

Nalanda open university, Patna

Course - M.A. in journalism and mass Communication

MJMC - part - 1

Paper - VII

Subject - Media law and Ethics.

Prepared by - Narendra Tiwari

Topic - Contempt of Court.

Judiciary is the most important of the three pillars of the government. It interprets laws. The judiciary is empowered by our constitution to look after and review the any laws, even to settle the constitutional disputes. It settles disputes between the parties and between the state government and Central. Contempt of court used to defame and insult the court procedures. Unhealthy criticism of court's proceedings, orders and judgements and violate the norms and prescribed code of conducts concerning to judiciary are the factors of contempt of court. To say or comment anything in negative ways against judicial officers of lower judiciary and justices of hon'ble High courts and Supreme court are in ambit of contempt of court. Any press has no legal right to criticize with intension to defame judiciary. It is also the part of contempt of courts to raise finger against the character of lower judicial officers and judges of High courts and Supreme court.

According to the Sec. 2 of the contempt of court Act, 1971, contempt is of two types – Civil and Criminal contempt.

– Civil contempt means wilful disobedience of any judgement, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of court.

– Criminal contempt means publication of any matter or any act whatsoever which scandalises all prejudices or to interfere with any judicial proceedings and to interfere for obstruct the administration of justice in any manner.

Now, it is pertinent to note that contempt of court proceeding can be only initiated before High court and Supreme court. Lower court is not empowered to hear contempt of court proceeding.

- Contempt of courts and press.
- Explanation of the act.
- Elements for the contempt of court.
- Contempt proceeding of lower courts, High court and Supreme court.
- punishment for contempt of court.

Narendra Tiwari.

Mob. no. – 9234278669

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