

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

222

TA-443-2021 (O&M)
Date of decision: 16.09.2022

Shruti Vohra

...Petitioner

Versus

Gagan Vohra

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present:- Mr. Parminder Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner.

None for the respondent.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J. (Oral)

While issuing notice of motion on 20.04.2021, the following
order was passed:

“Present application has been filed by the applicant-wife for seeking transfer of the petition filed by the respondent-husband under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act (as amended upto date) for Restitution of Conjugal Rights from Panipat to Karnal.

Learned counsel for the applicant-wife argues that after the applicant-wife was thrown out of the matrimonial house, she initiated proceedings against the respondent-husband under Sections 406, 498-A, 323, 506 of IPC as well as under Section 12 of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the present petition filed by the respondent-husband at Panipat under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act (as amended upto date) for Restitution of Conjugal Rights is only to harass the applicant-wife and to retaliate in respect of the legal proceedings undertaken by the applicant-wife pending at Karnal. Learned counsel for

the applicant-wife argues that the applicant-wife is 9 months' pregnant and is unable to attend the proceedings at Panipat and keeping in view the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Neelam Kanwar Vs. Devinder Singh Kanwar*, 2000(10) SCC 589 as well as in *Sumita Singh Vs. Kumar Sanjay and another*, 2001 (10) SCC 41, the suit/proceedings between the parties ordinarily should be tried at the place where the woman is residing unless and until there are special reasons not to do so, hence, the petition filed by the respondent-husband under Section 9 of Hindu Marriage Act (as amended upto date) for Restitution of Conjugal Rights be transferred from Panipat to competent Court in Karnal.

Notice of motion for 05.08.2021.”

Learned counsel 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 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.*”

Learned counsel for the petitioner has further relied upon **2022 Live Law (SC) 627 N.C.V. Aishwarya vs. A.S. Saravana Karthik Sha**, wherein Hon'ble Supreme Court has held 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.”

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

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 family condition of the wife, custody of the minor child, economic condition of the wife, her physical health and earning capacity of the husband and most important, 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.

After hearing the counsel for the petitioner, considering the fact that if the aforesaid petition is not transferred, the petitioner-wife will have

to bear the litigation expenses and transportation expenses and also in view of the ratio of law laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Sumita Singh's** case (supra), **Rajani Kishor Pardeshi's** case (supra) and **N.C.V. Aishwarya's** case (supra), this Court deems it appropriate to allow the present petition, with the following directions:-

- (i) *The petition filed under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, pending before the Family Court, Panipat will be transferred to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Karnal.*
- (ii) *The District Judge, Karnal will assign the said petition to the competent Court of jurisdiction.*
- (iii) *The Family Court at Panipat is directed to transfer all the record pertaining to the aforesaid case to District Judge, Karnal.*
- (iv) *The parties are directed to appear before the trial Court at Karnal within a period of 01 month from today.*
- (v) *The Courts concerned, where the cases are pending between the parties, will accommodate them with one date in a calendar month.*

However, liberty is granted to the respondent-husband to revive this petition, if he intends to contest the same, provided that:-

- (i) *The respondent will clear all the arrears of maintenance amount, if any, in terms of the petition filed by the petitioner either under Section 125 Cr.P.C. or Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act or Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act.*
- (ii) *The respondent will file an affidavit giving undertaking to pay Rs.1,000/- per day, to the petitioner for attending the Court proceedings at Panipat, on each and every date of hearing.*

(iii) *The respondent will bring a demand draft of Rs.25,000/- towards the litigation expenses of the petitioner to pursue the case at Panipat, in case the respondent opts to contest this petition.*

16.09.2022

Waseem Ansari

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No