



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT
DATED : 20.10.2016

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

TR.CMP(MD)No.309 of 2016

and

C.M.P(MD)No.5657 of 2016

Valli @ Valliammai

... Petitioner

vs.

Alexander

... Respondent

Petition filed under Section 24 of the Civil Procedure Code, to withdraw the HMOP.No.523 of 2016 from the file of the Family Court, Coimbatore and to transfer the same to the file of the Sub Court, Devakottai for trial.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Venkatesh

For Respondent : Mr.J.Anandkumar

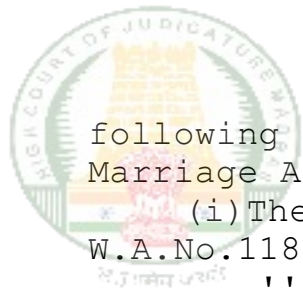
ORDER

The marriage between the petitioner and the respondent was solemnized on 23.09.2004 as per the Hindu rites and customs. Out of the wedlock, they have got two male children aged 10 and 7 years respectively and due to the strained relationship between the petitioner and the respondent, they are living separately. The respondent is now working at Coimbatore and not a native of Coimbatore.

2.The learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the present petition for transfer is filed mainly on the ground that the respondent filed the divorce petition in his working place, only with the view to harass the petitioner. Contrarily, she is living at Karaikudi along with her parents and unemployed. Further, her two children are studying at Karaikudi and her parents are taking care of both the children and the petitioner. She is dependant on her parents and she has no independent means of income to meet out the expenditure to conduct the case at Coimbatore. Further, she cannot travel leaving the two children.

3.The learned counsel for the respondent opposed the contentions of the petitioner by stating that there is a life threat to him and the petitioner and her relatives are frequently threatening him and it will be difficult for the respondent to contest the case, if it is transferred to Devakottai.

4.The principles with regard to transfer petitions, more specifically, in the matters of matrimonial cases, are in favour of women and the decisions of the High Court of Madras, in the



following cases interpreting Section 19(iii)(a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, also confirm that position:-

(i) The Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court of Madras in W.A.No.1181 of 2009, dated 09.07.2010 has held as follows:-

'21. The domicile or citizenship of the opposite party is immaterial in a case like this. In case the marriage was solemnized under Hindu Law marital relationship is governed by the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act. Therefore, Section 19 has to be given a purposeful interpretation. It is the residence of the wife, which determines the question of jurisdiction, in case the proceeding was initiated at the instance of the wife.

22. While considering a provision like Section 19 (iii-a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, the objects and reasons which prompted the parliament to incorporate such a provision has also to be taken note of. Sub Clause (iii-a) was inserted in Section 19 with a specific purpose. Experience is the best teacher. The Government found the difficulties faced by women in the matter of initiation of matrimonial proceedings. The report submitted by the Law Commission as well as National Commission for Women, underlying the need for such amendment so as to enable the women to approach the nearest jurisdictional court to redress their matrimonial grievances, were also taken note of by the Government. Therefore such a beneficial provision meant for the women of our Country should be given a meaningful interpretation by Courts.'

(ii) In yet another case in TR.CMP.Nos.138 and 139 of 2006, dated 30.08.2006, the High Court of Madras has considered the following judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court:-

'16. In AIR 2000 SC 3512 (1) (Mona Aresh Goel vs. Aresh Satya Goel), when the wife pleaded that she was unable to bear the traveling expenses and even to travel alone and stay at Bombay, the Supreme Court ordered transfer of proceedings.

In 2000 (10) SCC 304, the Honourable Supreme Court has held that where the petitioner's wife has pleaded lack of money, the same has to be considered.

In 2000 (9) SCC 355, the wife has filed a petition to transfer the proceedings initiated by the husband for divorce, at Bombay. The place of residence of the wife was at Jaipur, Rajasthan. In that case, the petitioner is having a small child and that she pleaded difficulty in going all the way from Jaipur to Bombay to contest the proceedings from time to time. Considering the distance and the difficulties faced by the wife, the Supreme Court has allowed the transfer petition.

In a decision reported in 2005 (12) SCC 395, the wife has sought for transfer of matrimonial proceedings and a divorce petition has been filed by the respondent's husband



at Baikunthpur to be transferred to Allahabad, where the petitioner's wife was residing, on the ground that it would be difficult for her to undertake such long distance journey, particularly in circumstances, in which she finds that the proceedings under Section 125 Cr.P.C. was already pending before the Family Court, Allahabad. Considering the difficulties faced by the wife and also the long distance journey, the Honourable Supreme Court was pleased to order transfer of the proceedings to Allahabad.

(iii) In a decision made in TR.CMP(MD)No.108 of 2010, dated 03.03.2011, the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, has observed as below:-

''18.It is true that section 19 of the Hindu Marriage Act, has been amended by insertion of proviso of (iii)(a) to section 19. Of Course, this amended section 19(iii)(a) gives special preference to the wife to file a petition or defending the case of the husband before the Court within whose jurisdiction she resides. The intention of the legislator is to safe-guard the interest and rights of the women, who are being subjected to harassment and cruelty. But this special preference conferred under section 19(iii)(a) of the Hindu Marriage Act shall not be used to wreck vengeance on the husband. There must be a justifiable cause to select the jurisdiction of the Court where she resides.''

5.Considering the facts and circumstances of this case and in view of the above pronouncements, this Court is of the view that the contention of the respondent that he has got a life threat, cannot be accepted and if there is such threat, appropriate action available under the law may be initiated by the respondent. Per contra, the petitioner is unemployed and unable to meet out her own expenditure. Further, she has two school going children and they are maintained by her parents. Therefore, this Court is inclined to accept the contentions of the petitioner and accordingly, this Transfer Civil Miscellaneous Petition is allowed and HMOP.No.523 of 2016 on the file of the Family Court, Coimbatore, is ordered to be transferred to the file of the Sub Court, Devakottai, forthwith. No costs. Consequently, C.M.P(MD) No.5657 of 2016 is closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS-II)

/True copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1)The Judge, Family Court, Coimbatore.

2)The Judge, Sub Court, Devakottai.

+1 CC to M/s.J.ANANDAKUMAR, Advocate, SR No.62248