

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

212

CRM-M-19181-2020
Date of decision: 03.09.2020

Manpreet Singh

....Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Agnihotri

Present: Mr. Simranjit Singh, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, Asstt. A.G., Punjab.

GIRISH AGNIHOTRI, J. (Oral)

The matter has been taken up through video-conferencing on account of restrictions due to outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

Petitioner-Manpreet Singh, stated to be aged 17 years, has filed the present petition *inter alia* praying for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.75 dated 26.06.2019 under Sections 363, 366-A of IPC and Section 3 and 4 of Prevention of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012 (Section 376 IPC added later on) registered at Police Station Badhni Kalan, District Moga.

In the petition, it has been *inter alia* pleaded that the petitioner has been in custody since 30.06.2019.

Notice in this case was issued on 05.08.2020. However, no reply has been filed.

Learned State counsel prays for one more opportunity to file reply.

On asking of the Court, learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Pritam Singh, informs the Court that challan in this case was presented on 08.08.2019 and charges are yet to be framed.

Faced with the situation, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that due to the present COVID-19 situation and also the fact that trial is likely to take some time, detention of the petitioner in jail would be dangerous to his life.

In view of the peculiar facts as noticed above, considering the existing situation due to COVID and the fact that trial is likely to take time, this Court deems it appropriate to release the petitioner on regular bail to the satisfaction of Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned, subject to his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds. However, it is made clear that anything observed herein shall not be construed as an expression on merits of the case.

The petition stands disposed of accordingly.

(GIRISH AGNIHOTRI)
JUDGE

03.09.2020

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Whether speaking/ reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether Reportable:

Yes/No