



ಶಿಲ್ಪಾಲ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಘೋಷಣಾಲೇಖಾಲಿ
ಓಯ್ಯವುತಿಯತ್ ತಿಣಣಕ್ಕಗಲಾಢ
DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS



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ಢುಢ } PN/ CIRCULAR/2009 ಢುಢ } 08.06.2009
ಓಲ. } ತಿಗತಿ }
No. } Date }

Pension Circular 11/ 2009

To all District Secretaries,
Divisional Secretaries,

**Payment of Government Pension through Bank network and
assigning responsibilities to Grama Niladhari**

This circular is issued as a supplementary to following circulars issued on above subject.

1. Department of Pensions Circular No.11/ 2005 dated 16.12.2005
2. Department of Pensions Circular No.10/ 2006 dated 14.09.2006
3. Department of Pensions Circular No.19/ 2006 dated 15.11.2006

Following qualities may be observed in the process of payment of pensions through bank network.

1. Crediting pension directly to a bank account
2. Obtaining a life certificate annually
3. Assigning responsibility to Grama Niladhari

Issues stated in below have been identified in above process.

01) Crediting pension directly to a bank account (issues)

- i. When pensioners are maintained joint accounts may be subject to access by persons other than pensioners.
- ii. Possibility of crediting pension to the account even after the death of pensioner and the money may be drawn continuously by another person.
- iii. Not revealing of visiting abroad of pensioners has been caused to draw pension by another person.

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Most banks to overcome overcrowding at payment of pensions have used to provide Electronic Cards to pensioners to draw pension. These issues have been immerged as these accounts may be used by any other person.

02) Obtaining a life certificate annually (issues)

- i. Not receive of life certificates properly
- ii. Submitting of false life certificates
- iii. Maintaining of bank accounts in a divisional secretariat division externally to the residing division
- iv. Maintaining of pension file in a divisional secretariat division externally to the residing division

Government officers who served in areas where metropolitan facilities were available are used to keep their own bank account in the same area disregarding the places where they permanently residing. Therefore at times, it has been difficult to collect life certificates properly.

03 Assigning responsibility to Grama Niladhari (issues)

- i. Not reporting of death of pensioners to Grama Niladhari duly.
- ii. Not reporting of information of pensioners due to shifting residence and other reasons.
- iii. Not reporting of staying out of country to Grama Niladhari
- iv. No proper supervision on payment of disabled orphans' pensions

Therefore at sometimes, it has been reported of illegal receipt of pension by other persons.

Having considered this situation the Department of Pensions has decided to implement following amendments in the process of payment of pension through banks.

01) Making compulsory to keep a single account for new pensioners and repeal joint accounts gradually.

Eg.

- i. Making compulsory to keep a single account at the receipt of new pension file.
- ii. Giving opportunity to elder pensioners to draw their pension through post offices as a relief to them. Taking action to pay pension based on Grama Niladhari certification to a person nominated to draw pension on behalf of pensioners who are unable to call over post offices to draw pension.

- iii. Joint accounts will be further permitted at special circumstances, where such as both contributor and spouse is government officers or pensioners.

Divisional Secretaries should take suitable action as to whether permitted for joint accounts having considered difficulties of pensioners to convert their joint accounts into single accounts.

- 02) Obtaining certificate of residence instead of life certificate annually. (A specimen of certificate for residence is attached)

It is a responsibility of Grama Niladhari to issue a certificate of residence. Grama Niladhari has authority to issue this certificate directly by having identified elder pensioners. Pensioners are given opportunity to call over divisional secretariats and obtain this certificate from an officer assigned by the Divisional Secretary. When this certificate is issued, it is informed to pay special attention on facts whether pensioner is alive or staying out of country or imprisoned. Residence may be certified by Grama Niladhari as they issued life certificates for past 02 years. Decision has been taken to assign the authority to certify to clergies, justice of peace, government officers, judicial officers, lawyers and presidents of pensioners' associations. At a time of any difficulty to issue this certificate should contact Grama Niladhari to get verification of the residence.

- 03) Assigning more responsibility to Grama Niladhari regarding pension
 - i. Maintaining a record of pensioners residing at the respective Grama Niladhari division.
 - ii. Updating the record having compared with correspondence at Divisional Secretariat.
 - iii. Divisional Secretariat where the pensioner has been draw pensions should be informed within 07 days of the demise of a pensioner residing at the own division.
 - iv. Informing the Divisional Secretary at a shift of the residence of a pensioner.
 - v. Taking action to issue certificate of recommendations for confirming to pay pensions to a guardian of a pensioner having considered requests of pensioners who are unable to call over Post Offices or Banks to draw their pension.
 - vi. Informing Divisional Secretary on a remarriage of a widow, orphans who draw widow's & orphans' pension.
 - vii. Observing whether respective guardians of disabled persons who are being paid pension in respect of the disabled are giving proper protection to the disabled.
 - viii. Informing Divisional Secretary at instances where the guardian drawing disable pension even after the demise of the disabled.
 - ix. Taking action to authenticate the certificate of residence.

Eg.

- Grama Niladgari should be well known of pensioners residing in the division.
- At a time of reporting to issue a death certificate should identify whether the death person is a pensioner.
- The residence of pensioners should get certified within 03 months of initiating payments by receipt of new pension file to Divisional Secretariat.

The payment process of pension in Local Government which executed by Department of Pensions will be decentralized to Divisional Secretariats in due cause. Therefore, it is kindly requested to implement a proper and efficient process for pension payments in compliance to the instructions in this circular.



K A Thilakaratne
Director General of Pensions

Copies:

1. Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration & Home Affairs
2. Senior Assistant Secretary (Grama Niladhari) – Ministry of Public Administration & Home Affairs
3. Auditor General

