

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER NO. 247/82

SUBJECT : Recording of F.I.R. —P.M.R. 143—Instructions contained in Police Manual Form No. 26.

Instances have come to notice that while recording F.I.R. in important cases the Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors have failed to obtain signature of two respectable and un-interested witnesses on the body of the F.I.Rs. It is needless to say that such omission will expose the F.I.R. to defence attack calculated to reduce its credibility. F.I.R. is a basic document on which a Police investigation starts. It is admissible in evidence under sections 8, 21 and 32 and 157 of the Evidence Act. No other police record has such wide acceptability in law. In view of this importance, instructions have been laid down in P.M.R. 143 and in the specimen F.I.R. Form (P.M. Form No. 26) as to the mode of recording F.I.Rs. Note 6 of P.M. form 20 provides that the informant's statement when recorded shall be read over to him and he shall sign it or give thumb impression. In recording F.I.R. of cases exclusively triable by the Court of Sessions and in cases mentioned in Appendix 3 of P.M.R. Vol. II the report shall be read over to the informant in the presence of one or more respectable and un-interested witnesses who shall also be asked to sign it. At the end of the F.I.R. the recording Officer shall append a certificate stating that he has recorded it according to the version and in the language of the informant and that he has read over its contents to the informant in presence of the witnesses who admitting it to be correct has given his signature or L.T.I. These are very important instructions which aim at preserving the evidentiary value of the F.I.Rs.

I would like to impress upon all that non observance of the P.M.R., provisions had been the cause, among others of failure of many a police cases.

It is, therefore, enjoined on all the Investigating and Supervising Officers to strictly comply with the above P.M.R. instructions or ensure its implementation in future.

Ref : P.M.R. 143 and P.M. Form No. 26 (Vol. II)

(DKL SR 43/74 (N))