legal

Services Institution shall take appropriate steps including withdrawal of the case from such lawyer and his removal from the panel.

**9. Legal services by way of legal advice, consultation, drafting and conveyancing. - (1)**

The Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution shall maintain a separate panel of senior lawyers, law firms, retired judicial officers, mediators, conciliators and law professors in the law universities or law colleges for providing legal advice and other legal services like drafting and conveyancing.

(2) The services of the legal aid clinics in the rural areas and in the law colleges and law universities shall also be made use of.

**10. Monitoring Committee. - (1) Every Legal Services Institution shall set up a Monitoring Committee for close monitoring of the court based legal services rendered and the progress of the cases in legal aided matters.**

(2) The Monitoring Committee at the level of the Supreme Court or the High Court, as the case may be, shall consist of, -

- (i) the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or Chairman of the High Court Legal Services Committee;
- (ii) the Member-Secretary or Secretary of the Legal Services Institution;
- (iii) a Senior Advocate to be nominated by the Patron-in-Chief of the Legal Services Institution.

(3) The Monitoring Committee for the District or Taluk Legal Services Institution shall be constituted by the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority and shall consist of, -

- (i) the senior-most member of the Higher Judicial Services posted in the district concerned, as its Chairman;
- (ii) the Member-Secretary or Secretary of the Legal Services Institution;
- (iii) a legal practitioner having more than fifteen years' experience at the local Bar-to be nominated in consultation with the President of the local Bar Association:

Provided that if the Executive Chairman is satisfied that there is no person of any of the categories mentioned in this sub-regulation, he may constitute the Monitoring Committee with such other persons as he may deem proper.

**11. Functions of the Monitoring Committee.** - (1) Whenever legal services are provided to an applicant, the Member-Secretary or Secretary shall send the details in Form-II to the Monitoring Committee at the earliest.

(2) The Legal Services Institution shall provide adequate staff and infrastructure to the Monitoring Committee for maintaining the records of the day-to-day progress of the legal aided cases.

(3) The Legal Services Institution may request the Presiding Officer of the court to have access to the registers maintained by the court for ascertaining the progress of the cases.

(4) The Monitoring Committee shall maintain a register for legal aided cases for recording the day-to-day postings, progress of the case and the end result (success or failure) in respect of cases for which legal aid is allowed and the said register shall be scrutinised by the Chairman of the Committee every month.

(5) The Monitoring Committee shall keep a watch of the day-to-day proceedings of the court by calling for reports from the panel lawyers, within such time as may be determined by the Committee.

(6) If the progress of the case is not satisfactory, the Committee may advise the Legal Services Institution to take appropriate steps.

**12. Monitoring Committee to submit bi-monthly reports.** - (1) The Monitoring Committee shall submit bi-monthly reports containing its independent assessment on the progress of each and every legal aid case and the performance of the panel lawyer or Retainer lawyer, to the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution.



- (2) After evaluating the reports by the Committee, the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution shall decide the course of action to be taken in each case.
  - (3) It shall be the duty of the Member-Secretary or Secretary of the Legal Services Institution to place the reports of the Monitoring Committee before the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution and to obtain orders.
- 13. Financial assistance.** – (1) If a case for which legal aid has been granted requires additional expenditure like payment of court fee, the fee payable to the court appointed commissions, for summoning witnesses or documents, expenses for obtaining certified copies etc., the Legal Services Institution may take urgent steps for disbursement of the requisite amount on the advice of the panel lawyer or Monitoring Committee.
  - (2) In the case of appeal or revision the Legal Services Institution may bear the expenses for obtaining certified copies of the judgment and case records.
- 14. Payment of fee to the panel lawyers.** - (1) Panel lawyers shall be paid fee in accordance with the Schedule of fee, as approved under the State regulations.
  - (2) The State Legal Services Authority and other Legal Services Institution shall effect periodic revision of the honorarium to be paid to panel lawyers for the different types of services rendered by them in legal aid cases.
  - (3) As soon as the report of completion of the proceedings is received from the panel lawyer, the Legal Services Institution shall, without any delay, pay the fees and expenses payable to panel lawyer.
- 15. Special engagement of senior advocates in appropriate cases.** – (1) If the Monitoring Committee or Executive Chairman or Chairman of the Legal Services Institution is of the opinion that services of senior advocate, though not included in the approved panel of lawyers, has to be provided in any particular case the Legal Services Institution may engage such senior advocate. (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the State regulations, the Executive Chairman or Chairmen of the Legal Services Institution may decide the honorarium for such senior advocate:

Provided that special engagement of senior advocates shall be only in cases of great public importance and for defending cases of very serious nature, affecting the life and liberty of the applicant.

- 16. Evaluation of the legal aid cases by the National Legal Services Authority and State Legal Services Authorities.** – (1) The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee shall send copies of the bi-monthly reports of the Monitoring Committee of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee to the Central Authority.
- (2) The High Court Legal Services Committees, the State Legal Services Authorities shall submit copies of the bi-monthly reports of their Monitoring Committees to their Patron-in-Chief.
- (3) The District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees shall submit copies of the bi-monthly reports of their Monitoring Committees to the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority.
- (4) The State Legal Services Authorities shall also send consolidated half- yearly reports of the Monitoring Committees, indicating the success or failure of each of the legal aided cases, to the Central Authority.
- (5) In appropriate cases, the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority may nominate and authorise the members of its Central Authority to supervise, monitor or advise the Legal Services Institution for effective and successful implementation of these regulations.

**(U. Sarathchandran)**  
**Member-Secretary**

**National Legal Services Authority**  
**(Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, -2010**  
*(see regulation-3)*

**The Form of Application for Legal Services**  
(this may be prepared in the regional language)

- Registration No. :
1. Name :
2. Permanent Address :
3. Contact Address with phone no. if any,  
e-mail ID, if any. :
4. Whether the applicant belongs to the category  
of persons mentioned in section -12 of the Act :
5. Monthly income of the applicant :
6. Whether affidavit/proof has been produced  
in support of income/eligibility u/s 12 of the Act :
7. Nature of legal aid or advise required :
8. A brief statement of the case, if court based  
legal services is required. :

**Signature of the applicant**

**Place:**

**Date:**

**Form-II**

**National Legal Services Authority**  
**(Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulation, 2010**

*(see regulation-11)*

**Information furnished to the Monitoring Committee about the legal Services provided**

- (i) Name of the Legal Services Institution. : .....
- (i) Legal aid application number and date on which legal aid was given. : .....
- (iii) Name of the legal aid applicant. : .....
- (iv) Nature of case (civil, criminal, constitutional law etc.). : .....
- (v) Name and roll number of the lawyer assigned to the applicant. : .....
- (vi) Name of the Court in which the case is to be filed / defended. : .....
- (vii) The date of engaging the panel lawyer. : .....
- (viii) Whether any monetary assistance like, court fee, advocate commission fee, copying charges etc. has been given in advance? : .....
- (ix) Whether the case requires any interim orders or appointment of commission? : .....
- (x) Approximate expenditure for producing records, summoning of witnesses etc. : .....
- (xi) The expected time for conclusion of the proceedings in the Court. : .....

**MEMBER-SECRETARY / SECRETARY**

**Dated:**

**NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (LEGAL AID CLINICS) REGULATIONS,  
2011**

---

New Delhi, dated 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2011

*In exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987) and in pursuance of the provisions in section 4 of the said Act the Central Authority hereby makes the following regulations, namely: -*

- 1. Short title and commencement.-** (1) These regulations may be called the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011.
  - (2) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
  
- 2. Definitions. -** (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, -
  - (a) "Act" means the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987);
  - (b) "District ADR centre" means the District Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre established with the funds of the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission and includes any other similar facilities like Nyayaseva Sadans at the district level;
  - (c) "legal aid clinic" means the facility established by the District Legal Services Authority to provide basic legal services to the villagers with the assistance of Para-Legal Volunteers or Lawyers, on the lines of a primary health centre providing basic health services to the people in the locality and includes the legal aid clinic run by the law colleges and law universities;
  - (d) "legal services institution" means a State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority or the Taluk Legal Services Committee, as the case may be;
  - (e) "panel lawyer" means the panel lawyer selected under regulation 8 of the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations 2010;
  - (f) "para-legal volunteer" means a para-legal volunteer trained as such by a legal services institution;
  - (g) "retainer lawyer" means a retainer lawyer selected under regulation 8 of the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations 2010;
  - (h) "section" means the section of the Act;

2. All other words and expressions used in these regulations but not defined shall have the same meanings as assigned to them in the Act.
  
3. **Establishment of legal aid clinic.-** Subject to the financial resources available, the District Legal Services Authority shall establish legal aid clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages, especially where the people face geographical, social and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions.
  
4. **Eligibility criteria for free legal services in the legal aid clinic.-** Every person who fulfils the criteria specified in section 12 shall be eligible to get free legal services in the legal aid clinics.
  
5. **The personnel manning the legal aid clinic.-** (1) Every legal aid clinic established under regulation 3 shall have at least two para-legal volunteers available during the working hours of the legal aid clinics.  
  
(2) The legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction or the District Legal Services Authority may depute trained para-legal volunteers to the legal aid clinics.  
  
(3) When lawyers are deputed to the legal aid clinic, it shall be the duty of the para-legal volunteers engaged in such clinic to assist the lawyers in drafting petitions, applications, pleadings and other legal documents.  
  
(4) The State Legal Services Authority may encourage para-legal volunteers to obtain diploma or degree in law for betterment of their prospects in the long run.
  
6. **Deputing lawyers to the legal aid clinic. -** (1) The nearest legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction may depute its panel lawyers or retainer lawyers to the legal aid clinic.  
  
(2) If the matter handled by any such lawyer requires follow-up and continuous attention for a long duration, the same lawyer who had handled the matter may be entrusted to continue the legal services.
  
7. **Frequency of visit by lawyers in the legal aid clinic. -** Subject to the local requirements and availability of financial resources, the legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction may decide the frequency of the lawyers' visit in the legal aid clinics and if the situation demands for providing continuous legal services, such legal services institution may consider arranging frequent visits of lawyers in the legal aid clinic.

8. **Selection of lawyers for manning the legal aid clinics.-** (1) The Panel lawyers or retainer lawyers with skills for amicable settlement of disputes, shall alone be considered for being deputed to the legal aid clinic:

Provided that preference shall be given to women lawyers having practice of at least three years.

9. **Legal services in the legal aid clinic. -** (1) Legal services rendered at the legal aid clinic shall be wide ranging in nature.

(2) The legal aid clinic shall work like a single-window facility for helping the disadvantaged people to solve their legal problems whenever needed.

(3) Besides legal advice, other services like preparing applications for job card under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREG) Scheme, identity card for different government purposes, liaison with the government offices and public authorities, helping the common people who come to the clinic for solving their problems with the government officials, authorities and other institutions also shall be part of the legal services in the legal aid clinic:

Provided that the legal aid clinic shall provide assistance by giving initial advice on a problem, assistance in drafting representations and notices, filling up of forms for the various benefits available under different government schemes, public distribution system and other social security schemes:

Provided further that, in appropriate cases, the legal services sought for by the applicants in the legal aid clinic shall be referred to the legal services institutions for taking further action.

10. **Functions of para-legal volunteers in the legal aid clinic.-** (1) The para-legal volunteers engaged in the legal aid clinic shall provide initial advice to the persons seeking legal service, help such people, especially the illiterate, in drafting petitions, representations or notices and filling-up the application forms for various benefits available under the government schemes.

(2) para-legal volunteers shall, if necessary, accompany the persons seeking legal services to attend the government offices for interacting with the officials and for solving the problems of such persons.

(3) If services of a lawyer is required at the legal aid clinic, the para-legal volunteers shall, without any delay, contact the nearest legal services institution to make available the services of a lawyer.

(4) In case of emergency, the para-legal volunteers may take the persons seeking legal services in the legal aid clinic to the nearest legal services institutions.

(5) para-legal volunteers shall distribute pamphlets and other materials in aid of legal education and literacy to the persons seeking legal services in the legal aid clinic.

(6) para-legal volunteers shall take active part in the legal awareness camps organised by the legal services institutions in the local area of the legal aid clinic.

**11. Location of legal aid clinic.** – (1) Legal aid clinics shall be located at places where the people of the locality can have easy access.

(2) The legal services institutions may request the local body institutions, such as the village *panchayat*, to provide a room for establishing legal aid clinics:

Provided that if no such rooms are available, the District Legal Services Authority may take a room on rent till alternative accommodation is available for establishing the legal aid clinic.

**12. Assistance of the local body institutions in obtaining a convenient room for the legal aid clinic.** – (1) The State Legal Services Authority shall call upon the local body institutions like the village *panchayat*, *mandal* or block *panchayat*, municipality and corporation etc, to provide space for the functioning of the legal aid clinic.

(2) Since the legal aid clinic is for the benefit of the people in the locality, the State Legal Services Authority may impress upon the local body institution and the district administration the need to co-operate with the functioning of the legal aid clinics.

**13. Sign-board exhibiting the name of the legal aid clinic.** – (1) There shall be a sign-board, both in English and in the local language, depicting the name of the legal aid clinic, working hours and the days on which the legal aid clinic shall remain open.

(2) Working hours of the legal aid clinic shall be regulated by the legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction, in consultation with the District Legal Services Authority:



Provided that subject to the local conditions and requirements of the people in the locality, legal aid clinics shall function on all Sundays and holidays.

**14. Infrastructure in the legal aid clinic.** - (1) Every legal aid clinic shall have at least the basic and essential furniture like a table and 5 to 6 chairs.

(2) If the legal aid clinic is established in the building of the local body institutions, such local bodies may be requested to provide the essential furniture for use in the legal aid clinic.

(3) If the legal aid clinic is established in hired premises, the District Legal Services Authority may provide the furniture required in the legal aid clinic:

Provided that if the District Legal Services Authority has its own building to establish legal aid clinic, the infrastructural facilities shall be provided by such Authority.

**15. Publicity.** - (1) Local body institutions shall be persuaded to give adequate publicity for the legal aid clinic.

(2) The elected representatives of the local body institutions may be persuaded to spread the message of the utility of legal aid clinic to the people in his or her constituency or ward.

**16. Para-legal volunteers or lawyers in the legal aid clinic shall attempt to resolve disputes amicably.** - (1) The para-legal volunteers or the lawyers engaged in the legal aid clinics shall attempt to amicably resolve the pre-litigation disputes of the persons brought to the legal aid clinics.

(2) If the para-legal volunteers or the lawyers feel that such dispute can be resolved through any of the ADR mechanisms, they may refer such disputes to the legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction or to the District ADR centre.

**17. Honorarium for the lawyers and para-legal volunteers rendering services in the legal aid clinics.**- (1) Subject to the financial resources available, the State Legal Services Authority in consultation with the National Legal Services Authority may fix the honorarium of lawyers and para-legal volunteers engaged in the legal aid clinics:

Provided that such honorarium shall not be less than Rs. 500/- per day for lawyers and Rs. 250/- per day for the para-legal volunteers.

(2) Special consideration may be given in cases where the legal aid clinic is situated in difficult terrains and in distant places where transport facilities are inadequate.

**18. The nearest legal services institutions to organise lok adalats at the legal aid clinic or near to its premises.** - (1) The nearest legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction or the District Legal Services Authority may organise lok adalats for pre-litigation disputes at the legal aid clinic or in its vicinity.

(2) The lok adalats organised for pre-litigation settlement of the disputes sent from the legal aid clinic shall follow the procedure prescribed in sub-section (2) of section 20 and also the provisions in the National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009.

**19. Administrative control of the legal aid clinic.**- (1) legal aid clinics shall be under the direct administrative control of the District Legal Services Authority

(2) The State Legal Services authority shall have the power to issue instructions and guidelines on the working of the legal aid clinics.

**20. Maintenance of records and registers.**- (1) lawyers and para-legal volunteers rendering service in the legal aid clinic shall record their attendance in the register maintained in the legal aid clinic.

(2) There shall be a register in every legal aid clinic for recording the names and addresses of the persons seeking legal services, name of the lawyer or para-legal volunteer who renders services in the legal aid clinic, nature of the service rendered, remarks of the lawyer or para-legal volunteer and signature of persons seeking legal services.

(3) The records of the legal aid clinics shall be under the control of the Chairman or the Secretary of the legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction over it.

(4) The District Legal Services Authority may require the legal aid clinic to maintain other registers also, as may be required.

(5) It shall be the duty of the para-legal volunteers and the lawyers in the legal aid clinic to hand over the registers to the legal services institution having territorial jurisdiction as and when called for.

**21. Use of mobile lok adalat vehicle.** - (1) The lawyers rendering legal services in the legal aid clinic or the para-legal volunteers may request the District Legal Services Authority to send the mobile lok adalat van with members of the lok adalat bench to the legal aid clinic for settlement of the disputes identified by them.

(2) The mobile lok adalat van fitted with the facilities for conducting the proceedings of the lok adalat may also be used for conducting lok adalat at the legal aid clinic or

at a place near to it or even at village congregations such as *melas* and other festive occasions.

- 22. Legal aid clinics run by the law students.** - The above regulations shall *mutatis mutandis* be applicable to the student legal aid clinics set up by the law colleges and law universities:

Provided that students of law colleges and law universities also may make use of the legal aid clinics established under these regulations with the permission of the District Legal Services Authority.

- 23. Law students may adopt a village for legal aid camps.** - (1) Law students of the law colleges or law universities may adopt a village, especially in the remote rural areas and organise legal aid camps in association with the legal aid clinic established under these regulations.

(2) The law students may, with the assistance of the para-legal volunteers engaged in the legal aid clinics, conduct surveys for identifying the legal problems of the local people.

(3) The surveys referred to in sub-regulation (2) may include gathering information relating to the existing litigations and unresolved pre-litigation disputes also.

(4) The surveys referred to sub-regulation (2) may also focus on the grievances of the local people which would enable the National Legal Services Authority to take necessary steps by way of social justice litigation as provided in clause (d) of section 4.

(5) The law students conducting such surveys shall send reports to the State Legal Services Authorities with copies to the legal services institutions having territorial jurisdiction and also to the District Legal Services Authority.

- 24. Legal aid clinics attached to the law colleges, law universities and other institutions.** - (1) The law colleges, law universities and other institutions may set up legal aid clinics, as envisaged in clause (k) of section 4 attached to their institutions as a part of the clinical legal education.

(2) The law colleges, law universities and other institutions establishing such legal aid clinic shall inform the State Legal Services Authority about the establishing of such legal aid clinic.

(3) The State Legal Services Authority shall render the required technical assistance for the operation of such legal aid clinics and shall take measures to promote the activities of such legal aid clinics.

(4) The law students in the final year classes may render legal services in such legal aid clinics under the supervision of the faculty member of their institution.

(5) The State Legal Services Authority may organise alternative dispute resolution camps, including lok adalats, to resolve the problems of the people who seek legal aid in such legal aid clinics.

(6) The District Legal Services Authority may issue certificates to the students who complete their assignment in such legal aid clinics.

**25. Services of para-legal volunteers trained by the Legal Services Authorities may be made available in the legal aid clinics run by the Law Colleges, Law Universities etc. -** Trained para-legal volunteers may be deputed to the legal aid clinics established under regulation 24 for assisting the persons seeking free legal services and for interacting with the students and the members of the faculty.

**26. The State Legal Services Authorities to conduct periodical review of the functioning of legal aid clinics.-**(1) The State Legal Services Authority shall collect monthly reports from the District Legal Services Authorities, law colleges and law universities on the functioning of legal aid clinics working in their jurisdiction.

(2) The State Legal Services Authority shall conduct periodical review of the working of such legal aid clinics at least once in three months or more frequently.

(3) The State Legal Services Authority may issue directions from time to time for improving the services in the legal aid clinics to ensure that members of the weaker sections of the society are provided legal services in an efficient manner.

(4) The State Legal Services Authority shall send quarterly reports about the functioning of the Legal Aid Clinics within their jurisdiction to the National Legal Services Authority.

**File No.L/08/11/NALSA**

\*\*\*\*\*

(U.Sarathchandran)

Member Secretary

National Legal Services Authority