

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH.

Crl.Misc. No.M-7349 of 2015
Date of Decision : 4.3.2015

Pooja and another

.....Petitioners

Vs.

State of Haryana and others

.....Respondents

...

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAMESHWAR SINGH MALIK

...

Present : Mr. Surinder Thakur, Advocate for Mr.Sachin Luthra,, Advocate for
the petitioners.

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1. To be referred to the Reporter or not ?
2. Whether the judgement should be reported in Digest ?

RAMESHWAR SINGH MALIK, J

Both the petitiones are present in the Court and identified by their
counsel.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that both the petitioners
are major and they have married each other of their own free will but against the
wishes of private respondents No.4 to 7. However, there is no definite proof of
age of the petitioner no.1 available on the record, except her own affidavit
Anneuxre P-1. Learned counsel for the petitioners further submits that
apprehending danger to their life and liberty at the hands of private respondent
No.4 to 7, the petitioners moved a representation dated 28.2.2015 (Annexure P-

3) before the Superintendent of Police, Panipat-respondent No.2, but no action thereon has been taken so far.

In view of the non-availability of even a prima facie proof of the age of the petitioners, petitioners are directed to appear before the Superintendent of Police, Panipat-respondent no.2, who shall get the age of petitioner No.1 verified and thereafter, consider the threat perception raised by the petitioners, vide their representation dated 28.2.2015 (Annexure P-3), dispassionately and expeditiously, passing an appropriate order, as warranted by law, so as to ensure that no harm is caused to the life and liberty of the petitioners at the hands of respondent No.4 to 7.

The Superintendent of Police, Panipat-respondent No.2 shall also be at liberty to pass the order granting protection to the petitioners even during the pendency of the enquiry regarding the verification of age of petitioner No.1, in case he feels satisfied that petitioners are facing imminent danger to their life and liberty at the hands of private respondents.

However, lest this order is misunderstood, it is clarified that this order shall not mean that the petitioners had reached the age of marriage, as required by the law applicable to them, at the time of their marriage or that their marriage is legal as per the relevant provisions of law. It is so said because neither it is the issue involved in the present petition nor this Court is putting its seal of approval on the validity of marriage of the petitioners. In fact, it is the domain of the matrimonial Court of competent jurisdiction, to decide the validity of the marriage and that too on the basis of the pleadings taken and the evidence led by the parties in the given circumstances of each case.

It is also made clear that this order shall not entitle the petitioners for any protection against their arrest or continuance of any criminal proceedings, if

they are found involved in the commission of any cognizable offence. In case the petitioners had committed any offence, the law will take its own course.

With the observations made above, the present petition stands disposed of.

4.3.2015
GS

(RAMESHWAR SINGH MALIK)
JUDGE