



# MEDINS LEGAL

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### REGISTER FIR IN ONE HOUR: KERALA HIGH COURT



When a crime against a doctor, nurse, or other member of the medical profession is reported, the Kerala High Court directed the police to file first information reports (FIRs) within an hour [Kerala Private Hospitals Association v. Adv. Sabu P. Joseph and Others].

This can be done for offences under the special legislation or the Indian Penal Code (IPC), according to a division bench, but it must be done within an hour of the crime being reported in order to guarantee prompt action against the perpetrators.

“However, as a first step, in addition to the earlier directions, we are of the firm view that every incident of attack on a Doctor or a Healthcare Professional, including any other staff of the Hospital – be that Security or other – will have to be taken cognizance of by the Station House Officer of the concerned Police Station not later than one hour from the time on which it is reported to him. This can be under the Special Law applicable, or under the Indian Penal Code; but an FIR will be need to be registered within the afore time frame, which alone will ensure that the perpetrator/s understands that action is swift and quick,” the order said.

The Court was deliberating a case filed by the Kerala Private Hospitals Association over the rates hospitals may charge for room rent, post-operative problems, and other services in accordance with sporadic decisions from the government.

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## Pvt hospital told to pay Rs 11.2L for negligence

The Chengalpattu Consumer Court directed a private hospital in Chennai on 14th December to pay Rs 11.2 lakh as compensation to a man who lost his 55-year-old wife allegedly due to medical negligence. The complainant, from Tiruvannamalai, had taken his wife to Pvt Hospital as an outpatient in 2012 as she had developed some kidney related ailments. When the doctors told him that both her kidneys were not functioning anymore, he came forward to donate one of his kidneys to his wife in 2013.



## DELHI HIGH COURT ALLOWS WOMEN TO TERMINATE 33 WEEK PREGNANCY

The 'ultimate decision' in matters of abortion ought to recognise a woman's choice to give birth and the possibility of dignified life of the unborn child, the Delhi High Court observed on December 6, while permitting a 26-year-old married woman to terminate her 33-week pregnancy.



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