

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA

CRIMINAL REVISION No.704 of 2022

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-323 Year-2022 Thana- MAHUA District- Vaishali

AMAN KUMAR S/O RAJIV KUMAR Through his natural guardian father
Rajiv Kumar S/O- Ram Iqbal Ray both Resident of Village- Rahsa East, P.S.-
Bhagwanpur, District- Vaishali.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

THE STATE OF BIHAR

... .. Respondent/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Kaushal Kishor
For the Respondent/s : Mr. Tapeswar Sharma

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KUMAR SINHA

ORAL ORDER

4 25-07-2023 Heard learned Counsel for the petitioner and learned
Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the State.

2. This appeal has been filed against the judgment and
order dated 13.09.2022 passed by learned 1st Additional
Sessions Judge, Vaishali at Hajipur. By impugned order, the
learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Vaishali at Hajipur, has
affirmed the order, dated 08.06.2022, passed by the J. J. Board,
Hajipur, in G. R. No. 2307 of 2022/Tr. No. 621 of 2022, arising
out of Mahua P. S. Case No. 323 of 2022, registered for the
offences punishable under Sections 302/120(B)/34 of the Indian
Penal Code and Section 27 of the Arms Act.



3. The petitioner is not named in the First Information Report. The prosecution case, as per the First Information Report, is that, on 12.05.2022 at about 10:00 AM, when the granddaughter of the informant was returning from coaching, she was intercepted by accused Rahul Kumar and one unknown person, both of whom were on motorcycle, thereafter, accused Rahul Kumar fired on the informant's granddaughter due to which she died on the spot. It has further been alleged that the name of the petitioner has come due to confessional statement of accused Rahul Kumar, who stated that the arms was made available by the petitioner.

4. Learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner was declared juvenile by order, dated 08.06.2022, passed by the learned Juvenile Justice Board, Hajipur, after coming to the conclusion that the petitioner was minor at the time of alleged occurrence and was aged about 16 years, 04 months and 23 days. He next submits that by the impugned order, the learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Vaishali at Hajipur, has rejected the prayer of the petitioner for bail on erroneous of gravity of allegation and nature of offence. He next submits that learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Vaishali at Hajipur, did not consider the social investigation report in



correct legal perspective and the petitioner is in custody since 18.05.2022.

5. Learned Counsel relies upon Section 3 (i), (iv), (v) and (xiv) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”), which are quoted herein below:-

“(i) Principle of presumption of innocence:- Any child shall be presumed to be an innocent of any mala fide or criminal intent up to the age of eighteen years.

(iv) Principle of best interest:- All decisions regarding the child shall be based on the primary consideration that they are in the best interest of the child and to help the child to develop full potential.

(v) Principle of family responsibility:- The primary responsibility of care, nurture and protection of the child shall be that of the biological family or adoptive or foster parents, as the case may be.

(xiv) Principle of fresh start:- All past records of any child under the Juvenile Justice system should be erased except in special circumstances”



6. Learned Counsel, referring to above mentioned provisions of law, submits that as per the scheme of the Act there is presumption of innocence of a child in conflict with law and all decisions regarding the child shall be taken in consonance with the principle of the best interest of the child. He further submits that the principle of family responsibility and principle of fresh start have also been recognized under the Act.

7. Learned Counsel for the petitioner further relied upon Section 12 of the Act, which is quoted as follows:-

“12. Bail to a person who is apparently a child alleged to be in conflict with law.- (1) When any person, who is apparently a child and is alleged to have committed a bailable or non-bailable offence, is apprehended or detained by the police or appears or brought before a Board, such person shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or in any other law for the time being in force, be released on bail with or without surety or placed under the supervision of a probation officer or under the care of any fit person:

Provided that such person shall not be so released if there appears reasonable grounds for believing that the release is likely to bring that person into association with any



known criminal or expose the said person to moral, physical or psychological danger or the person's release would defeat the ends of justice, and the Board shall record the reasons for denying the bail and circumstances that led to such a decision.

(2) When such person having been apprehended is not released on bail under subsection (1) by the officer - in-charge of the police station, such officer shall cause the person to be kept only in an observation home in such manner as may be prescribed until the person can be brought before a Board.

(3) When such person is not released on bail under sub-section (1) by the Board, it shall make an order sending him to an observation home or a place of safety, as the case may be, for such period during the pendency of the inquiry regarding the person, as may be specified in the order.

(4) When a child in conflict with law is unable to fulfill the conditions of bail order within seven days of the bail order, such child shall be produced before the Board for modification of the conditions of bail.”

8. In reference to Section 12 of the Act, learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that bail to a child in conflict with law is a rule and denial is exception.



9. Learned Counsel, in the aforesaid background, submits that the learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Vaishali at Hajipur, has failed to consider the scheme of the Act and has committed irregularity in rejecting the bail of the petitioner on the ground of gravity of allegation and nature of offence.

10. Learned Counsel further submits that the mother of the petitioner is ready to take proper care of the petitioner after release on bail and shall not allow him to fall into bad company and would try to bring change in his behaviour, if required.

11. On the other hand, learned Additional Public Prosecutor submits that from perusal of Section 12 of the Act, it appears that bail is a matter of right to a child in conflict with law and denial is exception and in view of the fact that mother has given an undertaking to reform her child, i.e. the petitioner, this Court may consider to pass appropriate order in the best interest of the child in conflict with law.

12. Having regard to the submissions made by the parties and on perusal of the impugned order, I am of the considered opinion that there is possibility of reform in the petitioner inasmuch as he has got no criminal antecedent and the mother of the petitioner is ready to take proper care of the



petitioner after his release on bail and there is no likelihood that the petitioner will fall into association with any known criminal(s). Gravity of allegation and nature of offence are not a consideration while deciding the bail application of juvenile. As such, the conclusion arrived at by learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Vaishali at Hajipur, that the petitioner may fall into bad company, is not sustainable in the facts and circumstances of the case.

13. Accordingly, this appeal is allowed and the order dated 03.01.2020, passed by learned 1st Additional Sessions Judge, Vaishali at Hajipur, is hereby set aside.

14. Let the petitioner, above named, be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs. 10,000/- (ten thousand) with two sureties of the like amount each to the satisfaction of learned Juvenile Justice Board, Hajipur, in connection with G. R. No. 2307 of 2022/Tr. No. 621 of 2022, arising out of Mahua P. S. Case No. 323 of 2022, subject to the following conditions:-

(i) that one of the bailors shall be the mother of the petitioner;

(ii) that the mother of the petitioner shall file an affidavit before the learned Juvenile Justice Board, Hajipur, giving specific undertaking that after release of the petitioner on



bail, she will take proper care of the petitioner and will not allow him to fall into bad company.

(Anil Kumar Sinha, J)

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