

SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN

Islamabad, Dated: 21st April, 2026

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE OF FIXATION OF CASES

1. OBJECTIVE

These Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are formulated to ensure efficient, transparent, and timely fixation of cases before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in accordance with institutional priorities and principles of access to justice.

2. FIXATION PRIORITY

The following cases shall be fixed within the same week, as far as practicable. Where fixation within the same week is not feasible, such cases shall be fixed in the immediately succeeding week.

2.1 Civil Matters

- a. Family Cases, including Transfer Applications (T.A. – Family)
- b. Time-barred Civil Petitions for Leave to Appeal and Civil Appeals
- c. Civil Review Petitions
- d. Cases arising out of Interim Orders / Remand Orders
- e. Compromise Matters
- f. Restoration Applications
- g. Any other matter involving a short legal question, or any case directed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice to be fixed on priority

2.2 Criminal Matters

- a. Bail Before Arrest Cases
- b. Bail After Arrest Cases
- c. Cases in which convict prisoner is more than 80 years of age.
- d. Criminal Review Petitions
- e. Criminal Original Petitions filed for non-compliance orders of this Court.
- f. Compromise Cases
- g. Restoration Applications
- h. Any other matter involving a short legal question, or any case directed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice to be fixed on priority


3. FIXATION OF OLDEST CASES (UPTO YEAR 2018)

- a. At least 40% of cases in each Final Cause List shall consist of oldest pending matters up to the year 2018.
- b. Where the 40% threshold cannot be met, a progressive inclusion of subsequent two years may be made to meet the required quota.

4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR FIXATION OF CASES

The following order of priority shall be observed in the fixation of cases:

- a. Cases fixed by specific Court Orders
- b. Early Hearing Matters where such request has been approved by the competent authority, However, fixation of such matters shall not exceed the 10% of the total cases fixed.
- c. Oldest Cases (up to 2018), ensuring at least 40% representation, with two-year progression where required
- d. Part-Heard Cases, subject to availability of the same Bench or as directed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice
- e. Death Cases and Short Sentence Matters, in order of seniority
- f. Unfixed Cases, in chronological order of institution
- g. Cases involving important questions of law or short legal points, as per directions of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan


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4.1 Provincial Facilitation (Sindh & Balochistan)

- a. Cases filed by Advocates of the Supreme Court from the Provinces of Sindh and Balochistan shall preferably be fixed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- b. The IT Directorate shall develop an automated allocation mechanism to ensure appropriate adjustment of such cases in:
 - Weekly Final Cause Lists
 - Proposed Monthly Cause Lists

5. ISSUANCE OF CAUSE LISTS

5.1 Weekly Final Cause List

- a. Subject to receipt of the Court Roster, the Weekly Final Cause List shall be issued and published on the official website preferably by Wednesday preceding the relevant week.
- b. Any changes in the Court Roster may necessitate corresponding adjustments in the timeline.
- c. No adjournment application shall be entrained after issuance of final cause list.

5.2 Proposed Monthly Cause List

A Proposed Monthly Cause List shall be issued at least one week prior to the commencement of each month.

6. AUTO-FIXATION POLICY

An Automated Case Fixation System shall be developed to:

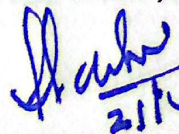
- a. Ensure transparency and objectivity
- b. Digitally implement the above SOPs

Prioritize cases in accordance with the prescribed principles

The system shall:

- a. Apply algorithmic prioritization based on case category, age, and court directions
- b. Minimize discretionary delays
- c. Facilitate efficient case flow management

BY ORDER OF HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN


21/4/2026

SUHAIL MUHAMMAD LAGHARI
REGISTRAR, SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN