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CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY

Archbishop of Hyderabad



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

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Circular No.: AH/ADM/HACAA/2026/001

Date: 21-09-2026

ARCHDIOCESAN CIRCULAR

To:

All Parish Priests,
Religious Superiors,
Heads of Archdiocesan Institutions,
Associations and Organisations,
and the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad

Subject: Hyderabad Archdiocese Catholic Advocates Association (HACAA) – Legal Assistance and Guidance for the Catholic Community and Archdiocesan Institutions

Dear Reverend Fathers, Religious and Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and blessings of Christ!

The Archdiocese of Hyderabad has always been committed to safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of its clergy, religious, institutions and faithful, while promoting justice, reconciliation and responsible Christian citizenship.

In view of the increasing need for proper legal awareness, guidance and professional assistance, I am pleased to inform you that a group of committed Catholic advocates, comprising priests, religious and lay faithful who are professionally qualified and enrolled with the Bar Council, have taken the initiative to establish the Hyderabad Archdiocese Catholic Advocates Association (HACAA).

The Association has been conceived as a professional forum to provide appropriate legal guidance, assistance and support to the Catholic faithful and to the institutions, parishes and organisations of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

Objectives

The principal objectives of HACAA are:

1. **To promote legal awareness** among the Catholic faithful and the wider Catholic community;
2. **To disseminate knowledge** concerning legal procedures and the rights and protections guaranteed under the Constitution of India and applicable laws;
3. **To assist individuals and families** in understanding and appropriately addressing legal issues and challenges;
4. **To provide legal guidance and assistance** to parishes, educational institutions, charitable organisations, associations and other institutions of the Archdiocese;

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5. **To assist in matters concerning the legitimate rights and interests** of the Catholic community and its institutions, including matters relating to property, documentation, contracts, statutory compliance, employment, taxation, succession and litigation; and
6. **To encourage lawful, just and peaceful resolution of disputes**, wherever possible, in the spirit of Christian reconciliation.

Membership

Membership of HACAA shall be restricted to **Catholic priests, religious and lay advocates who are enrolled with the Bar Council of India and belong to the Archdiocese of Hyderabad either by residence or parish affiliation.** The present number registered will increase when HACAA becomes official unit of the Archdiocese.

The membership, functioning and administration of the Association shall be governed by its duly approved Constitution and Bye-laws, the list below is the present strength and it may increase. **Fr. Raju Alex, Advocate will be incharge of HACAA.**

Registered Office: The proposed registered office of the Association is:

Llyod Thomas Joseph

#5-9-314/1, First Floor, Bishop Caprotti Building,
 St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry, Abids,
 Hyderabad – 500001.

Name	Enrol	Parish	Contact	Type of cases
1. Fr. Raju Alex	1993	TCBC	9391023522	Civil Cases
2. Vijaya Raj George	1992	Don Bosco/Bandlaguda	9963686735	Civil/Criminal/HC
3. V. Jai Raj	1994	Mt Carmel/Bowenpally	9849748018	Civil/Criminal
4. Mary Alphonsa	1999	St. Joseph's Bolarum	9296803780	Family Cases
5. Thomas Joseph Lloyd	2000	St. Joseph's Cathedral	9849179263	Civil/Criminal/HC
6. George Victor	2004	Sacred Heart LGD	9704028278	Criminal/HC
7. Sr. Jessy Kurian	2005	St. Ann's Convent Sec'bad	8919896907	Supreme Court
8. Joseph Bala Prathap	2009	St. Mary's Basilica	9392603678	Civil/Criminal/HC
9. Maria B. Dolly	2014	St. Anthony Venkatapuram	9908029203	Civil/Criminal
10. Fr. Vincent Arokiadas	2018	PP, Bowenpally	9247269401	Civil/Criminal
11. Jama Sebastian	2021	St. John's Arul Colony	9866683495	Private Practise
12. Rosalene Geeta Powell	2023	St. Francis Xavier, Alwal	9985157090	Civil Cases



Direction to Parishes and Institutions

In view of the above, I request all Parish Priests, Religious Superiors, Heads of Institutions and those responsible for Archdiocesan properties and organisations to make appropriate use of the services and professional expertise available through HACAA whenever legal advice or assistance is required.

Parishes and institutions are particularly encouraged to seek timely legal advice before entering into agreements, transactions, property arrangements, employment commitments, statutory obligations or other matters having legal implications, so that avoidable legal difficulties may be prevented.

The faithful may also approach the Association, where appropriate, for guidance concerning their legitimate legal concerns.

It is expected that all legal assistance provided through HACAA will be undertaken in accordance with the laws of the land, professional standards and ethical obligations governing advocates, while respecting the professional independence of individual advocates.

Accountability to the Archdiocese

The Association shall function in a manner consistent with the pastoral and administrative interests of the Archdiocese and shall remain **accountable to the Archdiocese of Hyderabad** in respect of its activities. HACAA shall submit an **annual report of its activities** to the Archdiocese for information and record.

I earnestly request all Parish Priests and Heads of our institutions to bring this Circular to the attention of the faithful and to encourage them to make appropriate use of this professional forum whenever legal assistance or guidance is required.

I express my appreciation to all the Catholic advocates who have generously offered their professional knowledge and expertise for the service of the Church and the community. May this initiative become an effective instrument in promoting **justice, legal awareness, reconciliation and the protection of legitimate rights** among our people.

May the Lord bless this endeavour and guide all those involved in this ministry of service.

With prayerful good wishes and Episcopal Blessing,

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad



Copy to:

1. All Religious Superiors
2. Heads of Archdiocesan Institutions