

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

**TA No.112 of 2022 (O&M)
Date of decision: 04.08.2022**

Geeta Dhankhar

....Petitioner

Versus

Vishal Khatri

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present: Mr. Aayush Gupta, Advocate
for the petitioner.

None for the respondent.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN J. (Oral)

Prayer in this petition is for transfer of the petition filed under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, pending in the Family Court, Sonapat to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Jhajjar.

Vide order dated 08.02.2022, the following order was passed:-

“Applicant-wife has filed the transfer application for seeking transfer of the petition filed under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, at the instance of respondent-husband, presently pending in the Family Court, Sonipat, to the Court of competent jurisdiction at Jhajjar.

It is submitted that the applicant is presently residing at her parental place and she has no independent source of income. Even, she has filed petition under Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act, which is pending in the Court at Jhajjar. Also, she has filed a complaint before Superintendent of Police, Jhajjar, for registration of the criminal case. It is contended that she is totally dependent upon her parents. Even, the distance between Sonipat and Jhajjar is about 65 kilometers and it is difficult for her to pursue the litigation thrust upon her, at the instance of her husband.

Notice of motion for 22.04.2022.”

Counsel for the petitioner has argued that on account of a matrimonial discord, the petitioner has filed a petition/complaint under the Domestic Violence Act at Jhajjar.

Counsel for the petitioner has further submitted that the respondent/husband has filed the petition under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, as a counter-blast, before the Principal Judge, Family Court, Sonapat.

Counsel for the petitioner has also argued that on account of a petition filed by the respondent/husband, the petitioner is facing great difficulty in prosecuting the said case as there is a distance of about 65 Kms from Jhajjar to Sonapat.

Counsel for the petitioner has relied upon the judgments ***“Sumita Singh vs Kumar Sanjay”***, 2002 SC 396 and ***“Rajani Kishor Pardeshi vs Kishor Babulal Pardeshi”***, 2005(12) SCC 237, wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court has observed that *while deciding the transfer application, the Courts are required to give more weightage and consideration to the convenience of the female litigants and transfer of legal proceedings from one Court to another should ordinarily be allowed, taking into consideration their convenience and the Courts should desist from putting female litigants under undue hardships.*”

Counsel for the petitioner has also relied upon the judgment ***“N.C.V. Aishwarya vs A.S. Saravana Karthik Sha,”*** 2022 Live Law (SC) 627, wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court has observed as under:-

9. The cardinal principle for exercise of power under

section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure is that the ends of justice should demand the transfer of the suit, appeal or other proceeding. In matrimonial matters, wherever Courts are called upon to consider the plea of transfer, the Courts have to take into consideration the economic soundness of both the parties, the social strata of the spouses and their behavioural pattern, their standard of life prior to the marriage and subsequent thereto and the circumstances of both the parties in eking out their livelihood and under whose protective umbrella they are seeking their sustenance to life. Given the prevailing socioeconomic paradigm in the Indian society, generally, it is the wife's convenience which must be looked at while considering transfer.

10. Further, when two or more proceedings are pending in different Courts between the same parties which raise common question of fact and law, and when the decisions in the cases are interdependent, it is desirable that they should be tried together by the same Judge so as to avoid multiplicity in trial of the same issues and conflict of decisions.”

It is well settled that while considering the transfer of a matrimonial dispute/case at the instance of the wife, the Court is to consider the family condition of the wife, the custody of the minor child, economic condition of the wife, her physical health and earning capacity of the husband and most important the convenience of the wife i.e. she cannot travel alone without assistance of a male member of her family, connectivity of the place to and fro from her place of residence as well as bearing of the litigation charges and travelling expenses.

As per the office report, the respondent has been served, however, there is no representation on his behalf.

After hearing the counsel for the petitioner, considering the fact that the petitioner/wife will have to bear the litigation expenses and transportation expenses and in view of the judgments i.e. ***Sumita***

Singh's case (supra), Rajani Kishor Pardeshi's case (supra) and N.C.V. Aishwarya's case (supra) passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this Court deem it appropriate to allow the present petition, subject to the following conditions:-

- 1. The petition filed under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, pending before the Family Court, Sonapat will be transferred to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Jhajjar.*
- 2. The District Judge, Jhajjar, will assign the said petition to the competent Court of jurisdiction.*
- 3. The Family Court, Sonapat is directed to transfer all the record pertaining to the aforesaid case to District Judge, Jhajjar.*
- 4. The parties are directed to appear before the trial Court, Jhajjar, within a period of 01 month from today.*

Disposed of.

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

04.08.2022

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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No