

**Government of Tripura
Health & Family Welfare Department**

No. F.1 (22) TSMC/2013

Dated, Agartala, the 18th June, 2014

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub- sections (1) of Section 28 of the Tripura State Medical Council Act,2010 (The Tripura Act,No,11 of 2010), the State Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. Short title Commencement:-

- (i) These rules may be called "The Tripura State Medical Council Rules, 2014;
- (ii) They shall come into force, on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions : In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:-

- (a) "Act" means the Tripura State Medical Council Act, 2010;
- (b) "Form" means a form annexed to these rules;
- (c) "Member" means a member of the Council;
- (d) "President" means the President of the Tripura State Medical Council;
- (e) "Returning Officer" means the Registrar and includes any Officer appointed as such by the State Government for the purposes of these rules;
- (f) "Section" means a Section of the Act;
- (g) The words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have respectively the meanings assigned to them in the Act.

3. Elections of Members of The State Medical Council:

(a) In case of general election of a member under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Act, the Registrar shall at least Sixty days before the expiry of the term of office of the member and in case of vacancy due to death, resignation or any other reason within 30 (thirty) days from the date of death or otherwise send intimation thereof to the State Government with a request to hold an election to fill the vacancy by a date not later than the date specified in the notice;

(b) When election has been completed, the name of the person elected with his address, qualification and registration number, shall be reported to the President by the Returning Officer and the President on receipt of the same shall take steps for publication of the name of the elected person in the Tripura Gazette.

Electoral Roll

Election to the Council under

Clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 4

4. Person entitled to vote and to contest for election:

(a) All persons whose names are borne on the State Medical Register and who possess the recognized medical qualifications as per the Indian Medical Council, Act, 1956 and reside in the State shall be entitled to vote at the election of a member under section 4 (1) (a) of the Act. and to contest as candidates for such election;

(b) For the purposes of election under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 4, the Returning Officer shall maintain an Electoral roll in form -I, appended to this rules, indicating all particulars of the persons entitled to vote at such election, within such date as appointed by the Returning Officer, on this behalf;

(c) The date appointed under Sub-rule (b) shall be notified by the Returning Officer, in such manner as he may think fit, together with the periods (with dates) during which the draft electoral rolls shall be kept open for public inspection under sub-rule-4(d).

(d) The draft electoral rolls under sub rule (c) shall be kept open in the office of the Returning Officer for public inspection for a period of not less than thirty days. Any claim for inclusion of a new name or any objection to any entry in the draft electoral rolls shall be made in Form II (a) or Form II (b), as the case may be & such claim or objection shall be filed within the said period . Such claim for objection shall be examined and decided by the Returning Officer and his decision shall be final;

(e) The Draft electoral rolls shall be corrected in accordance with the decision of the Returning Officer and the roll thus corrected shall be the final electoral roll for the election in the respective electorate. In the preparation of the final electoral roll, registrations and restorations after the date appointed under sub-rule (b) or new qualifications or employment obtained after that shall be dis-regarded. No person whose name is not included in the final electoral roll for the election, shall be entitled to participate in the election. Change of address after the final electoral roll has been prepared shall also be disregarded;

(f) As soon as the final electoral roll has been prepared under sub-rule (e), the Returning Officer shall notify the same in the State Gazettes and in such other manner, as he may think fit and request all electors generally to participate in the election;

(g) The Returning Officer shall notify in the State Gazette and or in such other manner, as he thinks fit, the date, time and place for –

- i. The receipt of the nomination papers, and withdrawal of nomination papers;
- ii. The dispatch of voting papers to the electors;
- iii. The poll; and
- iv. The scrutiny and counting to votes.

Returning Officer to decide questions relating to the right persons to vote at election:

(h) If any question arises as to whether a person is or is not entitled to vote in the election or to contest for the election, the question shall be referred to the Returning officer, whose decision shall be final in this regard.

5. Nomination of candidate:

(a) Any person qualified to contest for election under these rules may be nominated as a candidate for election. Such nomination shall be made by means of a nomination paper in Form III which shall be supplied by the Returning Officer to any elector who may apply for the same;

(b) Each nomination paper shall be subscribed by two electors as prepares and seconded in the said Form III with complete and correct particulars as required. Provided that no elector shall subscribe more nominations than one;

Provided further that if more than one nomination paper is subscribed by the same elector, the nomination paper first received by the returning Officer shall, if otherwise in order, be held to be valid and if more than one nomination paper signed by the same elector are received simultaneously by the Returning Officer, all such nomination papers shall be held to be invalid.

(c) On receipt of each nomination paper, the Returning Officer shall forthwith endorse thereupon the date and hour of receipt.

6. Rejection of nomination;

A nomination paper which is not received within the date and the time appointed which shall not be less than thirty days from the date of notification appointed in the behalf shall be rejected.

7. Scrutiny of nomination paper:

On the date and time appointed by the Returning Officer for the scrutiny which shall be within seven days from the last date of receipt of nomination, the proposer and seconded of each candidate may attend the office of the Returning Officer, who shall allow them to examine the nomination papers of all the candidates which have been received by him as aforesaid or may send a representative, duly authorized by him in writing, to watch the process of scrutiny.

8. Withdrawal of candidate:

(a) Any candidate may withdraw his candidature within seven days after the scrutiny of nomination papers, by notice in writing signed by him and delivered to the Returning Officer. A Candidate who has withdrawn his candidature shall not be allowed to cancel the withdrawal or to be re-nominated as a candidate for the same election;

(b) The Returning Officer shall, on receiving a notice of withdrawal, publish the fact of such withdrawal in the official Gazette.

9. Procedure of polling:

(a) If only one candidate is duly nominated, the Returning Officer shall forthwith declare such candidate to be elected.

(b) If the number of duly nominated candidates exceeds one, the Returning Officer shall publish their names and address in the official Gazette and shall further cause their names to be entered in the voting papers in Form No .IV

(c)When Polling is required to be taken, the Returning Officer shall

i. Cause to be prepared Form IV (a) for the election to be held under clause (a) of sub section (1) of section 4 and thereupon publish in the official Gazette and or in such other manner, as he may think fit and arranged such publication in alphabetical order of the surnames of the candidates;

ii. Proceed to issue by registered post, at least forty days prior to poll date, to each elector who name is included in the final electoral roll, one voting paper in Form IV, with one identification envelope in Form V to his address as mentioned in the final electoral rolls.

Provided that, such a voting paper with an identification envelope shall also be issued to any elector to whom a voting paper has not already been sent, on his application in writing to the Returning Officer, for the same at any time before the last date and time notified for receiving voting papers which shall be seven days prior to poll date. In no other case shall a voting paper be issued after last date notified for sending voting papers nor shall a voting paper be reissued to voter on his return to the office of the Returning Officer.

- (d) No election shall be invalidated by reason of the non receipt of voting paper by any elector ;
- (e) An elector, whose name is borne on the final electoral roll and who is desirous of recording votes, shall mark the voting paper issued to him, with a single cross X (and no other mark) in the proper column against the name or names of the candidate or candidates (Not exceeding the number of members to be elected) for whom he intends to vote and no elector shall record more than one vote or put more than one vote or put more than one cross X mark against the name of any one candidate. A voting paper on which a votes are marked otherwise than by a cross X as laid down in this sub-rule, on or which more than one such cross mark or other kind of mark as to make it doubtful is put against the name of any one candidate or a vote recorded otherwise than on the voting paper sent to the elector shall be rejected and the vote which is not received by the Returning Officer on or before that last day and time as notified for receiving of voting paper shall also be rejected;
- (f) On recording his vote or votes on the voting paper the elector shall put it in the envelope, close the envelope, sign the declaration printed on the envelope, furnishing correctly all particulars required therein. The identification envelope shall then the either delivered personally by the elector or be sent by post to the Returning Officer.

**10, Endorsement by
Returning Officer:**

On receipt of the envelope(s) containing the declaration paper and the closed cover containing the voting paper, The Returning Officer shall endorse on the outer envelope the date and hour of receipt of the same.

**11. Candidates may
be presented when
Registered covers
are opened:**

The Returning Officer shall open the outer envelopes immediately after 5 p.m. on the day fixed for the poll at the place to which the envelopes are addressed to him. Any candidate may remain present in person or by his representative duly authorized by him in writing to attend at the time of opening outer envelopes;

**12, Rejection of
voting papers:**

- (a). A Voting paper cover shall be rejected by the Returning Officer if -
 - (i) The outer envelope contains no declaration paper outside the voting paper cover, or
 - (ii) The declaration paper is not the one sent by the Returning officer, or
 - (iii) The declaration paper is not signed by the elector, or
 - (iv) The voting paper is placed outside the voting paper cover, or

- (v) The State Registration Number is not given by the elector in the declaration paper.
- (b). In each case of rejection, the word "Rejected" shall be endorsed on the voting paper cover and the declaration paper;
- (c) After satisfying himself that the electors have affixed their signatures to the declaration papers, the Returning Officer shall keep all the declaration papers in safe custody pending disposal of the process under this rule.

13. Scrutiny and Counting of Votes:

- (a) The Returning Officer shall attend for the purposes of scrutiny and counting of the votes at the date, time and place appointed by him in this behalf provided the date so appointed shall not be more than three days from the date fixed for the poll.
- (b) All the voting paper cover, other than those rejected under rule 12, shall be opened, the voting paper shall then be scrutinized, and the valid votes counted.

(c) A voting paper shall be invalid if-

- (i).It does not bear the Returning Officers initials, or facsimile signature, or
- (ii). A voter signs his name or writes a word or makes any mark on it by which it becomes no cognizable as his voting paper; or
- (iii).No note is recorded therein; or
- (iv).The number of votes recorded thereon exceeds the number filled; or
- (v).It is void for uncertainty of the vote exercised;
- (d)Any candidates may be present in person or may send a representative, duly authorized by him in writing to watch the proceed of counting;
- (e)The Returning Officer shall show the voting papers, if requested to do so, to the candidates or their authorized representatives at the time of scrutiny and counting of votes;
- (f)If any objection is made in respect to any voting paper on the ground that it does not comply with the specified requirements or in respect to any rejection of a voting paper by the returning officer, it shall be decided at once by the Returning Officer, whose decision shall be final in this regard;
- (g)The returning Officer shall nominate such number of scrutinizers as he thinks fit. The scrutinizers shall be Gazetted Officers of the State Government.

14. Declaration of the names of Candidates elected:

(a) When the Counting of votes of each electorate has been completed, the Returning Officer, shall forthwith declare such candidate to be duly elected;

(b) When an equality of votes is found to exist between two or more candidates, and the addition of one vote will entitle any of them to be declared elected, the determination of the person or papers to whom such one additional vote shall be deemed to have given shall be made by the lot to be drawn in the presence of the Returning Officer and in such manner as he may determine. This rule will be equally applicable to all the elections whether general, casual or by election;

(c) The Returning Officer shall immediately report the results of the elections to the President and the President shall forward the report to the State Government.

15. Voting paper to be retained For six months:

Upon the completion of the counting and after the result has been declared by him, the Returning Officer shall, seal up the voting papers and all other documents relating to the election and shall retain the same for a period of six months and thereafter cause them to be destroyed with the concurrence of the State Government unless required by any Court of Law.

16. Power to declare any Election void :

(a) The State Government may, on objection made by a candidate for any election, within a period of thirty days from the date of the declaration of the candidate as per rule 14 or its own motion, at any time, declare the election to be void, on account of bribery, undue influence or otherwise corrupt practice, which in the opinion of the State Government, has interfered with the free and fair conduct of the election or for any other sufficient cause, and may call on the electorate to make a fresh election;

(b) The decision of the State Government on any question that may arise under this rule shall be final.

17. Appointment of members by Nominations of the State Government:

(a) At least sixty days before the expiry of the term of office of any nominated member, the Registrar shall draw the attention of the President to the approaching vacancy, and the latter shall forthwith report it to the State Government for necessary action to fill the vacancy;

(b) In the case of a casual vacancy for which a fresh nomination will be necessary under clause (b) of sub section (1) of section 4, the Registrar shall on receiving information that such a vacancy has occurred report the vacancy to the President forthwith and the President shall intimate the same to the State Government for necessary action for a fresh nomination,

18. Publication of the names of the names Of members elected or nominated:

(a). The names of members elected or nominated to fill the seats under clauses (a) & (b) of sub section (1) of Section 4 shall be published by a notification in the official Gazette soon after receipt of the report of the President made;

(b). If a registered practitioner having been elected or nominated as a member, is found guilty of infamous conduct in respect and his profession and name is removed from the Register of Registered Practitioners, the Council shall declare the seat to be vacant.

19. Miscellaneous :

(a) The President shall report the fact to the State Government and the vacancy shall be filled in the manner laid down in the rule 25 and 26 of these rules.

(b). A register shall be maintained by the registrar in such Form, as he may think fit, showing the names of the members elected or nominated constituting the council on a general election under these rules and also subsequent changes till the next generation election is held.

(c). When the Office of a member elected or nominated under clause (a) or (b) of sub section (1) of section 4 becomes vacant, by his resignation or death, or any other reason, the Registrar shall, forthwith report the vacancy to the President, who in turn request the State Government to take steps to elect a member in the vacancy within two months from the date on which the vacancy occurs and intimate to the President the name of the person elected, with his qualifications, registration number, and address.

(d). The election shall be held in accordance with this same procedure as laid down for general election by the electoral body as referred to in this rules.

(e). Programmer of time for several stages of the operation shall also be so arrange that the election may be completed within 2 (Two) month from the date of occurrence of the vacancy.

20. Election of President & Vice-President:

- (a). The election of President and Vice President shall be held at the first Meeting of the members of the council;
- (b). The President under the Tripura State Medical Council Act,2010 shall convene and preside over the first meeting of the members of the Council and shall invite the members present at the meeting to make their nomination for the office of the President in such manner as he considers fit. Every nomination shall be supported by another member present at the meeting as seconded provided that no one member shall nominate or second more than one member,
- (c) If there be only one person so nominated the President shall declare him as duly elected President.
- (d) If there be more than one such person the President shall proceed to take ballot in the following manner, namely:-
 - (i) A slip of paper shall be given to every member present who shall write on it the name of the person he votes for, fold the slip and hand it over to the President,
 - (ii) President shall then count the number of votes secured by each nominee, and declare the member who secures the largest number of votes as the duly elected President.
 - (iii) If the largest number of votes be secured by two or more nominees, the President may make the selection by lot drawn in such manner as he thinks fit and the person so selected by lot shall be declared as the duly elected President;
 - (iv). When the office of the President or Vice President falls vacant by reason of death , resignation of otherwise another President or Vice President shall be elected as the case may be from the member of the Council in the same manner as laid down Rule 22;
 - (e). The elected President shall then preside over the meeting and proceed for election of vice President;
 - (F). The Procedure for nomination an election of vice President shall be the same as laid down in sub rule (1) to (4) of rule 22;
 - (g). The election of the members for the executive committee as required by section 9 of the act shall be held at the meeting of the council at which President, or in his absence, the vice President shall be the Chairman;
 - (h). The procedure for nomination shall be the same as laid down in sub rules (2) To (4) of rules 22 for the election of the president with this deference that a member may nominate or second as many as three Persons;
 - (i). If there be only Five to seven persons as the case may be so nominated, all these persons shall be declared as duly elected members of the executive committee.

(J). If there is more than seven persons so nominated, the chairman shall proceed to take ballot in the following manner namely;

- (i). Voting paper with the names of the candidate nominated shall be given to every member present, who shall put a x mark against the name of the persons he votes for, fold the slip and hand it over to the chairman,
- (ii). The chairman shall then count the number of votes secured by each candidate in the voting paper and declare the largest number of votes as duly elected members of the executive committee;
- (iii). When an equality of votes is found to exist between the candidate and the addition of a vote will entitle any of the said candidate to be declared elected, the determination of the person or persons to whom such and additional votes shall be deemed to have been given, shall be made by lot to be drawn in the presence of the chairman and in such manner as he may determine.

21. Powers, Functions & Duties of President & Vice President:

- (a) (i) The President shall perform such function as required under the provisions of the Act. and the rules and regulations made there under. He shall also do such acts as he considers necessary for furtherance of objects for which the council is established;
- (ii) if the office of the President is vacant or, for any reason, the President is unable to perform the function of his office, the Vice President shall act in his place and shall perform the functions of the President.
- (b) (i) After the publication of names of all the members of the council, the President of the existing Council shall convene and preside over the first meeting;
- (ii) After the election of the President under rule 22, the President of the existing council shall cease to function.

22. Form of the Register of Registered Practitioner:

- (a) The Register of registered practitioners shall be maintained in Form VI in the Appendix to these rules.
- (b) The names shall be entered in the Register in the order in which the applications are admitted and sufficient space shall be left for future additions or alternations in the qualifications and address in respect of each entry;
- (c) Each page of the Register shall be verified by the Registrar's signature and seal.

23. Application of fees:

The Registrar shall receive all fees payable under the Act and shall credit the same to the account of the Council. All fees so received shall go to the Council Fund and be utilized for the purposes of meeting, pay, dearness allowance, Provident Fund. Contributions of the Council Office shall also be met from the funds so constituted. Any other expenditure not specified

herein, may also be incurred from the council funds, with the prior approval of the State Government. Procedure to be followed including any enquiry referred to in section 18 and section 19 of this Act.

24. Disposal of Complaint:

- (a) When ever information is received that a Medical Practitioner, who is an applicant for registration, or whose name has already been registered, has been guilty of conduct which prima facie constitutes infamous conduct in a professional respect, the Registrar shall make an abstract of such information and of such further information he may have subsequently obtained.
- (b) Where the information in question is in the nature of a complaint by a person or body, charging the practitioner with infamous conduct in professional respect, such complaint shall be made in writing address to to the Registrar, and shall state the grounds of complaints and shall be accompanied by one or more declarations as to the facts of the case, except when the complaint is by a Government Department.
- (c) Every declaration must state the description and true place of abode of the Declarant, and where the fact stated in a declaration is not within the personal knowledge of the Declarant, the source of the information and grounds for the belief of the Declarant in its truth must be accurately and fully stated.
- (d) The abstract and all other documents bearing on the case, together with any complaint that may have been lodged, shall be submitted by the Registrar to the President, who shall, if he thinks fit, instruct the Registrar to ask the practitioner by means of a Registered Letter for an explanation within a time to be fixed by the President. After the expiry of that time, the documents with the explanations, if any, shall be referred for consideration to a Committee, which shall be appointed by the Council. The Committee shall have power to cause further investigation to be made and further evidence to be collected and, if necessary, obtained further legal or other advise;
- (e) The Committee shall report to the council, and if the council considers that the case each one in which an enquiry is required to be held by the council, the President shall direct Registrar to take steps for the institution of an enquiry and for having the case heard and determined by the council;
- (f) The enquiry shall be instituted by the issue of a notice in writing on behalf of the council under the seal and signature of the Registrar, addressed to the practitioner and such notice shall specify the nature and particulars of the charge, fixing a date and time on which the council intend to deal with the case and shall call upon the practitioner to answer the charge in writing and to attend before the Council on the date and time so fixed;
- (g) The notice referred to in sub rules (f) shall in form vii to this rules, with such variations as circumstances may require. It shall be sent at list 30 days prior to the date of enquiry. A copy of the notice shall at the same time be sent to the complaint, if any;
- (h) In every case in which the council resolve that an enquiry shall be instituted and a notice for an enquiry is issued, the Complainant (if any) and the medical practitioner charged shall, on written request be entitled to be supplied by the Registrar with a copy of any declaration, explanation, answer or other documents given or sent to the Council by or on behalf of the other party, which such other party shall be entitled

on proper proof to use at the hearing and evidence in support of or in answer to the charge specified in the notice of enquiry;

- (i) All materials documents which are to be laid before the council as evidence in regard to the case shall be printed or typed and a copy shall be furnished to each member of the council before the hearing of the case.
- (j) At the time of hearing of the case by the Council, the complainant and also the practitioner may be represented or assisted by a legal representative, if the party so wishes.
- (k) Where a complainant appears personally or by legal representative, order of procedure shall be as follows :-
 - i) The Registrar shall read to the council the notice of the enquiry addressed to the practitioner,
 - ii) The complainant shall then be invited to state his case himself or by his legal representative and to produce his proofs in support of it. At the conclusion of the complainant's proofs his case will be closed.
 - iii) The practitioner shall then be invited to state his case himself or by his legal representative, and to produce his proofs in support of it. He may address the Council either before or at the conclusion of his proofs, but only once.
 - iv) Where a witness is produced by any party before the Council, he shall be first examined by the party producing him, and then cross examined by the adverse party, and if required, then re-examined by the party producing him. The council may decline to admit in evidence any declaration where the declarant is not cross-examination.
 - v) The President may put questions to any witness and the member of the Council with the permission of the President, may also put questions to any witness.

(25) Procedure in absence of complainant:

Where there is no complainant, or the complainant does not appear, the order of procedure shall be as follows:-

- (a) The Registrar shall read to the council the notice of enquiry addressed to the practitioner and shall state the facts of the case and produce before the council the evidence by which it is supported;
- (b) The practitioner shall then be invited to state his case himself or by his legal representative, and to produce his evidence in support of it. He may address the Council either before or at the conclusion of his evidence, but only once,

(26)

- (a) Upon the conclusion of the case, the Council shall deliberate thereon in private and at the conclusion of the deliberations the President shall call upon the Council to vote on the question whether the Medical Practitioner charged is guilty of the infamous conduct, in a professional respect;
- (b) If the Council, by a majority of two thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting, find the Medical Practitioner guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect, The Council shall direct the Registrar not to register his name, if he be an applicant for registration, or to remove his name from the Register of Registered Practitioner or to warn or to censure him.

(27)

When the registration of the name of any practitioner is refused, or when the name of any Registered Practitioner is removed from the Register in accordance with the provisions of the proceeding rules, the Registrar shall forthwith send notice of such refusal or removal to the practitioner, by a registered letter addressed to his last known address. The Registrar shall also send forthwith intimation of any such refusal or removal to the body or bodies from whom the Practitioner received his qualification or qualifications and shall request them not to admit him without previous reference to the Council to any examination or any new qualification, which is register able in the Register of Registered Practitioners. If a name is removed from the register, the Registrar shall issue a notification in the State Gazette, announcing the removal.

**28. Disposal of appeals
From the decision referred
Under section 18 & 19
of the Act:**

- (a) Where the name of any persons has been removed from a State Medical register on any ground or where any application made by the said persons for the restoration of his name to the State Medical register has been rejected, the said persons may appeal to the state Government against the decision of the council ordering such removal or rejecting his application;
- (b) Every such appeal which shall be in writing and address to the State Health Secretary shall state grounds for the appeal and shall be accompanied by all relevant original or certified documents;
- (c) An appeal shall be admitted by the State Health Secretary when it is made within Ninety days from the date of the decision appealed against ;
- (d) The Health Secretary on receipt of such an appeal, shall consult the State Medical Council, who shall be asked to give their opinion by a specified date. The decision of the State Health Secretary shall be communicated to the appellant by registered post;
- (e) The decision of the State Health Secretary shall be final on any question that may arise as to the intention, construction or application of this rules,

**Under Secretary to the
Govt. of Tripura
Health & Family Welfare Department**