

No. Per (AR) A(4)3/2013 Part-I

Dated Shimla-2, the

31<sup>st</sup> January, 2015

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**Subject :- Abolition of Affidavits-Introducing Self Certifications.**

It has been the experience that in the day to day functioning of the government, submission of affidavits (on Stamp Paper and attested by Magistrates/notaries) by applicants for various purposes has been going on for a long time. Most of this in fact appears redundant and is insisted upon by lower level functionaries either due to ignorance of Law or simply continued as a practice adopted in the past which, in reality, serves no purpose whatsoever.

2. Needless to say that every affidavit to be procured by any citizen subjects her to great cost in terms of energy and effort besides money the cost of which may vary from 20 to 200 rupees for each affidavit. And all of this for a document which seems to serve no purpose whatsoever.

3. This matter has been examined and it has been decided by the Government to do away with affidavits in government functioning and introduce self certification of document. All Agencies/ departments/ organizations in the Government are directed to immediately dispense with the practice of obtaining affidavits from the public except in those cases where Act/Rules specifically provide for furnishing of an Affidavit. Any official asking for an affidavit in the normal transactions of govt. business, unless the affidavit is required under a statutory provision, may invite appropriate action for defiance/violation of government directions. Instead only a self certified declaration on plain paper will be obtained from such applicants.

4. The orders shall not be applicable to Courts or to other bodies discharging functions of judicial or quasi judicial nature e.g. Consumer Commission, Administrative Tribunal, Lokayukta etc.

An apprehension that may arise in this matter is "what if any person gives a false or incorrect declaration?" In this regard reference is invited to Section 199 and 200 of the

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