

Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963

Chapter III - Duties of Officers

Section 7 - Control and duties of officers of prisons

All officers of a prison shall obey the directions of the Superintendent; all officers subordinate to the Jailer shall perform such duties as may be prescribed, or be imposed on them, by the Jailer, with the sanction of the Superintendent.

Section 8 - Officers not to have business dealings with prisoners

No officer of a prison shall sell or let, nor shall any person in trust for or employed by him sell or let, or derive any benefit from selling or letting, any article to any prisoner or have any money or other business dealings directly or indirectly, with any prisoner.

Section 9 - Officers not to be interested in prison contracts

No officer of a prison shall, nor shall any person in trust for or employed by him, have any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract for the supply of any article to the prison; nor shall he derive any benefit, directly or indirectly, from the sale or purchase of any article on behalf of the prison or belonging to a prisoner.

Section 10 to 11 - Superintendent

Section 10 - Superintendent

(1) Subject to the orders of the Inspector--General, the Superintendent shall manage the prison in all matters relating to welfare, discipline, labour, expenditure, punishment and control.

(2) Subject to such general or special direction as may be given by the State Government, the Superintendent of a prison other than a Central Prison, shall obey all orders not inconsistent with this Act or any rule thereunder, which may be given respecting the prison by the District Magistrate, and shall report to the Inspector--General all such orders and the action taken thereon:

Provided that the District Magistrate shall immediately forward a copy of such order to the Inspector--General of Prisons for ratification.

Section 11 - Records to be kept by Superintendent

The Superintendent shall keep, or cause to be kept, the following records:-

- (1) a register of prisoners admitted;
- (2) a book showing when each prisoner is to be released;

- (3) a punishment book for the entry of the punishment inflicted on prisoners for prison offences;
- (4) a visitors' book for the entry of any observations made by the visitors touching any matters connected with the administration of the prison;
- (5) a record of the money and other articles taken from prisoners; and
- (6) all such other records as may be prescribed.

Section 12 to 14 - Medical Officer

Section 12 - Duties of Medical Officer

Subject to the control of the Superintendent, the Medical Officer shall have charge of the sanitary and health administration of the prison and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed.

Section 13 - Medical Officer to report in certain cases

Whenever the Medical Officer has reason to believe that the mind of a prisoner is, or is likely to be, injuriously affected by the discipline or treatment to which he is subjected, the Medical Officer shall report the case in writing to the Superintendent, together with such observations as he may think proper. The Superintendent shall forthwith send such report, with his orders thereon, to the Inspector-General, for information.

Section 14 - Report on the death of prisoner

On the death of any prisoner, the Medical Officer shall forthwith record in a register the following particulars, so far as they can be ascertained, namely:-

- (1) the day on which the deceased first complained of illness or was observed to be ill;
- (2) the labour, if any, on which he was engaged on that day;
- (3) the scale of his diet on that day;
- (4) the day on which the Medical Officer was first informed of the illness;
- (5) the day on which he was admitted to hospital;
- (6) the nature of the disease;
- (7) when the deceased was last seen before his death, by the Medical Officer or the Medical Subordinate;
- (8) when the prisoner died and reasons therefor; and
- (9) (in case where a post-mortem examination is made), an account of the appearances after death, together with any special remarks that appear to the Medical Officer to be required.

A copy of the particulars recorded shall be sent to the Inspector-General and the nearest relatives of the deceased prisoner as soon as may be after the record is made.

Section 15 to 19 - Jailer

Section 15 - Jailer

(1) The Jailer shall reside in the prison, unless the Superintendent permits him in writing to reside elsewhere.

(2) The Jailer shall not, without the sanction of the Inspector--General in writing, be concerned in any other employment.

Section 16 - Jailer to give notice of death of prisoner

Upon the death of a prisoner, the Jailer shall give immediate notice thereof to the Superintendent and the Medical Officer.

Section 17 - Responsibilities of Jailer

The Jailer shall be responsible for the safe custody of the records to be kept under section 11, for the commitment warrants and all other documents confided to his care and for the money and other articles taken from the prisoners.

Section 18 - Jailer to be present at night

The Jailer shall not be absent from the prison for a night, without the permission in writing from the Superintendent; if absent without leave for a night from unavoidable necessity, he shall immediately report the fact and the cause of it, to the Superintendent.

Section 19 - Powers of Deputy and Assistant Jailers

Where a Deputy Jailer or Assistant Jailer is appointed to a prison, he shall, subject to the orders of the Superintendent, be competent to perform any of the duties, and be subject to all the responsibilities of a Jailer under this Act, or any rule thereunder.

Section 20 to 22 - Subordinate Officers

Section 20 - Duties of gatekeeper

The officer acting as gatekeeper or any other officer of the prison may examine anything carried in or out of the prison, and may stop and search or cause to be searched any person suspected of bringing any prohibited article into or out of the prison or carrying out any property belonging to the prison, and if any such article or property be found, shall give immediate notice thereof to the Jailer.

Section 21 - Subordinate officers not to be absent without leave

Officers subordinate to the Jailer shall not be absent from the prison without leave from the Superintendent or from the Jailer.

Section 22 - Convict officers

Prisoners who have been appointed as officers of prisons shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

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