

**west bengal  
land & land reforms  
officers' association**



**পশ্চিমবঙ্গ  
ভূমি ও ভূমি সংস্কার  
আধিকারিক সমিতি**

(Registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXVI 1961)

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To  
The Land Reforms Commissioner  
&  
Secretary  
L. & L.R. & R.R. & R. Department  
West Bengal

**Sub: Suggestions with regards to change in procedure of giving  
legal heir certificate.**

**Respected Madam,**

You must be fully aware of the recent incident of Serampore block, where the BL&LRO and a Revenue Officer of the block was summoned u/s 160 CrPC by the CP of Chandannagar Police Commissionerate. The reason behind this was a warish / legal heir case which was allegedly instituted on the basis of forged legal heir certificate.

Our department's memorandum no 1511-LP/5M-33/15 dated 21/15/2019 speaks about acceptable authorities who can issue order/certificate regarding intestate/testamentary succession. Practically, in most of the cases these certificates are issued by Pradhan / Chairman / Councilors. This memorandum also speaks that, prescribed authority u/s 50 of the WBLR Act 1955, can also cause field enquiry if he/she considers necessary. But the ground reality is that, it is not always possible to make field enquiry due to various reasons. In many blocks the pendency of legal heir cases are huge. But practically, we don't have sufficient manpower and we have to deal with other cases also (mutation enquiry/conversation enquiry / 144 related enquiry / patta related enquiry/misc case related enquiry). Therefore making field enquiry of each and every legal heir cases will take a lot of time. This will surely enrage the local people and there is every chance that our offices will suffer. So in most of the cases, we have to depend on the legal heir certificate provided by the Pradhan of the Gram Panchayat / Councilor / Chairman of the local municipality. The checks and balances to verify the authenticity of the certificate provided by the elected representative is almost nil. This puts us in a very critical position.

**We propose that:-**

- Our district authorities can make a window/portal in their website, where each and every elected representatives (Pradhans / Councilors / Chairmans) will have their own login Id and password.

- b) Local people can make a citizen id in that website and can apply for legal heir certificate by uploading requisite documents before the elected members through online mode. Local BSKs might help them in this regard.
- c) Elected members can trace those applications after logging in to their personal account in that window/portal using their user id and password created for this purpose. They will verify of each and every application minutely.
- d) After that they will issue a digitally authenticated legal heir certificate. Each and every certificate issued by the elected representatives, will have a unique identification number and the certificate can be viewed by using that number from the district's website.
- e) Citizen can download that certificate from their log in. They can use this certificate in every department for getting the necessary services provided by them.
- f) Departmental officials can be also be able to verify the authenticity of the certificate from the district's website. This will significantly reduce the amount of fake/forged certificates and will make the local representatives responsible, because certificates will be signed from their personal I'd and using their digitally encrypted signature.

**In the present circumstances such steps may be taken and such action will**

- a) Reduce preparation of false and fabricated public documents
- b) Increase accountability of all concerned
- c) Since maintained in web portal may be put to use in other department's purposes also.
- d) Manpower engaged in verification will be saved considerably.

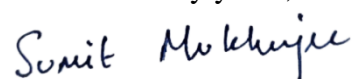
The association yet again reiterates the need to bank on statutory provisions of section 58 of the LR Act and the observations of Hon'ble High Court in this regard. The association if called for might meet your kind authority and explain the pros and cons of the matter if you feel it necessary.

Till such change occurs the association proposes that self signature in full of the deponent be mandatorily obtained over the issued certificate and a valid photo id document be attached.

We further suggest that high speed scanners be given in every block for electronically preserving every document. Every document received in our offices be scanned and tagged and preserved in folder form with corresponding proceedings. One DEO may be specifically engaged for the purpose.

Thanking you.

Sincerely yours,



( **Sumit Mukherjee** )  
**General Secretary**

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