



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 14.11.2016

Coram:

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

Tr.C.M.P. (MD) .No.317 of 2016
and C.M.P. (MD) No.5792 of 2016

S.Padmalakshmi

.. Petitioner/Respondent

Vs.

B.Sankar

.. Respondent/Petitioner

PRAYER: Transfer Civil Miscellaneous Petition filed under Section 24

of the Code of Civil Procedure, to withdraw the HMOP No.604 of 2015 from the file of the 1st Additional Family Court, Chennai and transfer the same to Sub Court, Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli District.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.Robinson

For Respondent : No appearance

O R D E R

This Transfer Civil Miscellaneous Petition is filed for transfer of H.M.O.P.No.604 of 2015 from the file of the I Additional Family Court, Chennai, to the file of the Sub Court, Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli District.

2. The marriage between the petitioner and the respondent was solemnized on 04.05.2012 as per the Hindu Rites and Customs and now the petitioner and the respondent are living separately, due to misunderstanding between them. The contention of the petitioner is that initially the respondent filed HMOP No.4024 of 2013 before the Family Court, Chennai, for restitution of conjugal rights and the same was withdrawn subsequently. Thereafter, the respondent filed HMOP No.604 of 2015 for divorce before the I Additional Family Court, Chennai. The contention of the petitioner is that she is unemployed and now living with her parents and with their support. Therefore, she is not in position to spend and travel to defend the case filed by the respondent before the I Additional Family Court, Chennai. The distance between Cheranmahadevi and Chennai is nearly about 650 Kms and the petitioner is not in a position to defend the case. Further, the father of the petitioner is suffering from cancer and they are leading their lives on monthly income and therefore, the present case for transfer deserves consideration.



3. Though learned counsel for the petitioner filed proof of service upon the respondent, the respondent has not appeared either in person or through pleader and therefore, the petition is taken up for final hearing.

4. The principles regarding transfer petitions, more specifically in the matters of matrimonial cases are well settled through the decisions of the High Court of Madras, in the following cases:-

(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:-

'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 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. In view of the above judgments, the place of the wife is preferable and in the present case, the circumstances narrated by the petitioner deserve consideration.

6. In the result, this petition is allowed with the following directions:

i. The learned I Additional Family Court, Chennai, is directed to transmit the records in respect of H.M.O.P.No. 604 of 2015 to the file of Sub Court, Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli District, forthwith

ii. The learned Sub Court, Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli District, is directed to try H.M.O.P.No 604 of 2015 and dispose of the same as expeditiously as



No costs. Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

Sd/
Assistant Registrar(Records)

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Sub Assistant Registrar.

To

- 1.The I Additional Family Court, Chennai
- 2.The Sub Court, Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli District.

+1CC to M/S.A.Robinson, Advocate, SR.No. 68399

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