

# **HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND, NAINITAL**

## **NOTIFICATION**

### **LIVE STREAMING AND RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS** **RULES OF HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND, 2023**

**No. 72/UHC/Admin.A(IT)/2024      Dated: Nainital: April 06, 2024**

**Preface** -Whereas to imbue greater transparency, inclusivity, and foster access to justice, it is expedient to set up infrastructure and the framework to enable live streaming and recording of proceedings. These rules are framed by the High Court of Uttarakhand in the exercise of powers under Article 225 and Article 227 of the Constitution of India.

**Short Title, Applicability and Commencement:** These Rules shall be called "Live Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings Rules of High Court of Uttarakhand, 2023". These Rules shall apply to the High Court of Uttarakhand and to the Courts and Tribunals over which it has supervisory jurisdiction. These rules will come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

#### **1. Definitions:**

- i. *Archival Data:*** means audio and visual data recorded during the conduct of the proceedings and retained by the Court.
- ii. *Authorized person/entity:*** means Person authorized by Court on this behalf.
- iii. *Bench:*** means the Judge(s) assigned to hear the case filed before the Court.
- iv. *Chief Justice:*** means the Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand, including the Acting Chief Justice.
- v. *Communication Device:*** means a hardware device capable of transmitting analog or digital signal over the telephone and other communication devices, whether wired or wireless.
- vi. *Court:*** means the High Court of Uttarakhand and all the Courts/tribunals under its supervision under Article 227 of the Constitution of India.
- vii. *Court Master / Reader:*** means the Court staff that assists the Court in the conduct of proceedings, including updating of the cause lists published on the display board.
- viii. *Court Premises:*** means and includes buildings and complexes under the authority of Courts.
- ix. *Designated Officer:*** means the Registrar (IT) or any other officer mandated to carry out the function of granting access to copies of recordings under these rules.
- x. *Designated Venue:*** means and includes a Courtroom or any other place where the proceedings are conducted, whether within

the Court premises or at a remote location.

- xi. *Hardware:*** means and includes equipment to be installed for live streaming and recording of proceedings or any ancillary activity.
- xii. *IT Committee:*** means and includes a committee constituted by the Chief Justice to deal with matters concerning information and communication technology, also referred to as the High Court computer committee or e-Committee.
- xiii. *Live-stream/ Live-streamed/ Live streaming:*** means and includes a live television link, webcast, audio-video transmissions via electronic means or other arrangements whereby any person can view the proceedings as permitted under these rules.
- xiv. *Proceedings:*** mean and include judicial proceedings, Lok Adalat proceedings, full-Court references, official transfer, elevation, retirement, farewells organised by the Court, and any other related Proceedings duly approved by the Chief Justice.
- xv. *Recording:*** means audio and video data of proceedings stored in electronic format, whether it is live streamed or not.
- xvi. *Recording Device:*** means and includes a device capable of recording images or sound, including but not limited to camera, audio recorder, video recorder, mobile telephone, or screen recorder.
- xvii. *Registrar (IT):*** means and includes any other officers so designated for this purpose by the Chief Justice of the High Court.
- xviii. *Remote Location:*** means and includes a geographical location, different from the Court premises, from where proceedings are conducted.
- xix. *Transcript:*** means the official written record of the proceedings published as per the directions of the Court.

## **2. Hardware – Placement & Control:**

- 2.1** Cameras will be ordinarily installed in the Courtroom covering at least five angles; one towards the bench, the second and third towards the advocates engaged in the concerned matter, the fourth towards the accused (where applicable) and the fifth towards the deponent/witness, as required.
- 2.2** If the Court has employed an electronic evidence presentation system, an additional feed shall be captured there from.
- 2.3** A remote-control device shall be provided to the presiding judge on the bench to pause or stop the live streaming at any time.
- 2.4** Advocates, witnesses, accused, or any other person permitted by the bench, shall use appropriate microphones while addressing the Court.

- 2.5** In so far as a remote location is concerned, appropriate hardware will be deployed to the extent practicable, bearing in mind the provisions made in the aforementioned sub-rules.
- 2.6** Where proceedings are conducted through web links, including video conferencing services, appropriate software and hardware will be employed, if necessary, to generate an integrated feed for live streaming.

**3. Requisitioning and Positioning of Human Resources:**

- 3.1** A dedicated control room (DCR) shall be set up for every Court complex.
- 3.2** The DCR shall, inter alia, comprise an officer of the Court, technical and video-recording experts. The DCR will monitor and track proceedings as they are live streamed, recorded, and transcribed. The DCR shall ensure that nothing antithetical to administration of justice is streamed in the public domain.
- 3.3** The coverage of Proceedings will be coordinated by the technical experts under the direct supervision of the Registrar (IT) or her/his nominee.
- 3.4** The Registrar (IT) and/or their nominee shall be subject to the directions of the IT Committee for the overall implementation of live streaming and recording of proceedings.

**4. Personnel positioned in the Court:** In addition to the Court master and Court staff attached to the bench, technical expert(s) shall be appointed/deputed in each of the Court premises or designated venue to enable the live streaming of proceedings. The technical expert(s) shall function under the overall supervision of the DCR.

**5. Live streaming and Recording of Proceedings:**

- 5.1.** Subject to the exclusions contained within these rules, proceedings will be live streamed by the Court.
- 5.2.** The following will be excluded from live streaming:
- i.** Matrimonial matters, child adoption and child custody including transfer petitions arising there under.
  - ii.** Cases concerning sexual offences, including proceedings instituted under Section 376, Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC).
  - iii.** Cases concerning gender-based violence against women.
  - iv.** Matters registered under or involving the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) and under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

- v.** Matters registered under or involving the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
  - vi.** In-camera proceedings as defined under Section 327 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) or Section 153 B of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC).
  - vii.** Matters where the bench is of the view, for reasons to be recorded in writing that publication would be antithetical to the administration of justice.
  - viii.** Cases, which in the opinion of the Bench, may provoke enmity amongst communities likely to result in a breach of law and order.
  - ix.** Recording of evidence, including cross-examination, statement u/sec 164 CrPC.
  - x.** Privileged communications between the parties and their advocates; cases where a claim of privilege is accepted by the Court; and non-public discussions between advocates.
  - xi.** Any other matter in which a specific direction is issued by the bench or the Chief Justice, or the Court.
- 5.3** Live streaming in certain cases may be restricted to final arguments or any other intermediate arguments.
- 5.4** The Court master/reader shall duly inform the parties, before the commencement of the proceedings that the proceedings are being live streamed and that objections, if any, should be articulated at that juncture to the concerned bench.
- 5.5** Objections, if any, to Live streaming may be raised at the time of institution of the case or any later stage. The final decision in that behalf shall be of the Bench.
- i.** Objection to Live streaming, if any, shall be raised by the party by filing the form prescribed in Schedule I
  - ii.** A person objecting to live streaming at a later stage, shall do so by filing the form prescribed in Schedule II.
- 5.6** Though final decision as to whether to allow the live streaming of the proceedings or any portion thereof will be of the court, however, the decision of the court will be guided by the principle of an open and transparent judicial process. The decision of the Bench shall not be justiciable, provided that, in case of difference of opinion, the matter can be referred to a larger bench or higher authority for a final decision.
- 5.7** In cases where the proceedings are not live streamed, the recording shall be maintained for usage by the Court and the appellate Court(s), subject to the following:

- i. Access to the recording of the testimony of witnesses will not be given until such time that the evidence is recorded in its entirety.
- ii. Transcript of the recordings would be made available to the advocate or litigant-in-person, in accordance with these Rules.
- iii. In case of litigant-in-person, who is also a witness in the matter, the bench in its discretion will decide as to the stage at which the litigant-in-person should have access to the recordings of the testimonies concerning the other witnesses in the matter.

**5.8** In criminal matters, the testimony of victims and witnesses will be recorded for the exclusive use of the concerned bench and the appellate Court(s), as per the direction issued in that behalf. The anonymity of the victims and witnesses shall be maintained in the recordings via dummy names, face-masking, pixilation and/or electronic distortion of voice, as and when directed by the Court.

**5.9** Audio-video recording or recording of proceedings by any other means, beyond the mandate of the present Rules is expressly prohibited.

## **6. Manner of Recording of Proceedings:**

**6.1** The cameras in the Court shall be as per Rule 2.1.

**6.2** Cameras shall not ordinarily audio-video record the media persons and the visitors present during the proceedings.

**6.3** The following will ordinarily not be live streamed or saved in the archival data or transcribed:

- i. Discussions between/amongst the judges on the bench.
- ii. Instructions given by a judge to administrative staff during the proceedings.
- iii. Any communication/ message/ document given by the Court master/reader to the bench.
- iv. Documents given to the judge during the proceedings.
- v. Notes taken down by the judge during the proceedings.
- vi. Notes made by an advocate either on paper or in electronic form, for assistance, while making submissions before the bench.
- vii. Communication between the advocate and client, inter-se the advocates and communications which is not a submission exchanged between the advocate and the Court.

**6.4** If one or more circumstances mentioned in Rule 6 occur, the monitor will display the message: "Live streaming paused as per

applicable Rules”.

- 6.5** In case the judge concerned on the bench is desirous of opting out of live streaming while dictating the order/oral judgment, live streaming will be paused during that period. In such circumstances, the monitors will display a message: “Order-dictation in progress”. Likewise, when the bench rises for recess or otherwise, the live streaming will be paused, and the monitor will display the message: “Court not in-session”.

## **7 Storage and Access:**

- 7.1** The recordings will be archived, subject to availability of adequate storage facility and maximum upto a period of six months.
- 7.2** Recordings may be uploaded, wholly or in part, on the Courts’ website or made available on other digital platforms, as directed by the Court.
- 7.3** Access to copies of the recordings not uploaded will be sanctioned by the designated officer, who will act as per law. An application for copies of recordings shall be made in the form prescribed in schedule III.
- 7.4** The archived data should ordinarily be retained by the Court for at least six months, subject to special directions issued by the concerned bench in a particular case. The Chief Justice may issue practice directions regarding the cases and the period for which archived data will be preserved. Archived data shall be stored in electronic devices in encrypted form with a specific hash (#) value.

## **8. Relay of Proceedings and Recordings:**

- 8.1** General Precaution: -Personal information such as date of birth of parties, home address, identity card number, bank account information, and the personal information of related parties, such as close relatives, witnesses and other participants, will be deleted or muted during Live streaming. Inter alia, any one of the masking techniques, as provided in rule 5.8, may be adopted. However, such Proceedings will be preserved in the archival data.
- 8.2** The advocates and litigants-in-person may request the bench to redact personal and sensitive information inter alia of the kind referred to in Rule 8.1.
- 8.3 Relay of Proceedings: -**
- i.** Subject to limitations contained in these rules, the live stream shall commence as soon as the bench assembles and instructs the Court staff to start the proceedings and shall end when the bench signals its conclusion for the

day.

- ii. There shall be a delay of ten minutes in streaming, which may be changed as per the direction of the Court.
- iii. The live streaming shall be carried out from the designated venue as decided by the bench.

**8.4 Relay of Recordings:** -The content of the recording will be vetted and shall be posted, usually within three days of the conclusion of the proceedings. The same shall be posted on the Courts' website or made available on such digital platforms, as directed by the Court.

## **9. Disclaimers, Prohibitions and Restrictions:**

### **9.1 Disclaimers:-**

- i. The daily cause list published on the website of the Court shall contain requisite information and disclaimer regarding live streaming.
- ii. The archival data shall not constitute the official record of the Court proceedings unless otherwise directed by the bench.

### **9.2 Prohibitions and restrictions on usage of the recording or live stream:**

- i. No person/entity (including print and electronic media, and social media platforms) other than an authorized person/entity shall record, share and/or disseminate live streamed proceedings or archival data. This provision shall also apply to all messaging applications. Any person/entity acting contrary to this provision will be prosecuted as per law. The Court shall have the exclusive copyright in the recordings and archival Data. Any unauthorised usage of the live stream will be punishable as an offence under the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, Information Technology Act, 2000, and other provisions of law, including the law of Contempt.
- ii. Any party/ litigant-in-person accessing the live stream will be bound by these Rules.
- iii. The live stream shall not, without the prior written authorisation of the Court, be reproduced, transmitted, uploaded, posted, modified, published, or republished in any form.
- iv. The use of authorised recordings in their original form may be permitted by the Court, inter-alia to disseminate news and for training, academic and educational purposes. Authorised recordings handed over for the aforesaid purposes shall not be further edited or processed. Such

recordings will not be used for commercial, promotional purposes or advertising in any form.

- v. No person shall use a recording device for recording or for transcribing the proceedings, other than those authorised by the Court.

**9.3 Use of communication device or recording device during proceedings:**

- i. A person must not use a communication device or a recording device to disturb proceedings in a manner that may cause concern to a witness or other participants in the proceedings or allow a person who is not a participant to receive information about the proceeding or the hearing to which the person is not otherwise entitled.
- ii. During proceedings, all personnel shall follow the instructions of the presiding judge, adhere to Courtroom etiquettes and discipline, and shall not engage in the following actions- audio and/or video recording, taking screenshots or using mobile communication tools to relay the proceedings.
- iii. Violation of Sub-Rules (i) and (ii) will result in prosecution as per law. Additionally, the bench may also direct seizure of the communication device or recording device.

**10. Transcription and Access:**

- 10.1** Transcripts shall be prepared of recordings only when directed by the Court.
- 10.2** The transcripts may be translated into other scheduled languages.
- 10.3** Recordings that are uploaded will be made accessible for differently abled persons.

**11. Dedicated room(s) for live streaming:**

In order to decongest the Court rooms, dedicated room(s) for viewing the live stream may be made available within the Court premises. Access shall be given to law researchers, staff, litigants, academicians, and media personnel authorised to enter the Court premises upon receipt of necessary permissions/approvals. Appropriate arrangements shall be made to enable viewing of live streams from multiple benches within this/these room(s). Special arrangements will be made for differently abled persons.

**12. Power to Relax:**

The High Court may, if satisfied that the operation of any rule is causing undue hardship, by order, dispense with or relax the requirements of that Rule to such extent and subject to such



conditions as may be stipulated to deal with the case in a just and equitable manner.

**13. Reference to Words and Expressions:**

Words and expressions used and not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them by the law for the time being in force, including the Information Technology Act 2000, CPC, the CrPC, Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the General Clauses Act, 1897 and Uttar Pradesh General Clauses Act 1904 (as applicable to State of Uttarakhand)

**14. Residual Provisions:**

Matters concerning which no express provision is made in these rules shall be decided by the Court consistent with the principle of furthering the interest of justice.

**SCHEDULE I**

**[Referred to in Rule 5.5 (i)]**

**Objection to live streaming of proceedings by filing Party**

1. Diary Number / Filing Number (if any):
2. Cause Title:
3. Reasons for objection to Live streaming (please select one or more applicable).

The case relates to:

- i. Matrimonial matters, transfer petitions thereunder.
- ii. Sexual offences, including proceedings instituted under Section 376 of the IPC.
- iii. Gender-based violence against women.
- iv. POCSO and under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- v. In-camera proceedings as defined under Section 327 of the CrPC or Section 153 B of the CPC.
- vi. Publication would be antithetical to the administration of justice.
- vii. Other(s) (state the reason briefly): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Applicant Details:

- i. Party name\_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Plaintiff/Petitioner/Appellant/Applicant No\_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Applicant Address\_\_\_\_\_
- iv. Applicant Telephone number\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the provisions of the Rules for live

streaming for Courts (hyperlink). I undertake to remain bound by the same to the extent applicable to me.

Signature of the Applicant/Authorised signatory\*:

( this application may be e-signed)

Date: Digital Signature/Scanned Signature

**For use of the Registry**

A. Bench assigned:

B. Decision of the Bench: Allowed/Not Allowed

Date:

**SCHEDULE II**  
**[Referred to in Rule 5.5 (ii)]**  
**Objection to live streaming of proceedings**

1. Case Number / CNR Number / Diary Number (if any):
2. Cause Title:
3. Date of Hearing (if already listed) (DD/MM/YYYY):
4. Reasons for objection to the Live streaming (please select one or more applicable).

Case relates to:

- i. Matrimonial matters, transfer petitions thereunder.
- ii. Sexual offences, including proceedings instituted under Section 376 of the IPC.
- iii. Gender-based violence against women.
- iv. POCSO and under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- v. In-camera proceedings as defined under Section 327 of the CrPC or Section 153 B of the CPC.
- vi. Publication would be antithetical to the administration of justice.
- vii. Other (s) (state the reason briefly): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Applicant Details:

i. Party name

ii. Select one:

- a. [i] Petitioner No.  
[ii] Accused No.  
[iii] Plaintiff No.
- b. [iv] Defendant No.

[v] Applicant No.

[vi] Respondent No.

[vii] Deponent for No. \_\_\_\_\_

[viii] Other(s) \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Applicant Address \_\_\_\_\_

iv. Applicant Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the provisions of the Rules for live streaming for Courts (hyperlink). I undertake to remain bound by the same to the extent applicable to me.

Signature of the Applicant/Authorised Signatory\*:

(this application may be e-signed)

Date:

Digital Signature/Scanned Signature

**For the use of the Registry**

A) Bench assigned:

B) Decision of the Bench: Allowed/Not Allowed

Date:

**SCHEDULE III**  
**[Referred to in Rule 7.3]**  
**APPLICATION FORM FOR COPIES OF RECORDINGS**  
**AVAILABLE IN ARCHIVAL DATA**

1. Case Number / CNR Number (if any):
2. Cause Title:
3. Date of Hearing (if already listed) (DD/MM/YYYY):
4. Applicant Status (select one):
  - i. Party to the proceedings
  - ii. Authorised Representative
  - iii. Advocate for the Party /
  - iv. Third Party /None of the above (Please Specify)
5. Identification document enclosed:
  - (i) Bar Association ID (ii) AADHAAR CARD (iii) PAN Card
  - (iv) Driver's License (v) Ration Card (vi) Other Government issued ID (please specify)
6. ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Applicant Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Reason/s for requesting access: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Format in which Recording is requested:
  - (i) Cloud link (ii) Physical Drive
11. Fee to be Paid:  
[Subject to fee as prescribed by the concerned High Court.]

I have read and understood the provisions of the rules for live streaming for Courts ([hyperlink](#)). I undertake to remain bound by the same to the extent applicable to me. I undertake not to copy, distribute or publish, or cause the copying, distribution or publication of the Recordings in any manner without the prior written approval of the Court.

Signature of the Applicant/Authorised Signatory\*:

(this application may be e-signed)

Date:

Digital Signature/Scanned Signature

**For the use of the Registry**

WHETHER APPROVED BY DESIGNATED OFFICER

Fee paid: Actual fee of downloading/storage etc., as approved by the Chief Justice.

**By order of the Court,  
Sd/-  
Registrar Judicial  
For Registrar General**

**No. 1864/UHC/XI-(a)-1/Admin.A/2024 Dated: April 06, 2024.**

*Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:*

1. *P.P.S. to Hon'ble the Chief Justice with request to place the same for kind perusal of His Lordship.*
2. *P.S./ P.A. to Hon'ble Judges with request to place the same for kind perusal of Hon'ble Judges.*
3. *Advocate General, Government of Uttarakhand, Nainital.*
4. *Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.*
5. *Chairman, Bar Council of Uttarakhand, Nainital.*
6. *President/Secretary, High Court Bar Association, Nainital.*
7. *Chief Standing Counsel, Government of Uttarakhand, Nainital.*
8. *Assistant Solicitor General, Government of India, Nainital.*
9. *Additional Chief Standing Counsel, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Nainital.*
10. *Principal Secretary, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.*
11. *Principal Secretary, Law- cum-L.R. Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.*
12. *All District & Sessions Judges, State Judiciary with request to circulate the Rules in your Judgeship.*
13. *Principal Judge/ Judges, Family Courts, Subordinate to High Court of Uttarakhand.*
14. *Director, Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy, Bhowali, District Nainital.*
15. *Member-Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, Nainital.*
16. *Legal Advisor to Hon'ble the Governor, Raj Bhawan, Dehradun.*
17. *Secretary, Lokayukt, 3/3, Industrial Area, Patel Nagar, Dehradun.*
18. *Registrar, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, H.N. 23/16, Circular Road, Dalanwala, Dehradun.*
19. *Presiding Officer, Labour Courts, Dehradun, Haridwar & Kashipur, District U.S.Nagar.*
20. *Presiding Officer, Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court, Haldwani, District Nainital.*
21. *Presiding Officer, Food Safety Appellate Tribunal, Dehradun and Haldwani, District Nainital.*
22. *Registrar, Uttarakhand Public Service Tribunal, Dehradun.*
23. *Chairman, Commercial Tax Tribunal, Dehradun.*
24. *Secretary-cum-Registrar, State Level Police Complaint Authority, Dehradun.*
25. *Chairman, Uttarakhand State Transport Appellate Tribunal, Dehradun.*
26. *Chairman, Permanent Lok Adalat, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital and U.S. Nagar.*
27. *Legal Advisor to Uttarakhand Public Service Commission, Haridwar.*
28. *All the Registrars/O.S.D./Secretary, HCLSC of the Court.*

29. *All Deputy Registrars of the Court.*
30. *Joint P.P.S. / Head P.S. / Head B.S. of the Court.*
31. *P.S. to Registrar General.*
32. *All the Assistant Registrars/Chief Protocol Officer/Section Officers of the Court.*
33. *Librarian of the Court.*
34. *Director, Printing & Stationery, Government Press, Roorkee, District Hardwar, for publication of the Notification in the next Gazette of the Uttarakhand.*
35. *Assistant Registrar (I.T.) of the Court with direction to upload the same on the Official website of High Court of Uttarakhand.*
36. *Guard file.*

*By order,*

*C.P.C.*