

**Sr. No.212
IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

**TA No.685 of 2019 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 05.03.2020**

Shruti	Versus	... Applicant
Tarun Kumar		... Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN MONGA

Present:- Mr. B.S.Sidhu, Advocate,
for the applicant.

None for the respondent.

ARUN MONGA, J.(ORAL)

1. Applicant-wife seeks transfer of petition filed by the respondent-husband under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 for restitution of conjugal rights bearing HMA/284/2019 titled as "Shruti Vs. Tarun Kumar" pending in the Court of learned Principal Judge, Family Court, Panchkula to the Court of competent jurisdiction at Bathinda.

2. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that petition under Section 125 Cr.P.C. seeking grant of maintenance and complaint under Domestic Violence Act, 2005 against the respondent-husband filed by the applicant-wife are already pending at Bathinda.

3. Learned counsel for the applicant further submits that applicant is residing at Bathinda with her old age mother. The distance between Panchkula and Bathinda is about 228 kms. Two minor daughters born out of the wedlock are in the custody of applicant-wife, who need constant care and attention of the mother.

She cannot leave them behind to attend the Court proceedings.

Therefore, it is difficult for her to go to Panchkula on each date of hearing.

4. On the last date of hearing, there was representation on behalf of the respondent and today none appears on his behalf. In the premise, this Court is of the view that respondent-husband has deemingly consented to the present transfer application by not contesting the same.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the applicant and have gone through the record of the case.

6. Both the cases pending between the parties are aftermath of matrimonial discord. Keeping in view the contentions in the application and the fact that petition under Section 125 Cr.P.C. seeking grant of maintenance and a complaint under Domestic Violence Act are already pending at Bathinda it would be proper, appropriate and in the interest of justice if both the cases are tried and decided at one place.

7. Reference may also be had to the observations made by Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India in cases titled as "***Sumita Singh Vs. Kumar Sanjay and another***", ***AIR 2002 SC 396*** and ***Rajni Kishor Pardeshi v. Kishor Babulal Pardeshi***" ***2005 (12) SCC 237***, wherein it was observed that in matrimonial matters, convenience of wife is to be preferred over the convenience of husband.

8. Even otherwise, the ethos as manifested under Article 51-A of Constitution of India also envisages that it shall be fundamental duty of every citizen of India to uphold the dignity of woman. In addition, per Article 15 (3), power has also been conferred on the State to make special provisions for women and children.

9. It was perhaps in this spirit that an amendment was inserted by Act 50 of 2003 with effect from 23.12.2003 in Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, whereby, in case of a wife being the petitioner, jurisdiction was conferred to the Court within local limits of whose ordinary original civil jurisdiction, the wife is residing on the date of presentation of the petition. In fact the very statement of objects and reasons of the Bill whereby Clause (iiia) was inserted in Section 19 (i) of HMA, by way of marriage laws (Amendment Act 2003) is as below:

“The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provide that a petition for relief under the provisions of these Acts shall be presented to the District Court within the limits of whose original civil jurisdiction the marriage was solemnized or the respondent, at the time of the presentation of the petition, resided or the parties to the marriage last resided together or the petitioner was residing at the time of the presentation of the petition, in a case where the respondent was at the time residing outside the territories to which these Acts extended or had not been heard of as being alive for a period of seven years by those who would naturally have heard of him if he were alive. However, these provisions are not considered adequate or fair as far the women are concerned. Under the existing provisions, a petition cannot be filed by the aggrieved wife to the District Court within the local limits of whose ordinary jurisdiction she may be residing. In view thereof, the Government has decided to amend the provisions of these Acts so that the wife can also file petition in the District Court within local limits of whose jurisdiction she may be residing.”

10. After the aforesaid amendment, husband can only institute proceedings, either where marriage was solemnized or where the wife is residing or where the parties last resided together.

Only in a case where wife is residing outside India, the husband can institute proceedings where he is residing. Whereas, wife can also file a petition in the District Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction she herself may be residing. The said right has been exclusively conferred on a wife obviously keeping her convenience in mind in the matrimonial matters.

11. In the premise, present application is allowed. The petition in question pending before the Court of learned Principal Judge, Family Court, Panchkula is ordered to be withdrawn from that Court and is transferred to the District Judge, Bathinda for its disposal in accordance with law by the Court concerned.

(ARUN MONGA)
JUDGE

05.03.2020
vandana

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether Reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No