



POLICE



DEPARTMENT

KERALA

No.D2-19235/2025/PHQ

Police Headquarters,
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Circular. 7/2025/PHQ

Sub : Procedure to be followed while collecting the Fingerprints from the Scene of Crime and the Specimen Finger Impression of Accused/Suspects and forwarding the same for Examination at Finger Print Bureau through the Court concerned- Modified Instructions issued -reg

Ref : 1. Common Judgement of Hon'ble High Court of Kerala dated: 19.03.2024 in Crl. Appeal Nos. 982 & 1070 of 2016 and Crl. Appeal No 997 of 2018
2. Judgement in Biju Kumar Vs State of Kerala (2022 (1) KHC 463)
3. Request from the Director, Kerala State Finger Print Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram

In view of the Judgments delivered by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala cited as references 1st & 2nd, attention is drawn to the procedure currently followed by Police in the collection of fingerprints from the scene of crime and the specimen finger impressions of the accused or suspects. The Hon'ble Court has pronounced that the existing procedure is inadequate and is grossly insufficient to inspire confidence of the Court concerned, resulting in inadmissibility of expert reports in some cases. The Hon'ble High Court observed that, "*Even if the sample fingerprint taken by the I.O was legally permissible, again the sample should have been transmitted to the Court with a property list and the chance print as also the sample print ought to have been sent to the Fingerprint Bureau through Court, with a forwarding note*" and that "*The procedure followed is grossly inadequate to inspire confidence of the Court and the report is inadmissible in evidence*".

In light of the above, the following revised procedure is being promulgated to ensure that the collection of fingerprints and their subsequent handling is conducted in a manner that adheres to legal standards and ensures the admissibility of evidence in Hon'ble Court.

The following directions are issued to the Investigating Officers, Fingerprint Bureau officials, and Police Photographers to ensure that all procedures are carried out without any flaws.

1. The Police photographer must attend all crime scenes that are being inspected by the Fingerprint Experts to ensure proper documentation of all chance prints. The ACP/DySP of District C' Branch should ensure the service of Police Photographer at the crime scene.
2. The Investigating Officer (IO) should collect certified hard/soft copies (along with the necessary Form 63 BSA certificate) of photographs of chance prints taken from the scene of crime by the Police photographer. These photographs must be



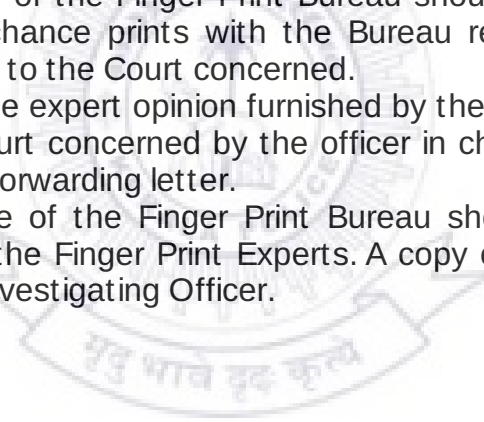
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submitted before the respective Courts, accompanied by a property list and a forwarding letter, for onward transmission to the District Fingerprint Bureau for comparison.

3. If the photography is not up to the mark to get quality chance prints from any substrate, the Fingerprint Expert is directed to lift the chance prints carefully using appropriate lifting techniques. These prints should be photographed by the Police photographer at the scene of crime.
4. A digital and hard copy of the chance prints images must be handed over to the District Fingerprint Bureau by the Police Photographer immediately, to avoid delays in the search for prints and, consequently, in the detection of the culprits.
5. The Fingerprint Expert inspecting the scene of crime must submit a detailed report to the IO at the time of inspection. This report should include details of the developed chance prints such as the type (latent or patent), place of substrate found, exact location, chemicals used, markings on the prints, and any other specific remarks.
6. The IO should ensure that the name of the expert and photographer, the details of the chance prints, exact locations, and expert markings on the prints are properly entered in the scene mahazar.
7. The fingerprints of the suspects or accused, taken by the Investigating Officer, shall be submitted before the Court concerned with a forwarding letter for onward transmission to the District Finger Print Bureau for comparison.
8. The photographer should provide sufficient number of certified copies of the photographs of the chance prints and specimen prints of prescribed size for preparing the expert opinion in identified cases.
9. The Fingerprint Expert should submit a duly filled and signed Form 63 BSA (Admissibility of Electronic Records) to the Court concerned along with the Expert Opinion through the officer in charge of the Fingerprint Bureau.
10. The officer in charge of the Finger Print Bureau should forward the results of the comparison of the chance prints with the Bureau records or with the prints of suspects or accused, to the Court concerned.
11. In identified cases, the expert opinion furnished by the Finger Print Experts shall be forwarded to the Court concerned by the officer in charge of District Finger Print Bureau along with a forwarding letter.
12. The officer in charge of the Finger Print Bureau should countersign the expert opinion provided by the Finger Print Experts. A copy of the expert opinion should also be sent to the Investigating Officer.



Shaik Darvesh Saheb

SHAIK DARVESH SAHEB IPS
State Police Chief

To : (1) To all Unit Heads
(2) ADGP SCRB & Director Finger Print Bureau

Copy : (1) All officers in List B
To : (2) CA to all staff officers PHQ

