

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

**CRM-M-3995-2018 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 16.05.2018**

Rahul

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ANITA CHAUDHRY

Present: Mr. A.P. Kaushal, Advocate
for the petitioner(s).

Mr. K.S. Aulakh, D.A.G., Punjab.

Mr. Munish Puri, Advocate
for the complainant.

ANITA CHAUDHRY, J

The petitioner is seeking regular bail in FIR No.113 dated 15.07.2016, registered under Sections 363/366 of IPC and Section 4 of POCSO Act, 2012 at Police Station Division No.3, Jalandhar.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is in custody since 13.08.2016 and it was the case of runaway couple and a protection petition was filed. Counsel states that the protection petition was disposed of vide order dated 25.01.2017 (Annexure P-3) and the boy was arrested before that. Counsel further states that the girl had made a statement under Section 164 Cr.P.C. in favour of the petitioner.

The case had been adjourned on the last date as it was informed that the Investigating Officer remains to be examined.

Learned State counsel informs that Investigating Officer had met with a serious accident in the first week of May and now he is not in a position to make a statement at an early date and the case is fixed for prosecution evidence on 18.05.2018.

Though only the Investigating Officer remains to be examined but it is stated that he had met with a serious accident and would not be in a position to go on the next date.

The petitioner is in custody since 13.08.2016.

The trial would take time. Without commenting anything on the merits of the case, the petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing surety and adequate bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate. It is also ordered that the petitioner would not contact the girl in any manner.

May 16, 2018

ps-I

**(ANITA CHAUDHRY)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No