

Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (Contempt Of Courts) Rules, 1996

CONTENTS

1. Short title
2. Definitions
3. Contempt in the presence of the Tribunal
4. Cognizance
5. Registration of petition
6. Form of Petition
7. Initiation of proceedings
8. Admission
9. Compelling attendance
10. Presence of alleged contemner
11. Release on bail
12. Procedure on forfeiture of the bond
13. Right to be defended by Legal Practitioner
14. Objections of the alleged contemner
15. Inquiry and charge in case of criminal contempt
16. Production of evidence
17. Trial of the alleged contemner
18. Expenses of witnesses
19. Oath not to be administered
20. Discharge of alleged contemner
21. Execution of sentences
22. Procedure on apology
23. Costs
24. Grant of certified copies and inspection
25. xxx xxx xxx

FORM 1 :- FORM I

FORM 2 :- FORM II

FORM 3 :- FORM III

FORM 4 :- FORM IV

FORM 5 :- FORM V

FORM 6 :- FORM VI

Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (Contempt Of Courts) Rules, 1996

No. MAT/MUM/I/1996, dated 1st September, 1996. - In the exercise of powers conferred by section 23 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (70 of 1971) read with section 17 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 (13 of 1985) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal hereby makes the following rules to regulate the proceedings under the said Act, namely :-

1. Short title :-

- (i) These rules may be called the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (Contempt of Courts) Rules, 1996.
- (ii) These rules extend to whole of Maharashtra.
- (iii) They shall come into force on the first day of September, 1996.

2. Definitions :-

In these rules unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -

- (a) "Act" means the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.
- (b) Form means the forms set out in the appendix to these rules;
- (c) Member means a Member, whether Judicial or Administrative and includes Chairman and Vice-Chairman;
- (d) Registrar means Registrar of the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal or it is Benches, where the contempt proceedings are taken and shall include Joint Registrar or Deputy Registrar;
- (e) Section means a Section of the Act;
- (f) Tribunal means the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal constituted under the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985 or the Bench thereof; where the proceedings are taken cognizance of;
- (g) Words and expressions not defined in these rules shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Act.

3. Contempt in the presence of the Tribunal :-

- (i) Where the contempt is committed in view or presence or hearing of the Tribunal, contemner may be punished by the same Bench of the Tribunal before which it is committed, either forthwith or on such date as may be appointed by the Tribunal in that behalf.
- (ii) Pending determination of the charge, the Tribunal may direct that the contemner shall be detained in such custody as it may specify ;
Provided that, the contemner may be released on bail on such terms as the Tribunal may direct, In this regard, the provisions of rule 11 shall apply.

4. Cognizance :-

In a contempt other than the contempt referred to in rule 3 of the Tribunal may take action -

- (i) Suo motu; or
- (ii) on a petition made by Advocate General or Chief Presenting Officer for the State Government; or
- (iii) with the permission of the Tribunal on a petition made by any person :

Provided that, for considering the question whether or not, the Tribunal should take cognizance on a petition, the Tribunal may direct a notice before admission to be issued to the alleged contemner and the Tribunal may permit him to file his say in the matter or may hear him on oral submissions:

Provided further that, in the case of a suo motu action initiated by the Tribunal such a notice before admission shall be given in writing and it shall be accompanied by a draft of statement of allegations containing facts on the basis of which a contempt is alleged to have been committed.

5. Registration of petition :-

- (i) Every petition or motion for taking proceedings under the Act shall be registered as Contempt Petition (Civil) in respect of Criminal Contempt ;
- (ii) In proceedings, initiated on a petition, the initiator shall be described as the petitioner and the opposite party as the respondent and in other cases the description of the persons proceeded against shall be as follows :-

In re

..... s o n of

 occupation.....resident of

6. Form of Petition :-

Every petition under rule 5 shall be in a paper book form and shall contain :-

- (i) name, description and place of residence of the petitioner or petitioners and of the person

or persons charged ;

(ii) nature of contempt alleged and such material facts including the date or dates of the commission of the alleged contempt, as may be necessary for the proper determination of the petition;

(iii) if a petition has previously been made by him on the same facts, the petitioner shall give details of the petition previously made and shall indicate the result thereof;

(iv) the petition shall be supported by an affidavit;

(v) where the petitioner relies upon document in his possession, or power, he shall file such documents or true copies thereof with the petition.

(vi) no fee shall be payable on a petition or any document filed in the proceedings; and

(vii) the petitioner shall file three copies of the petition in paper book form. Where the number of respondents is more than one equal number of extra paper books shall be filed.

7. Initiation of proceedings :-

(i) Any petition, information or motion for action being taken under the Act, shall in the first instance be placed before the Chairman, in the case of Principal Bench and the concerned Vice-Chairman, in the case of other Benches.

(ii) The Chairman or the concerned Vice-Chairman or such other Member(s) as may be designated by him for this purpose, shall determine the expediency or propriety of taking an action under the Act.

8. Admission :-

(i) Where the Chairman, in the case of Principal Bench, or the concerned Vice-Chairman, the case of other Benches, or such other Member(s) of the Tribunal to whom the matter is referred under rule 7, sub-rule (ii) decides that the action shall be taken under the Act against the alleged contemner, a case shall be registered and numbered as per rule 5 in the register in Form No. I and the Registrar shall cause -

(a) a notice to be issued to the Advocate General or the Chief Presenting Officer for the State Government in Form II when the case is taken cognizance of suo motu: and

(b) also a notice be issued to the alleged contemnor in Form III to appear before the Tribunal in person in case of criminal contempt or through an Advocate in case of civil contempt on a date to be specified therein to show cause against such proceedings.

(ii) A copy of any order made under sub-rule (i) and such other papers as may be deemed necessary by the Chairman or the concerned Vice-Chairman or the Member(s) who taken the decision under rule 7, shall accompany such notice ;

(iii) When action is instituted on a petition, a copy of its petition alongwith the annexures and affidavits shall be served upon the party charged.

(iv) The notice shall bear the date, seal of the Tribunal and shall be issued under the signature of the Registrar.

9. Compelling attendance :-

(i) The notice of every petition or motion under the Act shall be served personally on the person charged unless the Tribunal for reasons to be recorded directs otherwise

(ii) The Registrar may issue fresh notice, if he considers service of notice is not sufficient;

(iii) If the Registrar considers service to be sufficient and the alleged contemner does not appear on the date fixed for his appearance, the petition shall be posted for orders of the Tribunal;

(iv) The Tribunal, if satisfied that the persons charged is absconding or is likely to abscond or is keeping or is likely to keep out of the way to avoid service of notice or if he fails to appear in person or continues to be absent may order the issue of bailable or non-bailable warrant of his arrest to one or more Police Officers or the District Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the District in the manner laid down in section 70 to 81 of the Code of Criminal Procedure;

(v) In addition to it in lieu of the warrants as specified in sub-rule (iv), the Tribunal may also,

in a case of criminal contempt, order attachment of his property under sub-section (3) and (4) of section 17 of the Act.

10. Presence of alleged contemner :-

Unless ordered otherwise by the Tribunal, whenever a notice is issued under these rules, the alleged contemner shall appear -

- (a) personally in the case of criminal contempt; and
- (b) personally or through an advocate in the case of civil contempt at the time and place specified in the notice and continue to attend on subsequent hearing also to which the petition may be adjourned.

11. Release on bail :-

(i) Where an alleged contemner appears or is produced, while in custody at any stage of proceedings before the Tribunal and is required to give bail, such persons shall be released on bail, on a bond for such sum of money as the Tribunal thinks fit/sufficient, with or without sureties, on condition that such person shall attend, at the time and place mentioned in the bond and shall continue to attend until otherwise directed by the Tribunal :

Provided that, the Tribunal may, if it thinks instead of taking bail from such person, release him on his executing a bond without sureties for his attendance as aforesaid or without such a bond.

(ii) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule(i), where a person fails to comply with the conditions of the bail bond as regards the time, place and attendance, the Tribunal may refuse him bail on subsequent occasion in the same case when he appears before the Tribunal or brought in custody and such refusal shall be without prejudice to the powers of the Tribunal to call upon any such person bond by such bond to pay penalty thereon.

(iii) The provisions of sections 436 to 450 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act II of 1974) shall apply to all the bonds executed under these rules.

12. Procedure on forfeiture of the bond :-

If any bond given for appearance of the alleged contemner has been forfeited due to absence of the alleged contemner, the Tribunal may, after giving opportunity to the alleged contemner or the surety, as the case may be, levy the whole or any part of the amount mentioned in the surety bond, as penalty and direct the same to be recovered as if it was a fine imposed on the alleged contemner.

13. Right to be defended by Legal Practitioner :-

Every person against whom proceedings are initiated under the Act, may as of right, be defended by a Legal) Practitioner of his choice.

14. Objections of the alleged contemner :-

When the alleged contemner appears in person or through an advocate, he shall be called upon to file a statement of his objections if any, which may be in the form of an affidavit ;

Provided that, when the alleged contemner is produced in custody he shall be questioned, whether he has received the notice and copies of the papers mentioned in rule 8, sub-rule(ii) or not, and if he has not received them, he shall be furnished copies thereof and granted sufficient time to file the statement of his objections -

- (a) The person alleged may file his reply duly supported by affidavit or affidavits alongwith document on which he relied;
- (b) No further affidavit or documents shall be filed except with the leave of the Tribunal.

15. Inquiry and charge in case of criminal contempt :-

(i) Upon considering the objections stated by the alleged contemner and after hearing the

parties, the Tribunal may proceed to charge him, if in its opinion, a prima facie case has been made out, and shall discharge him if no such case has been made out.

(ii) If the Tribunal so thinks fit, the charge shall be in writing and in Form No. IV, it shall state precisely and concisely all material particulars constituting the offence charged.

(iii) The charge shall be explained to the alleged contemner and if in writing, a copy of the same may be furnished to him free of cost.

(iv) The Tribunal may record the plea of the alleged contemner and if necessary, adjourn the case for further proceedings.

16. Production of evidence :-

Before the adjourned date of hearing, the petitioner and the alleged contemner may file in the Tribunal any documents, statements and affidavits, either of them wishes to rely upon. The Tribunal may in its discretion examine or permit any witness to be examined by any of the parties :-

(a) The Tribunal may either suo motu or on motion made for that purpose order the attendance for cross-examination of a person whose affidavit has been filed in the matter.

(b) The Court may make orders for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person to be examined as a witness and for discovery or production of any document.

17. Trial of the alleged contemner :-

(i) In the case of a criminal contempt, on the date fixed for trial or any adjourned date, the Tribunal may proceed to examine witnesses, if any, for the petitioner, and after the petitioner has closed his evidence, the Tribunal shall examine the alleged contemner generally on the case in the manner provided in section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and record his statement.

(ii) Thereafter, the Tribunal shall call upon the alleged contemner to enter upon his defence and examine the witnesses, if any, tendered on his behalf whether or not, the witness is named in any list filed by him.

(iii) After examination of the witnesses and hearing arguments, if any, the Tribunal shall pronounce judgment.

(iv) In case of civil contempt, upon considering the objections stated by the alleged contemner, upon considering the affidavits and documents on record, and after hearing the parties or arguments on their behalf, the Tribunal shall pronounce the judgment.

18. Expenses of witnesses :-

(i)

Where any person is summoned by the Tribunal to appear as a witness in any proceedings under the Act, the expenses of such witnesses as determined by the Tribunal shall be borne by the party who has cited him as a witness.

(ii) Where the Tribunal summons any witness other than the witness cited by the parties, his expenses as determined by the Tribunal shall be paid by the Registrar from the contingency funds.

19. Oath not to be administered :-

No oath shall be administered to an alleged contemner in these proceedings unless he tenders himself as a witness :-

(a) The Tribunal may appoint a lawyer or may direct the Advocate General to assist.

20. Discharge of alleged contemner :-

If the Tribunal does not find the alleged contemner guilty, it shall discharge him regarding an order to that effect at any stage of the proceedings.

21. Execution of sentences :-

(i) If the Tribunal finds the alleged contemner guilty and awards any sentence of imprisonment other than imprisonment till the rising of the Tribunal, the Registrar shall issue a warrant in Form V committing him to prison. The warrant shall be addressed to the Superintendent, Central Prison or District Prison, as the case may be.

(ii) If the Tribunal awards sentence of the fine and the fine amount is not paid at once or within such time as may be granted by Tribunal, the Registrar shall take action as laid down under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the recovery of the same.

(iii) The report of action taken by the Superintendent of Central Prison or Superintendent of District Prison to whom the warrants under sub-rule (i) might have been addressed shall be filed in the records of the case.

22. Procedure on apology :-

(i) If at any time during the pendency of the proceedings and thereafter before the execution of the sentence, the contemner tenders an apology, the same shall be placed for orders of the Tribunal at once, with the records of the case :

(ii) If the Tribunal accepts the apology, further proceedings shall be dropped and the warrant, if any issued, shall be recalled by an order in Form VI.

23. Costs :-

(i) The Tribunal may award costs as it deems fit in the circumstances of the case.

(ii) The costs so awarded shall be recovered in the same manner as fine imposed under the Act.

24. Grant of certified copies and inspection :-

The procedure for the grant of certified copies of orders, proceedings and rules regarding inspection of records as are applicable to the Applications under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the grant of certified copies of orders, proceedings and to inspection of records.

25. xxx xxx xxx :-

Contempt proceedings initiated under rule 5 shall be heard by a Division Bench.

FORM 1

FORM I

FORM I
REGISTER FOR CONTEMPT PETITIONS
(SEE RULE 8)

Serial No.	Date of filing and nature of petition	Name of the Parties	Name of the Advocate	Date of decision, order in brief and remarks

FORM 2

FORM II

FORM II
IN THE MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
(SEE RULE 8)
(Name of the Bench

Place.
To,
The Advocate General/Chief Presenting Officer of Maharashtra / M.A.T
Whereas information is laid/motion is made by
.....
.....that.....
(here mention the name of the contemner) has committed the offence of contempt of the Tribunal punishable under section(here give the relevant section of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971) and
(2) Whereas the contempt petition has been registered against.....for action being taken under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, of this Tribunal.
(3) You are requested to appear in person or through duly instructed counsel onday of..... at.....and on subsequent dates to which the proceeding may be adjourned unless otherwise ordered by the Tribunal and assist the Tribunal in the disposal of the aforesaid contempt petition.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal, this.....day of
Seal
Registrar,
Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal.

FORM 3

FORM III

FORM III
[See Rule 8(1)(b)]
Notice
IN THE MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
(Name of the Bench)
Place :
To
In Re
(here mention the name and address of the person to whom notice is being sent)
Whereas information is laid/a petition is filed/motion is made bythat you (here mention the gist of the accusation made in the information/petition/motion);

And whereas a petition has been registered against you for action being taken under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971;
You are hereby required to appear in person or through a duly authorised advocate onday ofatand on subsequent dates to which the proceedings may be adjourned unless otherwise ordered by the Tribunal, and show cause why such action as is deemed fit under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 should not be taken against you.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal, this.....day of
Registrar Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal.
Seal.

FORM 4

FORM IV

FORM IV
[SEE RULE 15(ii)]
CHARGE
IN THE MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
(Name of the Bench)
Place :
We.....
the Members constituting the Bench of the Principal Bench, Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal hereby charge you (name of the alleged contemner) as under -
That youon or about.....day ofat.....(here/give the gist of the material allegedly constitution contempt) and thereby committed the contempt of this Tribunal punishable under section(here give the relevant section of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971) within our cognizance.
We hereby direct you to do tried by this Tribunal for the aofesaid charge.
Signature of the Honble Chairman/ Vice-Chairman / Members.
The charge was read over and explained to the alleged Contemner and he was asked as under :-
(1) Do youplead guilty to the Charge ?
Answer :
(2) Do you have anything else to say ?

Answer :
Signature of the alleged contemner.
Signature of the Honble Chairman/Vice-Chairman/ Members.

FORM 5

FORM V

FORM V
[SEE RULE 21(i)]
IN THE MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
(Name of the Bench)
Place :
To.
The Supreintendent
(Name of the Jail)
Place.
Whereas the Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal.....held on thisday of(name / description of the contemner) has been adjudged by the Tribunal guilty of wilful contempt of the Tribunal and he has been sentenced to undergo imprisonment for the period (here specify the term) and / or to pay a fine of Rsin default of payment of fine undergo imprisonment of
This is to authorise and require you, the Superintendent of theJail, to receive the said (name of the contemner) into your custody, together with this warrant and keep him safely in the said jail for the said period of (term of imprisonment) or for such period as may hereinafter be fixed by the order of this Tribunal and intimated to you. You are directed to return this warrant with an endorsement certifying the manner of its execution.
You are further directed that while the saidis in your custody, produce the said.....before this Tribunal at all times when the Tribunal so directs.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal thisday of
Registrar Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal.

FORM 6

FORM VI

FORM VI
[SEE RULE 21(ii)]
IN THE MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
(Name of the Bench)
Place :

To.
The Supreintendent
(Name of the Jail to which the warrant is sent)
Whereas.....(here give the name of the person) was found guilty for the contempt of this Tribunal under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 on(here give the date) and was sentenced to undergo imprisonment of(here give the term of imprisonment) and a fine of Rs.....in default of payment of a fine, to further undergo imprisonment of
Whereas the said contemner along with a warrant of sentence was given in your custody for undergoing the abovementioned sentence on.....
Whereas the said contemner has tendered an unconditional apology for the contempt of Court committed by him on which has been accepted by the Honble Bench of the Tribunal.
You are, therefore, directed to release the person above-named in your custody forthwith, as the warrant sent to you against him has been withdrawn.
Date thisday of.....
Seal
Registrar Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal