

Est/ Govt Circular



**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

NO:e-DPAR 228 SAS 2021

Karnataka Government Secretariat  
Vidhana Soudha,  
Bengaluru, Dated:18/09/2021.

**CIRCULAR**

Subject:- Directions to Officers on Conduct in public regarding.

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It has come to the notice of the Government that officials approach media to make unwarranted statements through press conference / press releases. Such incidents can have negative impact on the governance system and cause embarrassment to the government. Government has taken a serious view of such actions of the officers and it is felt necessary to prohibit officers from making unwarranted statements in press conferences / press releases, except in the bonafide discharge of official duties.

The following is excerpt from Rule 17 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

**"Vindication of acts and character of members of the Service:—**No member of the Service shall, except with the previous sanction of the Government have recourse to any court or to the press for the vindication of official act which has been the subject matter of adverse criticism or attack of a defamatory character"

Further, the following are excerpts from Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2021.

**Rule 11: CRITICISM OF THE POLICY OR ACTION OF GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER STATE GOVERNMENT OR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT: -**

- (1) No Government servant shall, in any radio broadcast or television programme or communication over any public media or in any document published in his own name or anonymously, pseudonymously or in the name of any other person in any communication to the press or in any public utterance, make any statement of fact or opinion,-

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- (i) which has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Government, Central Government or of any other State Government;

**Rule 26: VINDICATION OF ACTS AND CHARACTER OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS:-**

- (1) No Government Servant shall, except with the previous sanction of the Prescribed Authority have recourse to any court or to the press for the vindication of any official act, which has been the subject matter of adverse criticism or an attack of a defamatory character.

It is brought to the notice of all officers that, if any officer violates the above rules and expresses unwarranted views resulting in negative impact/embarrassment to the Government, disciplinary action will be initiated against them.

Officers may use media only if it is necessary in the discharge of their official duties relating to Government Schemes/dissemination of official information. Use of media to express their grievances is strictly prohibited.

Use of Social Media platforms to showcase achievements of the Department/Government as personal achievements of officer is prohibited. While disseminating information about achievements of the department or official views about schemes etc., officers shall use social media handles created in the name of department/administration and avoid using personal social media accounts.

(PRAVIKUMAR)  
Chief Secretary to Government

**To:-**

All IAS/IPS/IFS officers and all Officers/Employees of State Civil Service.