

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EDITORIAL BRANCH

F. No. EB/I-8/SC/2018
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CIRCULAR

The norms for accreditation of the Legal Correspondents in the Supreme Court of India have been modified /revised in terms of the Minutes of the Meeting dated 24-08-2018 of the Hon'ble Accreditation Committee.

Copy of the modified / revised norms, as approved on 24-08-2018, may be downloaded from www.sci.gov.in, the official website of the Supreme Court of India under the heading 'Notices & Circulars' or can be requisitioned from the Editorial Branch, Supreme Court Registry, by tendering appropriate written request.


(Surya Pratap Singh)
Registrar (J-V) 27/8/18

**NORMS FOR ACCREDITATION OF THE LEGAL
CORRESPONDENTS IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

(As amended vide Minutes of the Meeting of Hon'ble Accreditation
Committee dated 24.08.2018)

REGULAR ACCREDITATION: Any working journalist / correspondent who desires to regularly report the Supreme Court proceedings may be eligible to be considered for regular accreditation by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on his fulfilling the following conditions:-

1. He must have a Law degree recognized by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act.

***However, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, in his discretion, in appropriate cases can waive the condition for possessing Law degree, in case a working journalist / correspondent fulfils the following condition:**

He holds a Bachelor degree from a recognized University and possesses 5 years' continuous regular Supreme Court reporting experience, in addition to the experience prescribed in the following paragraphs, as may be applicable.

2. He should ordinarily have five years' continuous regular Court reporting experience in a daily newspaper and/or a national or international news agency, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least three and a half years must be at Supreme Court or at any High Court(s) in India.

OR

He should ordinarily have five years' continuous regular Court reporting experience for an Electronic Media Organization, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least two years must be in Supreme Court or at any High Court(s) in India.

*** Inserted by amendment made vide Minutes of the Meeting of Hon'ble Accreditation Committee dated 24-08-2018.**

3. He has regularly reported the proceedings of the Supreme Court for at least six months for a daily newspaper/news agency or for an electronic media organization, on temporary accreditation granted to him and continues to represent a daily newspaper of not less 40,000 circulation certified by the Registrar of Newspapers, the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) or the Director of State Information Bureau or a national or international news agency or an electronic media organization.

3(A). The applications for regular accreditation shall be placed before the Accreditation Committee of Hon'ble Judges as constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, for special reasons, may refer to the Hon'ble Supreme Court Accreditation Committee the case of any deserving candidate for consideration of according accreditation in relaxation of the rules and guidelines and on such reference the Accreditation Committee may advise the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India suitably.

4. On being granted regular / temporary accreditation on the prescribed application, the legal correspondent so accredited will be issued a identity card /proximity card.

5. In case, an accredited legal correspondent, regular or temporary, is transferred or otherwise ceases to represent the newspaper, news agency or electronic media organization for which he was granted accreditation, he shall, within two weeks of such transfer or cessation, return the identity card /proximity card issued to him by the Supreme Court Registry to the Registrar (Editorial).

6. TEMPORARY ACCREDITATION:

An applicant for temporary accreditation will be eligible for consideration on his fulfilling the following conditions:

- (a) He is working journalist desiring to report regularly the Supreme Court proceedings and furnishes a letter from his newspaper, news agency or other media organization concerned to that effect.

- (b) He possesses a Law degree recognized by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act.
- (c) The application must be accompanied by an attested copy of the Law degree.
- (d) He should ordinarily have 3½ years' continuous regular Court reporting experience in a daily newspaper and/or a national or international news agency, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least 2 years must be at any High Court(s) in India.

Any period or periods of temporary reporting facility earlier accorded by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to the applicant correspondent shall also be included in this period of 2 years, subject to the applicant correspondent furnishing necessary proof in support of his claim of having been accorded such temporary reporting facility.

OR

He should ordinarily have 3½ years' continuous regular Court reporting experience for an Electronic Media Organization, immediately prior to the application for accreditation, of which at least 1½ years must be at any High Court(s) in India.

Any period or periods of temporary reporting facility earlier accorded by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to the applicant correspondent shall also be included in this period of 1½ years, subject to the applicant correspondent furnishing necessary proof in support of his claim of having been accorded such temporary reporting facility.

- (e) The application must be supported by clippings showing the Court reportage for the requisite number of years and a letter from the Chief Editor certifying the above-mentioned experience of reportage. Clipping will however not be

required, if experience of Court reporting for a news paper is not claimed.

7. *****¹

7(A). CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY A WORKING JOURNALIST / CORRESPONDENT AFTER HIS ACCREDITATION:

(1) An accredited correspondent, regular or temporary shall while in Court precincts be in a formal dress, in a manner befitting the décor of the Court and displaying prominently his accreditation card.

(2) At all times an Accredited Correspondent, regular or temporary shall maintain decorum in Court and refrain from doing such things as may disturb the proceedings of the Court and shall confine to the area prescribed.

(3) An Accredited Correspondent, regular or temporary, shall make a serious endeavour of reporting a faithful account without any distortions and embellishments.

8. TEMPORARY REPORTING FACILITY:

The Registrar in his discretion may grant temporary reporting facility to a working journalist for a day/short duration or for a specific case on his fulfilling the following criteria:

He must submit a formal letter from the Editor making a specific request along with his PIB Accreditation Card or Parliament Pass for correspondents, for being considered for the grant of such temporary reporting facility.

*****¹ Omitted by amendment made vide Minutes of the Meeting of Hon'ble Accreditation Committee dated 30.07.2015

9. That whenever a press representative who has been accorded accreditation leaves the Press/Agency/Organization which he is representing and joins another Press/Agency/Organization, he may not be extended the privileges of an accredited press representative unless he seeks fresh accreditation by making

appropriate application in accordance with the norms, to the Registrar (Editorial) who shall place the same before the Accreditation Committee of Hon'ble Judges as constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India.

10. Grant of accreditation will be in sole discretion of the Accreditation Committee of Hon'ble Judges as constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and its' decision in this regard shall be final and binding on all.

11. The accreditation, whether regular or temporary, can be withdrawn, at any time, without assigning any reason.