

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

205

CRM-M-18823-2021 (O&M)

Date of decision: 21.05.2021

VISHAL SETHI @ SETHI LAL

...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present : Mr. Manoj Sharma, Advocate for
Mr. Harsh Chopra, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. RS Thind, DAG, Punjab.

ANIL KSHETARPAL, J. (Oral)

The hearing of the case was held through video conferencing on account of restricted functioning of the Courts.

The petitioner prays for bail pending trial in FIR No.196 dated 08.09.2020, registered under Sections 363/366 and 376 IPC and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (added later on), at Police Station Nangal, District Ropar.

As per the case of the prosecution, the FIR was registered on the statement of Raj Kumar. He has stated that his brother-in-law along with the petitioner started coming to his house and the petitioner started interacting with his daughter Kamla Devi aged about 17 ½ years. Thereafter, his daughter went missing on 31.08.2020 when he and his wife were away in the hospital.

Learned counsel representing the petitioner contends that the

petitioner married with the alleged victim on 06.10.2020. She, after having attained majority, has opted to stay with the petitioner. He further submits that in her statement recorded under Section 164 Cr.PC. by the Magistrate, she has stated that she wants to live with the petitioner.

Per contra, Mr. R.S. Thind, DAG, Punjab, has drawn the attention of the Court to the fact that the petitioner is an accused in as many as 20 more criminal cases.

On the other hand, learned counsel representing the petitioner submits that all these cases are between the period 2011 to 2016 and are with respect to petty offences i.e. theft etc. He submits that after 10.08.2016, there is no case against the petitioner and the petitioner, now, wants to mend his ways.

Keeping in view the aforesaid facts, it is considered appropriate to direct the release of the petitioner on regular bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds and heavy surety to the satisfaction of the learned Trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate, concerned.

Accordingly, the petition is allowed with the aforesaid directions.

21.05.2021
ashok

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes / No
Whether reportable:	Yes / No