

16-3/CCD/2018
Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disability
Government of India
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Sarojini House, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi
Dated the 31st March 2020

To,
The State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities of all States/UTs

Sub: Implementation of comprehensive disability inclusive guidelines for protection and safety of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) (Divyangjan) during the emergency health situations due to COVID 19 – Issue of passes to Care Givers, NGOs/PwDs regarding

Sir/Madam,

I draw your attention to the comprehensive disability inclusive guidelines for protection and safety of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) (Divyangjan) during the emergency health situations due to COVID 19 issued by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 26th March 2020. As per these guidelines the States Commissioners are required to serve as State Nodal Authority to ensure implementation in close coordination with all relevant authorities such as State/District Disaster Management Authorities, Health and Law Enforcement Authorities so that hardship to persons with disabilities during the lockdown period is minimised.

2. I hope the State Commissioners are taking necessary action proactively in accordance with the above guidelines. As per these guidelines, (a) local movement passes for caregivers of persons with disabilities during lockdown needs to be issued in a simplified manner on priority and (b) the persons with disabilities are also required to be given access to essential food, water, medicine. It may further be noted that NGOs and association of PwDs are also working to assist divyangjan in their daily living and essential items. There is need to have coordination with these organizations to ensure smooth flow of support services for PwDs.

3. However, this Office has been receiving complaints regarding difficulties being faced by PwDs in getting services of caregivers, maid and access to essential items due to non-issue of travel passes to NGOs/PwD Associations/ caregivers etc.

4. You are requested to tie up with concerned authorities to streamline issue of local travel passes to Association of Divyangjan/NGOs/caregivers so that there is no delay in providing necessary support to Divyangjan. You are requested to sensitise local law enforcement authorities in this regard (Police/SDM etc.).

5. You may also ensure that PwD COVID-19 patients are not turned out from hospitals and health care institutions.

6. Action taken in this regard may be sent to this office at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Shakuntala D. Gamlin)
Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Copy to: 1. Chief Secretary of all States/UTs
2. Principal Secretary/Secretary, Home Department of All States/UTs
3. Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department dealing with Empowerment of PwDs of All States/UTs
4. Principal Secretary/Secretary, Health Department of All States/UTs