

**Memorandum of Association and Rules & Regulations**  
**of**  
**THE TELANGANA HIGH COURT ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION,**  
**HYDERABAD.**

**CHAPTER – I**

**CONSTITUTION – MEMBERS**

1. The Bar Association shall be known and called as '\* Telangana High Court Advocates Association'
2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES:-
  - i) To maintain high standards of legal profession
  - ii) To eradicate touts and to take effective measures against the touts.
  - iii) To protect and safeguard the professional interest of its members
  - iv) To safe guard the fundamental rights and civil liberties of citizens
  - v) To make arrangements for the study of law books provide for a good and reasonably sufficient library and also for the comforts and amenities of its members.
  - vi) To work for the welfare of the members.
  - vii) To promote harmonious relations between the bench and bar
  - viii) To discuss and opine on matters of public interest and to organize symposiums, debates and lectures on various subjects concerning
  - ix) To work out ways and means to help guide and train members of the bar and to provide them facilities in order to establish themselves in the profession.
  - x) To create an atmosphere so as to maintain grace and dignity of the legal profession.
  - xi) The Bar Association shall organize lectures, seminars and workshops etc. bar association itself or in coordination with the bar council of Telangana State (temporarily coordinating with Bar Council of A.P.) or with the other bar associations.
  - xii) To abide by all the directions of the state bar council of Telangana State (temporarily coordinating with Bar Council of A.P.) issued from time to time for effective implementation of the bye-laws to adopt the guidelines and directions issued by the bar council of AP (Telangana) from time to time in the interest of advocate community.

---

\* The word "state" is deleted by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

- xiii) To extend legal aid to the poor and to organize such aid
- xiv) To form co-operative societies for housing etc of its members
- xv) To co-ordinate cooperate and render desired help to the members of the bar association
- xvi) To co-ordinate and implement various welfare schemes provided by the state bar council as well as the Bar Council of India.
- xvii) To influence and inspire the members of the association for self-confidence and self respect and create in them a sense of unity and affinity and brotherhood.
- xviii) To act as an allied unit of the State Bar Council for all organizational and welfare activities.
- xix) To safeguard the rights and privileges of the advocates with the help of privilege committee of the State Bar Council of A.P. whenever necessary.
- xx) To undertake publication of legal literature or journals.
- xxi) The bar association shall strive to encourage and uplift the socially backward community advocates in all spheres.
- xxii) The bar association shall Endeavour to organize training classes for acquiring professional skills in advocacy.

3. In these Rules :-

- a) “THE ASSOCIATION” means \*The Telangana High Court Advocates, Association, Hyderabad.
- b) “THE HIGH COURT” means, the High Court Judicature at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana and State of Andhra Pradesh.
- c) “MEMBER” means a person who is entered on the rolls of the Association as such under Rules 2 & 4.
- d) “THE GENERAL BODY” means the body consisting of all members of all types.
- e) “THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE” means the governing body constituted under rules and to whom by these rules the management of the Association is entrusted.

---

\* The word “state” is deleted by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

**4\*. PROCEDURE FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

- a) The Executive Committee shall in its discretion admit as a member of the Association any Advocate borne on the rolls of any Bar Council in India who applies for membership and expresses his willingness to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association.
- b) Members shall be of the following categories :-
  - i) Donor members being those members who pay one time special subscription of Rs.25,000 /- only. They will be members for life.
  - ii) Patrons members being those members who pay one time special subscription of Rs 10000/- only, they will be members for life.
  - iii) Life members being those members who pay one time special subscription of Rs.5000/- only. They will be members for life.
  - iv) Ordinary members are those who pay monthly subscription Rs.50/- or such other amount as may be fixed from time to time by the General Body. All ordinary members who pay their total annual subscription in advance on or before 15<sup>th</sup> of every month of the subscription year shall be entitled to a 10% rebate.
  - v) The Association may by Resolution confer the status of Honorary Member on any eminent person associated with legal sphere.
- c) The subscription year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> April till 31<sup>st</sup> March of the succeeding year.

\*\*d). Every application for membership of the Association (except Honorary Membership) shall be made on the prescribed form and signed by the applicant and recommended by two members. Such application forms shall be accompanied by the fee, prescribed hereinafter, two passport size photographs and a Xerox copy of Enrollment certificate issued by the Bar Council.

5. All members shall pay an admission fee of Rs.250/- in a lump sum at the time of admission, and in addition shall pay an amount of \*\*\*Rs.100/- for Identity Card.

6. The power to admit members to the Association shall vest in the Executive Committee. On such admission, the applicant shall be entered on rolls of the Association and he shall be a member.

---

\* Inserted by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\*\* Amended w.e.f. 31.10.2016

7. a) Members shall be entitled, inter alia, to the following facilities:

i) Use the premises of the Association for legitimate purpose of rest and study between 10.00AM to 5.00PM on working days and during the court vacation days.

ii) Borrow books from the Lending Library subject to the library rules amended by the Executive committee from time to time.

iii) Use the Reference Library open for study through out the year during all the working days.

iv) Utilize lockers available on payment of monthly charges as fixed by the Executive Committee from time to time Donor and Patron members shall be allotted lockers free of all costs.

b) Members may not invite clients or outsiders into the Association premises or hold discussions with them within the premises.

8. Members desirous of availing lending library facilities shall deposit a sum of Rs. 1,000/- as caution deposit. Donor, Patron and Life members are exempted from this caution deposit. If any books lent are damaged or not returned within one week, the loss incurred would be recovered from the member from such deposit or otherwise. When the deposit is diminished, books will not be lent unless the deposit is replenished.

9. Any member in arrears of their subscription or owing any other sum to the Association shall not be entitled to utilize any of the facilities of the association including use of the library or its premises. The member shall not be entitled to vote in the elections and also at the meetings of the association. When the arrears are cleared, his/her privileges will be restored as per the orders passed by the executive committee at the time of restoration.

a) If a member doesn't renew the membership for more than 2 years he/she has to pay all the arrears including new admission fee of Rs.500/- as per his/her choice and then seek the restoration of membership.

b) An advocate who enrolls himself/herself as a member of association will not be eligible to vote in any election or a general body meeting convened to amend the rules for a period of 365 days from his/her attaining membership.

\*c): “An Advocate can be a member of more than one Bar Association, however, he/she is entitled to exercise his/her right to vote only in One Bar Association. Every such Advocate shall inform his/her choice of exercise of voting right by way of submitting necessary declaration or affidavit before exercising such choice to vote for the Association. Such declaration shall be in force at least for a period of One year, during which period the member shall not be entitled to cast his/her Vote in any other Bar Association”. For any reason if any such member intends to change his/her option he/she shall inform the same in aforesaid manner to the Bar Association.

\*\*d) A member is not entitled to hold any other elected post in any other Bar Association.

10. The resolutions of the General Body if not adhered to by the member of the association the said member shall be called up in the committee for disciplinary action, constituted by the executive committee and on affording him/her an opportunity to him/her to explain why he She has violated the resolution, if found not satisfactory, on the recommendation of the disciplinary committee be placed before general body for admission and he/she shall be removed from the rolls of the association for his/her life.

11. a) Any member of the association may be removed by the executive committee from the rolls of the association if he is finally adjudged to be guilty of professional misconduct by the bar council under the Advocates Act.

b) Any member who is guilty of conduct unbecoming of a member of the legal profession or detrimental to the interests of the association may be removed from the rolls of the association by the general body by a resolution supported by at least two thirds of the members present and voting at an extraordinary general body meeting convened for the purpose and attended by at least 100 members.

12. The secretaries shall cause to be maintained a register of all members.

## **CHAPTER – II**

13. All powers to conduct the affairs of the association shall vest in the general body except to the extent indicated in these bye laws.

---

\* Inserted by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\* Inserted by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

14. The general body shall, inter alia, have the following powers:
  - a) To elect all its office bearers and members of the executive committee in accordance with this constitution and bye laws.
  - b) To appoint an auditor to audit the accounts of the association.
15. The general body shall meet periodically as and when summoned by the president or the secretaries to discuss matters relating to the affairs of the association. Ordinarily, members shall have one week notice in advance of such meetings. In urgent situations, the general body may meet at short notice i.e., a minimum period of 24 hours. Notice of meetings will ordinarily be given by displaying such notice on the notice board of the association or in any other appropriate manner.
16. The annual general body meetings shall be held in March every year to consider and approve the report of the secretaries and the audited annual accounts.
17. The president and in his absence, the vice president and if both are absent, secretary or hierarchy of any office bearer of the association available shall preside over and conduct the meeting of the general body.
18. The quorum for a meeting of the general body shall be two hundred.
19. All decisions of the general body which are not unanimous shall be in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the members present at voting. In case of tie, the president or other member presiding shall have a casting vote.
20.
  - a) The secretaries will cause the proceedings of the general body to be properly recorded as minutes and the same shall be signed by the president or other member presiding over the meeting. The signatures of all members present shall also be obtained for the record.
  - b) The secretaries shall also convene a meeting of the general body on the receipt of a requisition, duly signed by members from a minimum number of 1/10 or 300 whichever is higher out of the total number of members of the association stating the precise purpose for which the meeting is required to be convened. Where any resolution is proposed for debate the requisition notice should also set out the resolution. The signatory must be clear with his name in bold letters, else requisition deemed invalid.

## CHAPTER – III

### THE GOVERNING BODY

21. The affairs of the association shall be managed by the executive committee consisting of the following:

#### OFFICE BEARERS

- |     |   |  |  |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 1.  | President   | -  | 1  |
| 2.  | Vice President  | -  | 1  |
| 3.  | Secretaries   | -  | 2  |
| 4.  | Joint Secretary   | -  | 1  |
| *5. | Librarian   | <b>(Librarian post has been abolished w.e.f. 01.04.2017)</b> |  |
| 6.  | Treasurer   | -  | 1  |
| 7.  | Sports and Cultural Secretary   | -  | 1  |
| 8.  | Executive Members :   |  |  |
|     | ** a) More than 30 years  | -  | 1  |
|     | <b>(Executive Members of more than 30 years standing shall be only 1 Post )</b> |  |  |
|     | c) More than 15 years   | -  | 2 (One post reserved from lady members). |
|     | d) Lady member  | -  | 1  |
|     | ***e) General members   | -  | 4  |
|     | <b>(General Members shall be only 4)</b>  |  |  |

-----  
**TOTAL = 15**  
-----

(OFFICE BEARERS=7, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS = 8)

**President:** A member having twenty years standing at Bar council of Andhra Pradesh (State of Telangana) and minimum of 15 years standing at the association. However, for the purpose of calculating the standing at the Bar the standing in the previous state i.e., Andhra Pradesh, shall also be taken into account.

---

\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\*\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

**Vice President:** A member having, fifteen years standing at Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh (State of Telangana) and minimum of 12 years standing at the association. However, for the purpose of calculating the standing at the Bar the standing in the previous state i.e., Andhra Pradesh, shall also be taken into account.

**Secretaries:** A member having, 10 years standing at Bar council of Andhra Pradesh and the association. However, for the purpose of calculating the standing at the Bar the standing in the previous state ie., Andhra Pradesh, shall also be taken into account.

**Joint Secretary:** A member having, seven years standing at Bar council of Andhra Pradesh and the association. However, for the purpose of calculating the standing at the Bar the standing in the previous state ie., Andhra Pradesh, shall also be taken into account.

**\* Librarian: The Post of Librarian is abolished w.e.f 01.04.2017.**

**Treasurer:** A member having, seven years standing at Bar council of Andhra Pradesh and the association. However, for the purpose of calculating the standing at the Bar the standing in the previous state i.e., Andhra Pradesh, shall also be taken into account.

**Sports and Cultural Secretary:** A member having, seven years standing at Bar council of Andhra Pradesh and eh association. However, for the purpose of calculating the standing at the Bar the standing in the previous state i.e., Andhra Pradesh, shall also be taken into account.

Eligibility of standing of a member in Bar and the association will be counted as on the date of notification of election schedule.

In the executive committee:

**\*\*a):-One** vacancy among members shall be reserved for the members who have got at least thirty years standing at the advocates association. For the purpose of computing 30 years the number of years of standing in the previous bar i.e., Andhra Pradesh High Court Advocate Association shall be taken into account.

b) Two vacancies among members shall be reserved for the members who have got at least 15 years standing at this advocates association. For the purpose of computing 15 years the number of years of standing in the previous bar i.e., Andhra Pradesh High Court Advocate Association shall be taken into account.

---

\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017



- c) One vacancy among members shall be reserved for a lady member.
- d) Only those members having five years standing at the Bar council of Andhra Pradesh and in the association are eligible for the other general members. For the purpose of computing 5 years the number of years of standing in the previous Bar i.e., Andhra Pradesh High Court Advocate Association shall be taken into account.

22. No member shall be eligible to contest for the third consecutive term for the post which he/she has held in the two terms.

23. No member shall be eligible to contest for any office of the executive committee if he /she is in arrears of subscription towards membership or rental for the locker or due of any lending library books beyond the permitted period on the last date of filing of nomination.

24. All the office bearers and the members of the committee shall be elected by a simple majority. The committee shall make suitable arrangements for the conduct of the election. The term of the entire body shall be one year only.

First secretary means highest votes in the election, if number of votes are same the returning officer shall cast lots in the presence of the candidates and declare the results.

25. a) Any casual vacancy occurring in the committee for any reason, may be filled up by co-opting any eligible member of the association. The general body shall choose such member by majority vote at a meeting specially convened for the rest of the term of that committee co-opting him.

#### **CHAPTER-IV**

#### **ELECTION PROCEDURE**

26. \*1. The First Secretary shall in consultation with the president fix the date of the Annual General Body Meeting and of election schedule and publish the same on the notice board.

\*\*2. The First Secretary shall ten days before the date fixed for election, publish a list of members entitled to vote at the election.

---

\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*a) The First Secretary shall display all arrears list on or before 1<sup>st</sup> February of every year and all arrears will be cleared by the members by 10<sup>th</sup> day of March. All members who clear the arrears will be placed in the list of members entitled to vote at election.

b) After the exhibition of list mentioned above on 12<sup>th</sup> March, objections will be entertained for three working days and 4<sup>th</sup> day final eligible voters list will be published.

3. The electoral roll shall include all members who are not disqualified under any of the provisions of this constitution.

4. Nomination papers shall be filed in the office of the association at least seven clear days before the date fixed for elections.

5. A nomination paper shall be proposed and signed by two members whose names are included in the eligible voters list aforesaid. All nomination papers shall contain statement by the persons making the nomination, to the effect that the member nominated by them for election has agreed to serve in the office if elected.

5 (a) Every person who files the nomination shall sign in the prescribed form undertaking that code of conduct will be adhered to by him during election and while holding the office. The code of conduct will include:

- i) Not to canvas within 100 yards of the polling station, and
- ii) Any other condition as stipulated by the returning officer.

6. The nomination shall be scrutinized by the returning officer in the presence of the candidates and those not in order shall be rejected and a list of valid nominations shall be prepared. A list of persons valid nomination for the various offices shall be published on the Notice Board of the association on the day following the last day for filing of nomination papers.

7. Any person filed nomination for election may withdraw by intimating the same to the returning officer within the time limit fixed for withdrawals. The returning officer after taking note of withdrawals shall publish a final list of nomination by exhibiting the notice on the association Notice Board.

8. The election shall be held between the hours of 10:30 AM and 4:30 PM on the date fixed for the election.

---

\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

9. There shall be no ballot in respect of any office for which the nomination does not exceed the number of persons to be elected and such person or persons so nominated shall be declared to have been duly elected to the office or offices by the returning officer.

10. Ballot papers/E.V.M's consecutively numbered and containing the names of candidates shall be printed and distributed to the members entitled to vote from 10:30 AM and 4:30 PM On the date of the election on their signing the register kept for the purpose.

11. The member shall produce his/her identity card issued by the association if it is insisted by the person issuing the ballot papers/E.V.M's. On receiving the ballot papers, the member shall then and there vote and lodge the same in the respective sealed box or boxes kept at the office of the association for the purpose. Any member found in consultation at the polling booth shall be asked to leave the polling station without casting his/her vote.

12. The returning officer shall appoint sufficient number of life members of the association as tellers for the purpose of taking charge of the Ballot boxes/E.V.M's scrutinizing the ballot papers/E.V.M's and ascertaining the result.

13. The teller so appointed shall as soon as possible after the counting is over submit to the returning officer the result of the election.

14. Any candidate or his/her authorized representative may apply in writing to the returning officer for recounting the ballots before the declaration of the results and in such events, the returning officer may in his discretion order for recounting after recording relevant reasons to that effect in writing and the same shall be final.

15. In the event of the votes of candidates in respect of any office being found equal the returning officer shall cast lots and declare the result.

16. Where a member has been elected to more than one office mentioned in Rule 1, he shall be deemed to have been elected to the office highest in the order in which they are specified in Rule 21 and his election to the other office or offices shall be deemed to be void and the result of the election to the other office shall be declared as if the member had not stood for election for them.

17. The result of the election shall be notified in the Notice Board of the association under the signature of the returning officer on the following date of the counting of votes.

18. If there be no nomination available after scrutiny and expiry of the time for withdrawal of nomination for any office (other than a member of the committee) fresh nomination for such office shall be called for and an election shall be held within one month. Till then, the previous incumbent shall continue.

19. If there are no sufficient number of nominations for the membership of the committee, or if the nominees withdraw their names as herein before provided, then the executive committee elected shall fill up the vacancies by co-option as per Rule 23(a).

20. The newly elected Executive Committee shall assume the office with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April of the year of election.

## **CHAPTER-V**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ITS POWERS**

27. The committee shall, in addition to the powers conferred on it by these rules, have power.

- a) to purchase books for the association library and to subscribe for periodicals.
- b) to print and publish books, journals or papers relating to law.
- c) to sanction the scale of establishment from time to time.
- d) to pass bye-laws not inconsistent with the rules of the association.
- e) to pay gratuity or bonus to the staff and establish a provident fund for the staff.
- f) generally to apply the funds of the association in furtherance of its objects and to do all other acts relating to the work and management of the association.
- g) In general and without prejudice to any of the rules herein contained the committee shall have power to direct the affairs of the association and act on behalf of the association.

28. The committee shall meet at least once in a month, but special meetings of the committee may be convened by the president or secretaries and shall be convened on the written request of not less than seven members of the committee for any specified purpose.

29. The quorum of all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be 9.

30. In all matters the decision of the majority shall prevail, and in case of an equality of votes, the president shall have a second or casting vote.

31. A minutes book shall be kept by the secretaries in which the resolution shall be recorded and the same shall be read and confirmed at the next meeting of the committees.

32. The committee shall have power to dispose of routine and unimportant matter by taking the opinion of the members by circulation instead of at a meeting of the committee.

a) The Executive Committee has power to appoint various committees to run the activities of the association smoothly, such as the committees like canteen committee, Library committee, sports, Games, and cultures committee. Disciplinary committee, Election committee and Grievances Committee etc.

## **CHAPTER-VI**

### **PRESIDENT-HIS POWERS AND DUTIES**

33. The president shall have power:

- 1) To preside at all meetings of the association.
- 2) To address the meetings and make a reference before the High Court and on behalf of the association as and when necessary.
- 3) To direct the secretaries to convene a meeting of the committee.

34. The president shall have general powers of superintendence over the affairs of the Association.

### **VICE PRESIDENT - HIS POWERS AND DUTIES**

35. The vice-president shall in the absence of the president have all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the president.

The Vice President shall be treated equally to President in protocol.

### **SECRETARIES - POWERS AND DUTIES**

36. 1) The secretaries shall be responsible to maintain the records, books and all other property of the Association.

2) The secretaries shall maintain the register and books mentioned in bye laws and such other records as may be necessary.

3) All correspondence for and on behalf of the Association shall be carried on by the Secretaries.

- 4) The meetings of the committee General Body, ordinary and extraordinary and other meetings shall be convened by the secretaries.
- 5) The secretaries shall be responsible for the collection of all the amounts due to the Association by way of subscription admission fee or otherwise.
- 6) The secretaries shall have along with the Treasurer cause accounts of the Association to be regularly maintained.
- 7) The secretaries shall cause the accounts of the Association to be audited any an auditor appointed at the Annual General Body Meeting.
- 8) The secretaries shall open a current Account with a scheduled Bank determined by the Annual General Body Meeting.
- 9) The secretaries shall maintain the minutes book of every meeting of the Association and submit the same for confirmation at the following meeting.
- 10) The secretaries shall prepare and submit, after the approval of the council, the Annual Report, before Annual General Body Meeting together with a statement of accounts duly audited by the auditor appointed by the Annual General Body Meeting.
- 11) The secretaries may institute suits or proceedings or defend the same with the sanction of the committee.
- 12) The secretaries shall be in overall charge of the working of the Association.
- 13) The secretaries shall act in accordance with the directions of the committee and carry into effect all the resolutions of the Association.
- 14) The secretaries shall have power to employ from time to time with prior approval of the Executive Committee such servants as may be required for the Association and its Library, to control and dismiss them. In case of suspension or dismissal, an appeal lies to the Executive Committee.
- 15) The first secretary will be the returning officer for Election without prejudice to the foregoing provisions, the secretaries shall have power to do all that is necessary for and on behalf of the Association.

\*16. The First Secretary shall have the powers and shall discharge the duties from Sl. No.s 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 15 of the above.

\*17. The Second Secretary shall have the powers and shall discharge the duties from Sl. No.s 1, 2, 5, 11, and 14 of the above.

\*18. Both the Secretaries shall have common powers and shall discharge the duties from Sl. No.s 12 and 13 of the above.

\*19. The Secretaries shall in the absence of each other have all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the other or as may be assigned or directed by the Executive Committee.

### **JOINT SECRETARY**

\*\*37. 1) The joint Secretary shall be in charge of all the books of the Association Library and the maintenance of the Library in general.

2) The Joint Secretary shall have power to issue necessary instructions to the staff working in the Library.

3) The Joint Secretary shall carry out the directions and act in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee.

4). The joint Secretary shall provide consultation rooms for members of the Bar to have interaction with clients on hourly basis @ Rs.200/- **or as fixed by the Executive Committee from to time to time.**

### **\*\*\* LIBRARIAN**

(The Post is abolished w.e.f. 01-04-2017)

### **SPORTS AND CULTURAL SECRETARY**

1). The Sports and Cultural Secretary shall organize the sports and cultural activities periodically and other important sports and cultural events in consultation with executive committee.

---

\* Inserted by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\* Amended by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

\*\*\* abolished by virtue of General Body Resolution dated 27.02.2017

2). The Sports and Cultural Secretary shall organize the sports and cultural activities involving the members of the institution in general.

3). The Sports and Cultural Secretary shall organize the sports and cultural activities in consonance with the aims and objectives of the institution of judiciary and act in accordance with the directions of the Executive committee.

### **TREASURER POWERS AND DUTIES**

38. 1). The Treasurer shall have cheque power along with either of the Secretaries. The Treasurer shall have power to cause day to day accounts of the Association to be regularly maintained.

2). The Treasurer shall carry out the directions and act accordance with discussion of the Executive Committee.

3). The Treasurer shall have the accounts audited at end of every financial year and also before completion of term in office.

4). The Treasurer shall obtain ratification of the Executive Committee in case of expenditure more than Rs.500/- incurred on behalf of the Association.

**SECRETARY  
TELANGANA HIGH COURT  
ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION  
HYDERABAD - 500066.**

\*\*\*\*\*