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No. T8/97065/2014
Police Headquarters
Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
Dated: 04/09/2014

Circular No. 24/2014

Sub:- Communication with Media – Steps to be taken to avoid leakage of Voice Data in cases under investigation – Reg.

Ref:- PHQ Circulars No. 24/2007, 09/2008, 15/2010 and 06/2013.

Even after instructions were issued regarding communication with the media as per the circular referred above it is noticed that the video/ audio recording of the witness including accused persons are being freely shared with media persons even in sensational cases. As per Chapter V, Rule No. 31 of Kerala Police Act-2011, it is the duty of each Police Officer to keep the information confidential. A Police Officer is obliged to maintain the confidentiality of those information collected in respect of an individual or an institution as a part of investigation of cases except for any official needs like publication of details for detection or prevention of crime. No person in custody shall be paraded or allowed to be photographed and no press conference shall be conducted without the permission of State Police Chief for the purpose of publishing the same in the news paper or in any visual media.

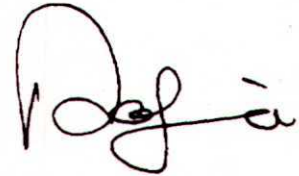
Police by law is empowered to take audio/ video recording of witness/ accused persons/ suspected persons/ persons directly or indirectly involved in a crime. Whenever such recording is done, it is the responsibility of the Police officer concerned to ensure that it does not go to unauthorized persons and get published in newspapers. Leakage of such valuable documents affects the credibility of investigation in many ways and may lead to the escape of the culprits. Police should act in a professional manner with adequate precautions to ensure that investigation are carried out in a thoroughly professional manner without giving opportunity for allegation of omission and commission against us.

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Investigating officer and his superior officers shall ensure that the tendency to leak out each and every information at any level is nipped in the bud. Supervisory officers are instructed to fix responsibility in such situation and such instances should be reported to State Police Chief. If a Police Officer feels that media people need to be involved with regard to any case, he can do it solely with the consent of District Police Chief. District Police Chief may obtain the consent of his immediate superior officer in this regard.

All Police officers are hereby directed to maintain sharp vigil regarding the proper maintenance of the facts collected during investigation.



State Police Chief,
Kerala 1/9/14

- To: (1) All Officers in List 'B' with a request to explain the contents to all the Subordinate Officers working under them.
(2) Stock File

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