

No. IGP(A&T)/NCL(BNSS/BNA/BSA 2023)/28/2024/31
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
POLICE HEADQUARTERS: AIZAWL

: Dated Aizawl, the 19th June, 2024.

STANDING ORDER NO. 2/2024

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR VIDEOGRAPHY AND
PHOTOGRAPHY DURING INVESTIGATION**

The use of Photography and Videography has been made mandatory under various provisions of BNSS'2023. The provisions of the same are given in BNSS in the following sections-

- (i) **Section 105-** Search and seizure, including the process of seizure memo, *'shall be recorded through any audio-video electronic means preferably cell phone'* and the police officer shall without delay forward such recording to the District Magistrate, Sub-divisional Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate of the first class.
- (ii) **Section 185 (2) 'Search by police officer':** Search conducted *'shall be recorded through audio-video electronic means preferably by mobile phone'*.
- (iii) **Section 176 (1):** *Option* for statement to also be recorded through *'any audio-video electronic means preferably cell phone'*.

Section 176 (3): *Mandatory requirement for videography of the process of collection of forensic evidence on mobile phone or any other electronic device from the scene of crime by forensic experts, for offences punishable with 7 years or more.*

- (iv) **Section 183 (6):** Process of recording of statement before the magistrate of temporarily or permanently, physically or mentally disabled victims of certain offences including crimes against women. In this particular context, the statement before the magistrate '*shall be recorded through audio-video electronic means preferably cell phone*'.
- (v) **Section 54:** Test identification parade involving identifying witnesses with temporary or permanent physical or mental disabilities. In this particular context, the identification process '*shall be recorded by any audio-video electronic means*'.

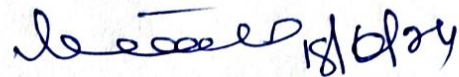
In view of the above legal provisions, the following guidelines are to be followed by all the officers supervising and investigating the crimes/cases-

- (i) The Investigating Officers (IOs) shall protect the scene of offence immediately after the receipt of information about the offence and get the photography and videography of the scene of crime/recovery of evidence done by a professional videographer/photographer, in his absence, the IOs shall do videography/photography by their own phone from all angles including the surroundings. At the start of the video, one should also include the location, introductory information, and a brief description of what will be recorded.
- (ii) The IO or the investigating team will minutely search the scene of crime and do the recording of the available evidence and search seizure of the same.
- (iii) The assistance of the Forensic Experts shall be taken in cases with punishment of seven years and more.

- (iv) The photographs should include dead body (if present) to show locations, injuries and condition.
- (v) Each piece of evidence should be photographed to illustrate where it was found to establish relationship of evidences with the victim and the place of crime/ recovery of any article.
- (vi) Recording be done of the crime scene before and after alteration, such as when placards and scales are placed near evidence. Officers, bystanders, and others present at a scene of crime, should be excluded from the video.
- (vii) Take overall (long-range) video to show where the crime occurred, midrange video to show relationships of evidence and other points of interest, and close-up video to show individual items and their characteristics. Use a sturdy tripod whenever possible to reduce movement while taking video. Take video from different angles that result in the best representation of the scene. Always use the designated safe route when moving through the scene.
- (viii) When applicable, include the names of those assigned to specific tasks in your notebook. Plan the videography route. Take video of transient objects, such as bloodstains or latent prints, as soon as possible. Photographs of evidences should be taken from straight above eliminating potential distance distortions.
- (ix) Never edit the original video file and preserve the hash value to prove its genuineness before the competent court of law and concerned official shall provide the mandatory certificate U/S 63 of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 as per the prescribed format mentioned therein.

- (x) The video display should include the date and time of videography, so that the same if could be produced before the trial court by the IO.
- (xi) The Videographer/photographer shall take the pictures of the parcels showing the complete descriptions along with the specimen seal used by the IO on the parcel.
- (xii) The Videographer/photographer shall also cover the procedure of, lifting of samples, preparation of parcels and the procedure of search and seizure on the direction of the IO.
- (xiii) The Videographer/photographer shall cover the crime scene of the murder spot where a dead body is lying should be photographed & Video graphed from various angles to clarify showing the face, all injuries and other pieces of evidence indicating assault, rape, presence of weapons, condition of clothes, etc. The surface beneath the body should also be Video graphed/photographed be covered upon its removal.
- (xiv) In cases of road side accidents, take overall photographs of the scene, including relevant street signs, and take photographs from the point of view of any witnesses, determine the paths of vehicles involved, take overall photographs of the path of each vehicle, Photograph the path/skid marks of the vehicles if any.
- (xv) In cases of fatal accidents, then photograph the body of deceased by taking photographs in such a way that full body and facial photographs as well as photographs of visible injuries upon the body are seen.
- (xvi) Avoid talking while doing video recording and photography. Pause the tape and turn off mic devices available with the officials present at the crime scene.

- (xvii) Photography/videography record shall become part of the documentation for all crime scene investigation.
- (xviii) SDPO shall ensure proper supervision of photo section team through OC and will also ensure that the work of the team is carried out properly in a desired manner. He/she will also ensure proper storage, upkeep and availability of the digital assets.



(LALBIAKTHANGA KHIANGTE), IPS
Director General of Police,
Mizoram, Aizawl.

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Copy to :

- 1) SO to DGP, Mizoram.
- 2) IGP(Hqrs)/IGP(L&O) for kind information.
- 3) DIG(NR)/DIG(SRO)/DIG(ER)/DIG(CID)/DIG(Trg.) Mizoram for kind information.
- 4) AIG(Hqrs)/AIG(Legal) Mizoram for kind information.
- 5) All District SPs, Mizoram, SP CID(Crime)/SP Cyber Crime/SP Narcotic for information and necessary action.



(LALBIAKTHANGA KHIANGTE), IPS
Director General of Police,
Mizoram, Aizawl.