



WP CRL.(MD). No.1013 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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Dated : 24.02.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE S.SRIMATHY

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M.Ponnukalai,

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Virudhunagar District.
Virudhunagar..

2. The Inspector of Police,
Kariyapatti Police Station,
Kariyapatti,
Virudhunagar District..

3. Karuppasamy,

4. Palpandi,

5. Kalyani,

6. Vellaichamy,

7. Kumar,

8. Kannan

9. Rajendran,

10. Logapandian,

11. Raja,

12. Pandi,

13. Samy,

... Respondents

PRAYER :- Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ, to a Writ of Mandamus, directing the 2nd



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respondent not to harass the petitioner and also not to interfere with the Poojari Service of the Petitioner in the temple namely Arulmigu Sri Sadachiamman Oorkaval Ayyanar Santhana Karuppasamy Petchiamman Temple situated at Nazarpuliyankulam Village, Velakallankulam Group, Kariyapatti Taluk, Virudhunagar District not otherwise than due process of law.

For Petitioner : Mr. Alagusundar. S,

For Respondents : Mr.A.S.Abul Kalaam Azad,
Government Advocate (Crl.Side) for R1 & R2

: Mr.C.Suresh Kumar for R3, R4, R6, R8,
R10, R11 & R13

ORDER

This writ petition is filed for *Writ of Mandamus* to direct the 2nd respondent not to harass the petitioner and also not to interfere with the Poojari Service of the Petitioner in the temple, viz., Arulmigu Sri Sadachiamman Oorkaval Ayyanar Santhana Karuppasamy Petchiamman Temple situated at Nazarpuliyankulam Village, Velakallankulam Group, Kariyapatti Taluk, Virudhunagar District.

2. Heard the learned counsel on either side.



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3. It is an admitted fact that the temple was constructed upon purchase of the land in the year 2016, and that an agreement was entered into between the private respondents and the petitioner, whereby the petitioner was permitted to act as a *Poosari*. However, certain allegations of theft have been levelled against the petitioner. In view of the same, the private respondents prevented the petitioner from continuing to perform *poosariship*. During the interregnum, one Kumar was appointed as *Poosari*. In the meantime, one Kalyani filed W.P.(MD) No.16323 of 2024, inter alia, seeking to quash the order passed by the Tahsildar and consequently to direct the official respondents to conduct the *Adi* festival. While considering the said writ petition, by order dated 19.07.2024, this Court observed that the private respondents had raised objections to Ponnukalai acting as priest and, consequently, restrained the said Ponnukalai from performing *poosariship* in the temple. However, the said order came to be passed without impleading Ponnukalai as a party and, thereby obtained order behind his back. Further, no enquiry have been conducted till date.



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4. In such circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that the petitioner is entitled to continue as *Poosari* on the strength of the agreement dated 15.06.2016, unless the same is cancelled in accordance with law. If the respondents intend to remove the petitioner, they shall do so only after conducting a proper enquiry. Until such time, the petitioner shall be permitted to continue exercising his *poosariship* rights. Accordingly, the respondents are restrained from interfering with the petitioner's *poosariship* rights, as stated above.

5. With the above observation, this Writ Petition is disposed of.

24.02.2026

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TO

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Virudhunagar District.
Virudhunagar..
2. The Inspector of Police,
Kariyapatti Police Station,
Kariyapatti,
Virudhunagar District..
3. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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S.SRIMATHY,J

LS

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