

APPENDIX - IIITRAVANCORE - COCHIN TEMPLE ENTRY  
ACT XXVII OF 1950 - RULES.

**IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED BY SECTION 9. OF THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN TEMPLE ENTRY (REMOVAL OF DISABILITIES) BY THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE RELIGIOUS RITES AND CEREMONIES PERFORMED IN TEMPLES.**

1. The expression 'Temple' occurring in these rules shall have the same meaning as defined in Section 2 (1) of the Act.

2. The expression "Chief Officer in Devaswom" occurring in these rules shall mean the Officer in charge of the Devaswom. It shall also include every Officer superior to him and having jurisdiction when such Superior Officer exercised the powers of the Chief Officer of the Devaswom.

3. In order that the customs and usages obtaining in the several temples to which Act XXVII of 1950 might apply in regard to the poojas, Nivediams, Vazhivadus, Nithyanidanam, Masavisesham, Attavisesham, Ulsavam and other ordinary and special ceremonies and rituals shall continue to be observed as heretofore, it shall be competent to the Chief Officer of the Devaswom to give such directions as may be necessary from time to time for regulating the time of entry and worship or limiting the number of those who may enter for worship at a time or maintaining such special customs and usages as obtain in the several temples.

4. The permission to enter a temple shall not be exercised so as to empower entrance into the Srikoil, Thidapalli (kitchen) and other portions of the temple where specific restrictions even now exist in regard to all persons except those who are allowed to use those portions by custom.

5. All worshippers are bound to conform to the directions given by the Chief Officer of the Devaswom in regard to the observance of the customs and usages obtaining in the several temples and in regard to the places which have to be reserved for the time being for the proper conduct of the rituals in the temple.

6. The classes of persons mentioned hereunder shall not enter within the compound wall of temple or its premises in case there is no compound wall.

(a) Persons who are not Hindus.

(B) Persons under pollution arising out of birth or death in their families.

- (c) Women at such times during which they are not by custom and usage allowed to enter temples.
- (d) Drunken or disorderly persons.
- (e) Persons suffering from any loathsome or contagious disease.
- (f) Persons of unsound mind except when taken for worship under proper control and with the sanction of the Chief Officer of the Devaswom concerned, and
- (g) Professional beggars.

7. If the Chief Officer has reasonable doubt that a person entering the temple is a non-Hindu he may require that person to give a declaration in writing to the following effect in a register to be kept for the purpose and the person shall be bound to give the declaration.

" I declare that I am a follower of the Hindu Faith ".

8. No person shall enter into any temple premises unless he wears clean clothes of such materials and in such manner as may be customary. The decision of the Chief Officer of the Devaswom concerned shall prevail until set aside by a higher authority. None shall be allowed to enter temple premises with any footwear except those who are allowed to do so by custom and usage obtaining in the temple.

9. No person shall, within the temple and premises spit, use tobacco or any similar articles or smoke or carry with him any article for smoking, or take with him fish, eggs, meat, flesh, toddy, arrack or other intoxicants or any other article or animal inappropriate according to custom and usage to be introduced into the temple.

10. No person shall enter the Belikkalpura, Valiambalam, Nalambalam or the elamathil, which in some temples takes the place of Nalambalam with any coat, shirt, vest or such other garments, except women who may wear their usual dress. No head dress shall be worn except by those who are allowed to do so by custom and usage obtaining in the temple. No one shall take therein any article inappropriate to be introduced into such places by custom or usage. In temples where the above restrictions obtain even now in regard to entering within the compound walls, the same shall be observed.

11. (1) No one shall enter the portions of a temple specified in the last preceding rule without having, in accordance with custom and usage, bathed and without the customary sandal or other mark and without wearing clean clothes of such material and in such manner as may be customary in the temple concerned.

- (2) No one except a Hindu shall enter a tank appurtenant to a temple; and every person permitted to enter a tank shall obey such directions as may be given by the Chief Officer of the Devaswom concerned. The direction of the Chief Officer of the Devaswom shall prevail until set aside by a higher authority.
- (3) Tanks reserved for the exclusive use of particular functionaries of the temple shall continue to be so reserved.

12. Restrictions as to entry and worship, which according to usage and custom, apply to all classes of Hindus alike, shall continue to apply.

13. No one shall interrupt the worship in a temple by loud conversation or other demonstration which would derogate from the solemnity and the proper atmosphere of the temple.

14. It shall not be lawful to any person to use the temple buildings and premises for any purpose which is not of a religious character.

15. No one shall do any act which would tend to derogate from the purity and the cleanliness of the temple and its premises.

16. If any doubt arises in regard to the applicability of or conformity to, any of these provisions, the decision of the Chief Officer of the Devaswom concerned shall prevail until set aside by a higher authority.

17. Any contravention of these rules shall be punishable under Section 7 of the Act. It shall be lawful for the Chief Officer of the Devaswom concerned to direct that any person who contravenes or is suspected or believed by the Chief Officer of the Devaswom to have contravened any of the provisions of these rules, or disobeys any lawful direction given by him, shall remove himself from the temple, and in case such person does not so remove himself, to cause him to be removed from the temple.

18. If any person contravenes any of the provisions of these rules, or disobeys any direction lawfully given in pursuance thereof and thereby renders necessary any purificatory ceremonies according to the customs and usages of the temple, such person shall be liable to pay the cost of the necessary purificatory ceremonies at the approved rates and the same shall be recoverable from him as arrears of public or land revenue or otherwise.

19. No action shall lie against any Devaswom Officer or other person who bona fide does any act in pursuance of these rules, and no action in a Criminal Court shall lie without the sanction of the Devaswom Board.

20. In case of any doubt or dispute regarding the interpretation or the carrying out of any provisions of these rules, the decision of the Travancore Devaswom Board thereon shall be final.

21. In cases of emergencies and unforeseen difficulties that may arise in carrying out the provisions and objects of the aforesaid Act or of these Rules, the Travancore Devaswom Board shall be competent to pass such orders as they may deem fit.

Travancore Devaswom Board,  
Trivandrum, April 1952.

K. KARUNAKARAN,  
Secretary.