



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED:01.12.2016

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

TR.C.M.P(MD)No.524 of 2016

and

C.M.P(MD)No.10767 of 2016

G.Dhanalakshmi

... Petitioner

Vs.

T.Selvakumar

... Respondent

Prayer: Petition filed under Section 24 of Civil Procedure Code to withdraw the H.M.O.P.No.482 of 2016 pending on the file of the Sub-Court at Poonamallee, Chennai and to transfer the same to the Sub-Court, Melur, Madurai District to try along with H.M.O.P.No.395 of 2016.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.Muthumalai

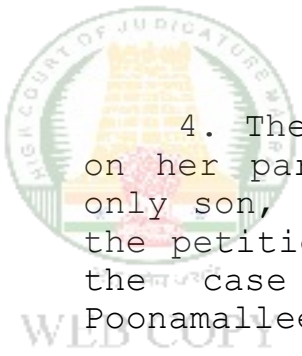
For Respondent : No Appearance

ORDER

The present petition is filed seeking to withdraw the case from the file of the Sub-Court at Poonamallee, Thiruvallur District in H.M.O.P.No.482 of 2016 and transfer the same to the file of the Sub-Court, Melur, Madurai District to be tried along with H.M.O.P.No.395 of 2016.

2.The marriage between the petitioner and respondent was solemnized on 02.02.1996 as per the Hindu Rites and Customs. Out of the wedlock, a male child was born and now aged about 16 years and residing with the petitioner and studying 11th standard in C.E.O.A School at Madurai.

3. The contention of the petitioner is that the respondent is working as Software Engineer in Chennai and due to strained relationship between the parties, they are residing separately. The respondent filed H.M.O.P.No.482 of 2016 before the Sub-Court, Poonamallee, Thiruvallur District, seeking divorce and the petitioner filed H.M.O.P.No.395 of 2016 before the Sub-Court, Melur, Madurai District, for restitution of conjugal rights.



4. The petitioner states that she is unemployed and depending on her parents for her livelihood and for the education of his only son, who is studying 11th standard. Such being the position, the petitioner is not in a position to spend and travel to defend the case of divorce filed by the respondent/husband at Poonamallee, Thiruvallur District.

5. The private note was served to the respondent and the respondent neither appeared in person nor through pleader and hence, the case is taken up for final hearing.

6. 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 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.

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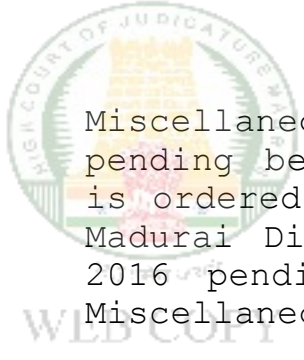
In 2000 (9) SCC 355, the wife has filed a petition to transfer the proceedings initiated by the husband for divorce, at Bombay. The place of residence of the wife was at Jaipur, Rajasthan. In that case, the petitioner is having a small child and that she pleaded difficulty in going all the way from Jaipur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

7. In view of the ratio laid down in the aforesaid Judgements and considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the opinion that the present case for transfer deserves to be considered and accordingly, this Transfer Civil



Miscellaneous Petition is allowed and H.M.O.P.No.482 of 2016 pending before the Sub-Court, Poonamallee, Thiruvallur District, is ordered to be transferred to the file of the Sub-Court, Melur, Madurai District, forthwith, to try along with H.M.O.P.No.395 of 2016 pending on its file. No costs. Consequently, connected Miscellaneous petition is also closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(Crl.side)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

- 1.The Subordinate Judge, Poonamallee, Thiruvallur District.
- 2.The Subordinate Judge, Melur, Madurai District.

+1 cc to MR.K.MUTHUMALAI, Advocate SR.No.78400

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SMA/SKN/23.12.2016:4P/4C