

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

CWP No. 32312 of 2019  
Date of decision: 19.12.2019

**Dr. Jatinder Bhullar**

**.....Petitioner**

**V/s.**

**U.T Chandigarh and others**

**.....Respondents**

**CORAM: - HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR**

Present: Ms. Rania S. Thakur, Advocate,  
for the petitioner.

Mr. L.S. Virk, Advocate,  
for respondent Nos. 1, 2 and 4.

Mr. Harpreet Singh, Advocate,  
for respondent No.5.

Mr. Gurvinder Singh Sidhu, Advocate,  
for respondent No.6.

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**Sanjay Kumar, J. (Oral)**

This writ petition was filed seeking a direction to the respondents to consider the plight of the petitioner, Professor Jatinder Bhullar, aged 84 years, who was admitted at the Senior Citizen's Home, Chandigarh, the fourth respondent, and was unable to give her consent to access her own funds (Fixed Deposits) in the State Bank of India to meet her medical treatment and expenses. The petitioner, Dr. Jatinder Bhullar, was represented by her next friend, Dr. Usha Singh, aged 71 years.

Keeping in mind the circumstances cited by the next friend of the petitioner, this Court directed steps to be taken to implead the hospital where the petitioner was undergoing treatment as well as the State Bank of India, P.U. Campus Branch, Sector 14, Chandigarh, in its own name. Pursuant thereto, CM No.17210 of 2019 was filed in this writ petition and the same was ordered on 18.11.2019, bringing on record the Healing Hospital, Sector 34, Chandigarh, and the State Bank of India, P.U. Campus Branch, Sector 14, Chandigarh, as the fifth and sixth respondents.

Thereafter, by order dated 04.12.2019, Mr. L.S Virk, learned Additional Government Pleader, appearing for the Union Territory Chandigarh, was directed to secure verification of the bills generated by the fifth respondent-Hospital, through the Department of Women and Child Welfare, so as to submit a report as to the genuineness thereof. The matter was accordingly adjourned to 19.12.2019.

Today, however, Ms. Rania S. Thakur, learned counsel, would inform this Court that Dr. Jatinder Bhullar, the petitioner, expired on 18.12.2019. She would state that apart from the hospital bills which are yet to be cleared, the salaries due to the attendants of the petitioner during her lifetime are also outstanding. She would further state that the expenditure that would have to be incurred towards the last rites of the petitioner would also have to be met.

Mr. Gurvinder Singh Sidhu, learned counsel for the sixth respondent-Bank, would concede that fixed deposits in the name of the deceased petitioner are lying with the bank.

Given the aforesaid circumstances, this Court is of the opinion that it would be just and proper that the sixth respondent-Bank liquidates the deceased petitioner's fixed deposit for the lowest amount in the first instance to meet the expenditure on bill-to-bill basis. As it is stated that the bank had earlier disbursed the salaries of the attendants, the sixth respondent-bank shall verify its past disbursements and meet the outstanding payments due towards salaries of the deceased petitioner's attendants till the date of her death. As regard the expenses that would be incurred towards last rites of the deceased petitioner, the bank shall release payments upon verification of each bill that is submitted in that regard. After completion of the verification of the fifth respondent-Hospital's bills by the Union Territory, through its Women and Child Welfare Department, the bank shall release the amount due towards each such verified bill. It would be open to the bank to liquidate more than one fixed deposit, if necessary, and the balance amount, if any, shall be re-invested in a fixed deposit until the assets of the deceased petitioner are dealt with in accordance with law.

The writ petition is disposed of with above directions.

No order as to costs.

**(SANJAY KUMAR)**  
**JUDGE**

19.12.2019

rakesh

whether speaking/non speaking : Yes/no

whether reportable/non reportable : Yes/no