

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

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2023:PHHC:082080

CRWP No.6018 of 2023

Date of decision: June 15th, 2023

Sagar Singh and another

....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present: Mr. Harwinderjeet Singh Sandhu, Advocate
for Mr. Prince Sharma, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Charanpreet Singh, Assistant Advocate General,
Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)

The instant criminal writ petition filed under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India for issuance of directions to the officials respondents to initiate action on the representation dated 12.06.2023 (Annexure P-3) submitted to the official respondents for protecting the life and liberty of the petitioners and with a further direction that the private respondents should not interfere in the personal life of the petitioners.

2. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners has contended that engagement ceremony of the petitioners was performed and arrange marriage was fixed by the families of both the petitioners. He submits that petitioner No.2 is a minor and now respondent No.4, her father, has broken the engagement because an older man has offered him to take his daughter abroad.

3. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,

2015 stipulates conditions where a minor is being forcibly subjected to perform marriage contrary to her will and to incorporate that it would be a case of a minor in need of care and protection of the state in terms of Section 2(14)(vii)(xii) which is reproduced as under:

Section 2(14)--"child in need of care and protection" means a child— (vii) who is missing or run away child, or whose parents cannot be found after making reasonable inquiry in such manner as may be prescribed; or (xii) who is at imminent risk of marriage before attaining the age of marriage and whose parents, family members, guardian and any other persons are likely to be responsible for solemnisation of such marriage;

4. Considering the above said circumstances and the fact that the aforesaid minor has approached the Court which has to assume the role of parents patriae with respect to a minor, it is desirable to direct as under:

1. The minor in this case happen to fall within the definition of child in need of care and protection as provided under section 2(14)(vii)(xii) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Senior Superintendent of Police/Superintendent of Police of the respective district shall depute a Child Welfare Police Officer to produce the minor/child before the Committee constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015.

II. The respective Committee shall conduct an enquiry contemplated under Section 36 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and pass an appropriate order under section 37 of the said Act, by associating all the stakeholder, and to ensure that the objects of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of

Children) Act 2015 are well served.

III. The Child Welfare Committee shall take appropriate decision with respect to the boarding and lodging of the minor and also to conduct enquiry on all issues relating to and affecting safety and well-being of the child/minor.

IV. During the pendency of such adjudication and passing of orders as contemplated under Section 37 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, the committee shall also take appropriate interim/decisions as regards placement of a child/custody of the child in need of care and protection.

V. The concerned SSPs/SPs shall also take appropriate steps as warranted by law against the threat perception to the minor as well as to her next friend, through whom the minor has approached this Court and to ensure that the respective petitioners are protected from any physical harm at the instance of the respondents in respective cases.

VI. The petitioners are directed to appear in the office of SSP/SP of the respective Districts within a period of 03 days from receipt of this copy, failing which the concerned SSP/SP shall depute a Child Welfare Police Officer to produce the minor before the Child Welfare Committee within a period of 01 week thereafter.

VII. The Child Welfare Committee constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, shall send a compliance report to this Court.

5. Registry of this Court is directed to send a copy of this order along with the petition and the annexures to the concerned Commissioner of Police/Senior Superintendent of Police as well as to the Child Welfare Committee of the District concerned for necessary compliance.

6. A compliance report be furnished by the Child Welfare Committee to this Court within a period of two months from the receipt of certified copy of this order.
7. The petition is disposed of.

June 15th, 2023
Puneet

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/~~No~~

Whether reportable : Yes/No