

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

**TA No.138 of 2022 (O&M)
Date of decision: 25.08.2022**

Mamta

....Petitioner

Versus

Sunil Kumar

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present: Mr. Robin Singh, 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 25 of the Guardians & Wards Act, pending in the Family Court, Bathinda to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Barnala.

Vide order dated 24.03.2022, the following order was passed:-

“The applicant is seeking transfer of a petition bearing No.GW-67-2020 titled as 'Sunil Kumar Vs. Mamta' filed by the respondent under Section 25 of the Guardians & Wards Act, 1890 (for short, 'the Act') which is pending in the Court of learned Principal Judge, Family Court, Bathinda (Annexure P-1), to a Court of competent jurisdiction at Barnala.

In compliance of order dated 03.03.2022, learned counsel on instructions submits that the respondent-husband has instituted a petition under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 for decree of divorce at Family Court, Bathinda.

Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant is living at the mercy of her parents at Barnala along with her two minor children qua whom, the respondent-husband is seeking custody. He submits that she would be greatly inconvenienced to travel along with

her children to Bathinda, on each and every date of hearing as the distance between the two places is 65-70 kms. It has also been submitted that as per Section 9 of the Act, the petition should be instituted at a place where the minor children ordinarily reside.

Notice of motion for 07.07.2022.

Meantime, the Court below shall adjourn the case beyond the date fixed by this Court.”

Counsel for the petitioner has argued that on account of a matrimonial discord, the respondent/husband has filed the aforementioned petition, as a counter-blast, before the Principal Judge, Family Court, Bathinda.

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 70 Kms from Barnala to Bathinda.

Counsel for the petitioner has further contended that the petitioner is having two minor children, who are living in her care and custody and she is facing difficulty to defend the case as she has to travel from Barnala to Bathinda.

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 25 of the Guardians & Wards Act, pending before the Family Court, Bathinda will be transferred to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Barnala.*
- 2. The District Judge, Barnala, will assign the said petition to the competent Court of jurisdiction.*
- 3. The Family Court, Bathinda is directed to transfer all the record pertaining to the aforesaid case to District Judge, Barnala.*
- 4. The parties are directed to appear before the trial Court, Barnala, within a period of 01 month from today.*
- 5. The Family Court, Barnala will make all endeavour to refer the case before the Mediation and Conciliation Centre for exploring the possibility of some amicable settlement between the parties.*
- 6. The Court concerned, where the litigation pending between the parties, will accommodate them with one date in one calendar month.*

Disposed of.

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

25.08.2022

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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No