

KERALA DOWRY PROHIBITION (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2021

PREAMBLE

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (No. 28 of 1961), the Government of Kerala hereby make the following rules to amend the Kerala Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004, issued by Notification under G.O.(P) No. 47/2004/SWD dated 7th July, 2004 and published as S.R.O No. 713/2004 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 1451 dated 8th July, 2004, namely:

Rule - 1. Short title and commencement.

(1) These rules may be called the Kerala Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

Rule - 2. Amendment of the rules.

In the Kerala Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004,

(i) for the words "Regional Dowry Prohibition Officer" wherever they occur, the words "District Dowry Prohibition Officer" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words "Probation Officer" wherever they occur, the words "Women Protection Officer" shall be substituted; (iii) in Rule 2

(i) for clause (d) the following clause shall be substituted, namely:

"(d) "District Dowry Prohibition Officer" means an officer appointed as such by the State Government under Section 8B of the Act;"

(ii) after clause (d) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:

"(da) "District Women and Child Development Officer" means the District Women and Child Development Officer of the Women and Child Development Department;"

(iii) for clause (e), the following clause shall be substituted, namely,

"(e) "Women Protection Officer" means the Protection Officer appointed under sub-section (1) of Section 8 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (No. 43 of 2005);"

(iv) for Rule 3, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:

"3. District Dowry Prohibition Officer.

(1) There shall be a Dowry Prohibition Officer in every district known as District Dowry Prohibition Officer. The District Women and Child Development Officer of each District shall function as the District Dowry Prohibition Officer of the respective District, by utilizing the services of the staff attached to his office.

(2) Government shall make necessary arrangements for imparting adequate orientation or training

programmes for the District Dowry Prohibition Officer.";

(v) for Rule 4, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:

"4. Jurisdiction of District Dowry Prohibition Officer.

The area in respect of which the District Dowry Prohibition Officer has to exercise jurisdiction and power under sub-section (1) of Section 8B of the Act shall be the respective Revenue District.";

(vi) in Rule 6, for clause (xiii), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:

(xiii) The District Dowry Prohibition Officer may utilize the service of the Women Protection Officer or any other officer authorised by the Government in this behalf for collecting information or conducting enquiries or assisting any stage of enquiry or proceedings relating to a compliant, petition or application under the Act;;

(vii) in Rule 7, for clause (i), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:

"(i) The Director of Women and Child Development Department, by virtue of his office, shall act as the Chief Dowry Prohibition Officer for administrating and coordinating the work relating to dowry prohibition throughout the State;".