

Action Plan for Protection of Life and Property: Role of the District Magistrate

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1) The Maintenance of Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

2) Goa Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules, 2009

3) Notifications no: 83-9-2006-2007-
SDB/part/2008/3846 and 3847 dated 24TH
September, 2009

Sec 7 of the Act – Constitution of Maintenance Tribunal –

(1) The State Government shall within a period of six months from the date of the commencement of this Act, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute for each sub-division one or more Tribunals as may be specified in the notification for the purpose of adjudicating and deciding upon the Order for maintenance under section 5.

(2) The Tribunal shall be presided over by an officer not below the rank of Sub Division Officer of a State.

(3) Where two or more Tribunals are constituted for any area, the State Government may, by general or special order, regulate the distribution of business among them.

Chapter V

Rule 19–Duties and Powers of the District Magistrate

(1) The District Magistrate shall perform the duties and exercise the powers mentioned in sub–rules (2) and (3) so as to ensure that the provisions of the Act and these Rules are properly carried out in his district.

(2) It shall be the duty of the District Magistrate to :–

(i) ensure that life and property of senior citizens of the district are protected and they are able to live with security and dignity;

(ii) oversee and monitor the work of Tribunals and Maintenance Officers of the district with a view to ensuring timely and fair disposal of applications for maintenance and execution of Tribunals orders;

(iii) oversee and monitor the working of old age homes in district so as to ensure that they conform to the standards laid down in these rules, and any other guidelines and orders of the Government;

(iv) ensure regular and wide publicity of the provisions of the Act, and Central and State Government programmes for the welfare of senior citizens.

(v) encourage and co-ordinate with Panchayats, Municipalities, Nehru Yuwa Kendras, educational institutions and especially their National Service Scheme units, organizations, specialists, experts, activists etc., working in the district, so that their resources and efforts are effectively pooled for the welfare of senior citizens of the district;

(vi) ensure provision of timely assistance and relief to senior citizens in the event of natural calamities and other emergencies;

(vii) ensure periodic sensitization of officers of various Departments and Local Bodies concerned with welfare of senior citizens, towards the needs of such citizens, and the duty of the officers towards the latter;

(viii) review the progress of investigation and trial of cases relating to senior citizens in the district;

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(ix) ensure that adequate number of specified application form for maintenance are available in offices of common contact for citizens like Panchayats, Municipality, Post Office, Block Development Officers, Mamlatdar Offices, Collectorate, Police Station etc.

(x) promote establishment of dedicated helplines for senior citizens at district headquarters, to begin with; and

(xi) perform such other functions as the Government may, by order, assign to the District Magistrate in this behalf, from time to time.

(3) With a view to performing the duties mentioned in sub-rule (2), the District Magistrate shall be competent to issue such directions, not inconsistent with the provision of the Act, these rules, and general guidelines of the Government, as may be necessary, to any concerned Department or statutory agency or body working in the district, and especially to the following:

(a) Officers of the Government in the Police, Health and Publicity Departments, and the Department dealing with welfare of senior citizens;

(b) Maintenance Tribunals and Conciliation Officers;

(c) Panchayats and Municipalities, City Municipal Corporations;
and

(d) Educational institutions.

Chapter VI –

Rule 20. Action Plan for the protection of life and property of senior citizens : –

Sub Sections :

2 (xii) the District Superintendent of Police shall submit to the Director General of Police and to the District Magistrate, a monthly report by the 20th every month, about the status of crime against senior citizen during the previous month, including progress of investigation and prosecution of registered offences, and preventive steps taken during the month.

(xiii) the District Magistrate shall cause the report to be placed before the District level Coordination–cum–Monitoring Committee constituted under rule 22.

Rule 18 under Chapter IV of Goa Rules, 2009–
Illiterate and/or very infirm senior citizens may also be admitted without any formal application if the District Magistrate or other competent authority designated by him for the purpose, is satisfied that the senior citizen is not in a position to make a formal application, but is badly in need of shelter :