



WEB COPY

Tr.C.M.P.No.955 of 2



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 23.01.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

Tr.C.M.P.No.955 of 2022

and

C.M.P.No.16423 of 2022

Meenakshi

..

Petitioner

vs

Rengaraj

..

Respondent

Prayer: Transfer CMP is filed under Section 24 of the Civil Procedure Code, to withdraw the H.M.O.P.No.81 of 2022, pending on the file of the Principal Sub Court, Mayiladuthurai and transfer the same to the Family Court at Chennai.

For Petitioner : Mrs.B.Yogapriya

For Respondent : Mr.A.Mohamed Ismail

ORDER

The transfer petition is filed to withdraw the H.M.O.P.No.81 of 2022, pending on the file of the Principal Sub Court, Mayiladuthurai and transfer the same to the Family Court at Chennai.



2. The marriage between the petitioner and the respondent was solemnized on 10.06.1984 as per the Hindu Rites and Customs. Two children were born from and out of the wedlock between the petitioner and the respondent and they are now aged about 35 and 28 years old respectively. Both the children got married and are living separately.

3. At old age, difference arose between the petitioner and the respondent and now they are living separately. The respondent / husband filed H.M.O.P.No.81 of 2022 for dissolution of marriage, now pending on the file of the Principal Sub-Court Mayiladuthurai.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner states that the petitioner is employed and in the verge of retirement. Therefore, she is not in a position to travel and contest the case filed by the respondent. More so, the place of the wife is preferable for adjudication of matrimonial disputes.

5. Learned counsel for the respondent raised an objection to transfer the case by stating that the petitioner is employed and is capable to travel



and contest the case at Mayiladuthurai or at Tambaram. Learned counsel for the respondent made a submission that the case may be transferred to Tambaram, enabling the respondent to contest the case. However, transferring the case to a place where there is not even a cause of action or either of the parties are residing, this Court is not inclined to consider the said contention of the learned counsel appearing for the respective parties.

6. The principles regarding transfer petitions, more specifically in the matters of matrimonial cases, are well settled through the three decisions of the High Court of Madras, in the following cases:-

(i) The Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court of Madras in ***W.A.No.1181 of 2009, dated 09.07.2010***, wherein in paragraphs-21 and 22, it has been observed as under:-

“21. The domicile or citizenship of the opposite party is immaterial in a case like this. In case the marriage was solemnized under Hindu Law marital relationship is governed by the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act. Therefore, Section 19 has to be given a purposeful interpretation. It is the residence of the wife, which determines the question of jurisdiction, in case



the proceeding was initiated at the instance of the wife.

22. While considering a provision like Section 19 (iii-a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, the objects and reasons which prompted the parliament to incorporate such a provision has also to be taken note of. Sub Clause (iii-a) was inserted in Section 19 with a specific purpose. Experience is the best teacher. The Government found the difficulties faced by women in the matter of initiation of matrimonial proceedings. The report submitted by the Law Commission as well as National Commission for Women, underlying the need for such amendment so as to enable the women to approach the nearest jurisdictional court to redress their matrimonial grievances, were also taken note of by the Government. Therefore such a beneficial provision meant for the women of our Country should be given a meaningful interpretation by Courts.”

(ii) In yet another case in ***Tr.CMP.Nos.138 and 139 of 2006, dated 30.08.2006***, the High Court of Madras has considered the following judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India:-

“(1) In the case of Mona Aresh Goel vs. Aresh Satya Goel [(2000) 9 SCC 255], when the wife pleaded



that she was unable to bear the traveling expenses and even to travel alone and stay at Bombay, the Supreme Court ordered transfer of proceedings.

*(2) In the case of **Geeta Heera vs. Harish Chander Heera [(2000) 10 SCC 304]**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that where the petitioner's wife has pleaded lack of money, the same has to be considered.*

*(3) In the case of **Lalita A.Ranga vs. Ajay Champalal Ranga [(2000) 9 SCC 355]**, the wife has filed a petition to transfer the proceedings initiated by the husband for divorce, at Bombay. The place of residence of the wife was at Jaipur, Rajasthan. In that case, the petitioner is having a small child and that she pleaded difficulty in going all the way from Jaipur to Bombay to contest the proceedings from time to time. Considering the distance and the difficulties faced by the wife, the Supreme Court has allowed the transfer petition.*

*(4) In a decision in **Archana Singh vs. Surendra Bahadur Singh [(2005) 12 SCC 395]**, the wife has sought for transfer of matrimonial proceedings and a divorce petition has been filed by the respondent's husband at Baikunthpur to be transferred to Allahabad, where the petitioner's wife was residing, on the ground*



that it would be difficult for her to undertake such long distance journey, particularly in circumstances, in which she finds that the proceedings under 5 Section 125 Cr.P.C. was already pending before the Family Court, Allahabad. Considering the difficulties faced by the wife and also the long distance journey, the Honourable Supreme Court was pleased to order transfer of the proceedings to Allahabad.”

(iii) In a decision made in **TR.CMP(MD)No.108 of 2010, dated 03.03.2011**, the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, wherein in paragraph-18, it has been observed as below:-

“18. It is true that section 19 of the Hindu Marriage Act, has been amended by insertion of proviso of (iii)(a) to section 19. Of Course, this amended section 19(iii)(a) gives special preference to the wife to file a petition or defending the case of the husband before the Court within whose jurisdiction she resides. The intention of the Legislator is to safe-guard the interest and rights of the women, who are being subjected to harassment and cruelty. But this special preference conferred under section 19(iii)(a) of the Hindu Marriage Act shall not be used to wreck vengeance on the husband. There must be a justifiable



WEB COPY

Tr.C.M.P.No.955 of 2



cause to select the jurisdiction of the Court where she resides.”

7. Considering the facts and circumstances, the H.M.O.P.No.81 of 2022, pending on the file of the Principal Sub Court, Mayiladuthurai stands transferred to the Family Court, Chennai.

8. The Principal Sub Court, Mayiladuthurai is directed to transmit the case papers within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

9. With these directions, this transfer petition stands allowed. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petition is closed. There will be no order as to costs.

23.01.2023

drm

Index : Yes / No

Speaking order / Non-speaking order

To

1. The Principal Sub Court, Mayiladuthurai.
2. The Family Court, Chennai.



WEB COPY

Tr.C.M.P.No.955 of 2



S.M.SUBRAMANIAM, J.

(drm)

Tr.C.M.P.No.955 of 2022
and
C.M.P.No.16423 of 2022

23.01.2023