



कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन

(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

(अपर केन्द्रीय भविष्य निधि आयुक्त कार्यालय, पटना, Zonal Office, Patna)

भविष्य निधि भवन / Bhavishyanidhi Bhawan

आर० ब्लॉक, रोड नं०-६, पटना-८०० ००१ / R, Block, Road No - 6, Patna - 800 001

दूरभाष Phone no: 0612 - 2506186, ईमेल E-mail : acc.brjh@epfindia.gov.in



No. 55/Z.O.(BR & JH)/Legal Cell/Emp. of Advocate/2017

Date:

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF ADVOCATES

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Zonal Office, Bihar & Jharkhand on behalf of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, proposes to engage Panel Counsel(s) to represent the Central Board, EPF before High Court, Civil Court, State Commission, DCF & District Courts for the State of Jharkhand.

The practicing Advocates who are registered with Bar Council of India/State Bar Council are eligible for empanelment. The qualification, experience, schedule of fees, other terms and conditions and the application format in which the application is to be submitted are available at www.epfindia.gov.in.

The Advocates who are on the exiting panel of EPFO shall cease to be on the panel of EPFO after new panel is finalized against this notice. Therefore, they may also apply afresh in response to this notice.

The last date for receiving applications in the prescribed format alongwith supporting document is 28th February, 2018 till 4.00 PM, to be sent in a sealed envelope on following address:-

The Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner (Bihar & Jharkhand)

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

Zonal Office, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan (3rd Floor)

"R"-Block, Road no. 6

Patna - 800001

Telephone no. 0612-2506186, 2973325



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"R"-Block, Road no. 6

Patna - 800001

Telephone no. 0612-2506186, 2973325

The envelope should be superscribed as follows:

"Application for Empanelment of Advocate for High Court, Civil Court, State Commission, DCF and District Courts for the State of Jharkhand".

The last date of receiving applications in the prescribed format alongwith supporting documents is 28th February, 2018 till 4.00 PM.

Application for empanelment at EPFO does not confer any right/assurance whatsoever, to an applicant that he/she will be empanelled on the panel of EPFO. Letters to Advocates confirming their empanelment will be issued by EPFO separately.

GUIDELINES FOR EMPANELMENT OF ADVOCATES

Following guidelines are designed to provide and regulate the manner and procedure for empanelling the Advocates to represent and assist EPFO before various courts and for regulating the referrals of the cases and payment of fee/remuneration. These guidelines shall supersede all existing instruction in this regard, if any, and is subject to change without assigning any reason.

1. Eligibility of Empanelment:

Before filling the application form the candidates are advised to carefully read and follow the eligibility criteria instruction and terms & condition for empanelment of Advocates in EPFO mentioned herein below: -

- i) Be enrolled/registered as an Advocate with the State Bar Council.
- ii) Have a minimum, relevant experience of Ten Years of handling Civil, Labour, Arbitration matters and other cases before Courts/Forum with a fair Knowledge of Labour Laws with special reference to Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (E.P.F. and M.P. Act, 1952).

2. Tenure of Empanelment:

The initial empanelment will be for the period up to 31.03.2020. Performance of empanelled Advocates shall be reviewed at regular interval for continuance in the panel of Advocate.

3. Payment of Fee and Other Conditions:

- (i) The fee payable to the Advocates shall be governed by the guidelines issued and as amended from time to time, by the EPFO.
- (ii) The Competent Authority shall have the right in exceptional cases to approve the payment of a higher fee than the fee mentioned in the schedule keeping in view the importance of the matter and the efforts put in by Advocate in a particular case.

- (iii) No retainer fee shall be paid to any panel Advocate merely because such advocate has been empanelled.

4. Procedure for Empanelment:

- a. The applicant Advocate must apply in the format prescribed by the EPFO only.
- b. Any application received after the last date prescribed in the advertisement shall not be entertained.
- c. No applicant shall be called for interview/interaction unless he/she satisfies the eligibility conditions and is shortlisted for the same.
- d. Depending upon the requirement and number of applications received, EPFO reserves the right to shortlist the candidates to be called for interview/interaction and to be empanelled.
- e. Merely fulfilling the eligibility criteria will not confer any right on an applicant to be called for interview/interaction and to be selected.
- f. The decision of the Competent Authority regarding short listing and selection of the candidates shall be final.
- g. Canvassing in any form shall be treated as a disqualification. The candidature of such applicants shall be cancelled forthwith.
- h. A list of shortlisted applicant with the date, time and venue of interview will be uploaded on our website i.e. www.epfindia.gov.in Depending upon discretion of Competent Authority, letter may also be issued to them.
- i. The applicant shall bring original documents at the time of interview.
- j. Letter to the applicant confirming their empanelment will be issued by EPFO separately.

5. Duties of the Empanelled Advocates:

1. The advocate shall not advise any party or accept any case against the EPFO or advice which is likely to affect or lead to litigation against the EPFO,
2. Timely appearance of the Counsel to contest the cases for EPFO in the Court is a must. His/her absence in the Court, without any reasonable ground and notice in advance, will not be accepted. He/She shall also ensure that no appeal/case is left unattended or un-represented by the Counsel on behalf of EPFO.

3. EPFO will send the information to the panel Advocates through e-mail regarding entrustment of a case and after receiving the e-mail, it is duty of the panel Advocates to collect the brief/copy of petition along with assignment letter from the concerned office of EPFO at the earliest.
4. EPFO is free to engage any advocate of its own choice and an empanelled Advocate shall make no claim that he/she alone should be entrusted with EPFO's legal matter (s).
5. Refusal by any Advocate to accept any work without any reasonable cause (e.g. on grounds of conflict of interest) may entail removal of such Advocate from the panel, forthwith without waiting for the empanelment period to expire.
6. The Advocates shall accept the terms and conditions of the empanelment as determined by the EPFO from time to time.
7. In order to ensure that there is effective check on the cases being conducted, the Advocates on the panel must report the status of the cases after each date of hearing. Failure to submit status report will be a ground for removal of the name of the Advocate concerned from the panel.
8. In cases where representation of the Union of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment have also to be represented no extra fee shall be paid to the Advocate to watch and safe guard the interests of Union of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment.
9. If required, render all assistance to special or senior Counsel engaged in a particular cases before the Supreme Court, High Court and other judicial bodies.
10. EPFO shall be kept informed and updated of all important developments of the designated cases regarding dates of hearing, order of the court on the date of its pronouncement while supplying copy of order/Judgement etc.
11. Furnish monthly statement about the cases represented by him/her before the Court or any other authority and their outcomes.

12. When any case attended by him/her is decided against the Organisation, the Advocate concerned must give considered opinion regarding the reasons for such adverse order and the advisability of filing an appeal from such a decision not later than 5 working days of the order (kuchha copy).

6. Removal from panel:

EPFO reserves the right to terminate the empanelment of a Counsel without assigning any reason. The counsel may also resign from the Organisation by serving one month's notice. He/She shall be also liable to return the brief/briefs with NOC to the EPFO.

Empanelment shall be liable to be cancelled due to occurring of any of the following disablements on the part of the Advocate.

- (i) Giving false information in the application for empanelment;
- (ii) Failing to attend the hearing of the case without any sufficient reason and/are prior information;
- (iii) If any action of the panel Advocate found to be working against the interest of the EPFO;
- (iv) Threatening, intimidating or abusing any of the EPFO's Employee's, Officers, or Representatives;
- (v) Passing on information relating to EPFO's case on to the opposite parties or their Advocates or any third party which is likely to cost any damage to the EPFO's interests;
- (vi) Giving false or misleading information to the EPFO relating to the proceedings of the case;
- (vii) Seeking frequent adjournments or not objecting the adjournment moved by other party without sufficient reason; and
- (viii) Frequent absences from the Court proceeding even if "pass over" or "proxy" is obtained by an Advocate.

31/12/2017

(Rajesh Pandey)

Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I
For Additional P. F. Commissioner (Bihar & Jharkhand)
EPFO, Zonal Office, Patna.

APPLICATION NO.(To be filled by EPFO)

APPLICATION FORM FOR EMPANELMENT IN EPFO

TO BE FILLED IN BY ALL APPLICANT ADVOCATES

To.

The Additional Provident Fund Commissioner (Bihar & Jharkhand)
 Employees' Provident Fund Organisation,
 Zonal Office, Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan (3rd Floor),
 R-Block, Road No. 6, Patna- 800001
 Telephone: 0612-2506186, 2973325.

Name (In Block letter)	
Father's name	
Court for which applied	
CHECKLIST	
List of documents attached (please)	
Copy of all certificates & marks-sheets (Xth onwards)	
Experience certificate	
Duly filled Annexure – A	
Other (Please specify) 1.	
2.	

PERSONAL DETAILS (In Block Letters)	
1	Name in Full
2	Father's/Husband's Name
3	Date of Birth
4	Age on (last date of receipt of application)
5	Nationality
6	Marital status
7	Address for correspondence with PIN and phone number
8	Permanent address with PIN and phone no.
9	Address of office/chamber, if any, with PIN and phone no.
10	Mobile Number(s)
11	Email ID:
12	Are you related to any EPFO employee? If so, please give details (Viz. Name, Designation, Place of work & relationship with the applicant)

13. Details of Educational qualification (Commencing with the Matriculation or equivalent examination)

Examinations Passed	Name of the Board/University	Class of division	% of Marks	Subjects	Year of passing
10 th /Matriculation					
12 th /Intermediate					
Graduation					
LLB/Law Graduate Degree					
Post Graduation					
Other professional qualifications					

14. Whether the applicant is currently on the Panel of any other Government Department/PSU/Statutory Body/Autonomous Body etc., and if yes, the details below (Self-certified Copy of the Office Order/letter of empanelment may be attached):-

Name of the Department/PSU/Statutory Body/Autonomous Body	From	To
1.		
2.		

15. Whether the applicant has worked as Legal Researcher (LR) attached to any Court/Judge? If yes, the details and the supporting documents:-

Name of Court/Judge	Period of Research	Supporting Documents
1.		
2.		

16. If one or more Advocates are associated as juniors of the applicant, their details be provided below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Advocate	Enrolment no. with date
1.		
2.		

17. Infrastructural facilities available with the applicant (Please tick if available) be provided below:-

Sl. No.	Office Space	Office clerk	Steno/typist	Support staff

18. No. of cases relating to EPF and MP Act 1952, if handled earlier:-

Sl. No.	Type of case (Documentary proof must be attached)

19. Whether the applicant has been engaged (through Vakalatnama) as counsel in any landmark or mother case? If yes, the particulars of the case with copy of the judgement wherein his/her name is recorded as Advocate for one of the parties (Copy of order/Judgement be attached as proof):-

Name of the Court	Case title	Nature of Judgement

20. Whether Income Tax return filed for last five years? Yes/No (if Yes, please attach the copies of the ITRs)

21. Details of Bank Account/Aadhar Number be provided below:

Bank Account Details (Bank Account Number, Address of the branch and IFSC Code)	PAN number	Aadhar Number

22. Whether any proceeding has ever been commenced or is continuing before the Disciplinary Committee of the Bar Council for alleged professional misconduct:-

Sl. No.	Details of allegations and Proceedings	Finding made by the Disciplinary Committee

23. Whether any criminal complaint has ever been filed or FIR registered or any criminal proceeding has ever commenced against the applicant Advocate:-

Sl. No.	Details of allegations and Proceedings	Finding made by the Court

24. Any Additional professional qualification(s), which will further the candidature, including membership of professional societies, awards and honours etc. may be listed in the box below. (Documentary proofs may be attached):

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UNDERTAKING

- 1) I hereby confirm and declare that the information furnished in the application and in the attached Certificate is true/correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have not concealed any relevant information. I am fully aware that if any of the information furnished by me is found to be false/incorrect, my candidature for the empanelment will be treated as cancelled and matter will be referred to the appropriate authority.

- 2) I also undertake to maintain absolute secrecy about the cases of the EPFO as required under the Act, Rules and Regulations thereunder.

- 3) I also undertake to return all case files and records to the EPFO as and when required by EPFO.

- 4) I agree with the pre schedule notified by EPFO.

Signature of Advocate
Enrolment Number
Mobile Number

Place and Date:-