

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

No. Health313/2022/Pt/a

Dated Shillong the 27th June, 2024.

CIRCULAR

Subject: Prohibition of the Two Finger Test and Disciplinary Action for Non-Compliance

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have prohibited the practice of conducting the Two Finger Test (TFT) on survivors of sexual assault. This practice is scientifically baseless, traumatizing, and violates the survivor's dignity and rights. The Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, is committed to upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals and ensuring that survivors of sexual assault receive appropriate and respectful medical care. Towards this objective, this Circular is issued for compliance by all Government Doctors.

Directive:

Immediate Cessation of the Two Finger Test: All Government Doctors and medical practitioners in the State of Meghalaya are hereby directed not to conduct the **Two Finger Test** on survivors of sexual assault. Adherence to this directive is mandatory for all Government medical personnel.

Strict Disciplinary Action: Any Doctor found conducting the test will be held guilty of misconduct and strict disciplinary action will be initiated in accordance with the **Meghalaya Discipline and Appeal Rules, 2019**. This may include suspension, imposition of minor or major penalties, and other legal actions as deemed appropriate.

Compliance with Guidelines: All Government Doctors must familiarize themselves with and adhere to the "**Guidelines and Protocols for Medico-legal care for survivors/victims of sexual violence, 2014**" issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Compassionate Care: Survivors of sexual assault must receive compassionate, respectful, and sensitive care, including psychological support and counseling services.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

sd/-

(T. G. Momin, MCS)

Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department.

Memo No. Health313/2022/Pt/a

Dated Shillong the 27th June, 2024.

Copy to:

1. The PS to the Minister, Health & Family Welfare Department, Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The P.S. to the Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Health & Family Welfare Department.
3. The P.A. to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Health & Family Welfare Department.

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4. The P.A. to the Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Health & Family Welfare Department.
5. The Director of Health Services (MI) for information. This circular must be displayed prominently in all Government health facilities and communicated to all relevant medical personnel immediately. All Government Doctors are to be thoroughly updated on the protocols and legal responsibilities related to handling cases of sexual abuse including child sexual abuse to ensure compliance with the law and provide the necessary care and support to the victims during a traumatic time.
6. The Director of Health Services (MCH& FW)/(Research) for information.
7. All District Medical & Health Officers for information and necessary action.
8. All Medical Superintendents of Government Hospitals for information and necessary action.
- ✓ 9. The SIO, NIC, Meghalaya, Shillong with a request to upload the Circular on the Government Website and H&FWD Website.
10. Office copy.

By order, etc.,



(T. G. Momin, MCS)

Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department.

28/6/2024

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