Executive Directive No: 36/2018

Sub: Engagement of photographers during inquest - Directions - reg.

This Executive Directive is being issued pursuant to a complaint received by us, citing that a private photographer, who had been engaged to take photographs of the bodies in a School Van accident case in Ernakulam, demanded the cost of the photographs, being taken during the inquest, from the parents of the deceased children. This was an avoidable situation. The Police officials should be sensitive to these types of issues. It is very surprising that though we have Departmental Photographers, in this case the photographer from outside the Dept. was arranged by the Police. Moreover, many of our Police Officials are skilled in basic Photography and all the Police Stations are having Cameras. In this situation, engaging a private photographer, and that too in a City, is not justifiable.

02. In a criminal case, photographs and videographs are very important. Considering the above facts, we had given adequate material resources. These resources have to be utilised by the police officials.

03. It is important that the inquests are done promptly with regard to all connected provisions of law and departmental procedure. It shall be ensured by the DPCs concerned and the SHOs that the family of the deceased will not be put to any hardship by demanding to arrange photographers, in any manner, during the inquest or after the inquest. This matter should be brought to the notice of the officers in the districts during the crime conference.

04. Needless to mention that the expenses incurred for engaging the photographers/videographers visiting the scenes of a crime and other requirements in an investigation are made from the resources available with the Dept.

05. The following points are also to be kept in mind by all concerned.
1. The expenditure towards the services required for the inquest procedure shall be met from the Contingent Funds allotted to the Police Stations concerned. Recently, the Contingent Funds in each Police Station has been increased from ₹2,500/- to ₹5,000/-. If more funds are required, the DPCs shall allot the additional amounts.

2. The photographic equipments issued to various police offices shall be utilised for the purpose of investigation.

3. The services of the Departmental Photographers and other staff of the Department who have skills in photography/videography have to be utilised for the purpose. If in an extreme circumstance, such persons are not available, the services of professional photographers shall be engaged and payment must be made from the contingent funds by the DPCs concerned.

4. Similarly other unavoidable petty expenses for such incidents are also to be met from the Departmental Funds.

It will be the responsibility of the concerned DPCs to ensure that sufficient funds are made available to the PSs and these instructions are strictly complied with.

To: All Officers in List B
Copy To: ADGP SCR to publish in the Website
All Officers in PHQ / PIC PHQ
CA to SPC
ED Register / Stock File.

Loknath Behera IPS
State Police Chief

Forwarded to Manager for copy

Circulate the copy among all staff officers in SCR
Chief Photographers (9/6)
Compliance

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