

Sharada

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
AND
IN ITS GENERAL AND INHERENT JURISDICTION

INDIAN ADOPTION PETITION NO.52 OF 2024
WITH

JUDGE'S ORDER NO.77 OF 2024

IN

INDIAN ADOPTION PETITION NO.52 OF 2024

Vatsalya Trust, Mumbai

...Petitioner

And

Mr. Abhishek Ghanekar & Mrs. Minal
Deshpande

...Prospective
Adoptive Parents

Ms. Aarti Prasad Kulkarni, Advocate for the Petitioner.

Mr. O. Hareendran, Scrutiny Officer, ICSW present.

Mr. D.S. Gurav, Chamber Registrar present.

CORAM : R.I. CHAGLA, J.

DATE : 10th July 2024

ORDER :

1. By this Indian Adoption Petition the Petitioner and the Prospective Adoptive Parents have sought adoption of the male minor

Sumit (“**the said male minor**”) born on 15/06/2023. The biological mother surrendered the said male minor before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Mumbai Suburban District on 20/06/2023 and the child’s safe custody was given to the Petitioner institution Vatsalya Trust, Mumbai on the same day as per the order of the CWC dated 20/06/2023 under the Provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (“the said Act”). The Admission Order of the CWC is on record at page No.21 to the Petition.

2. After making due inquiry under Section 38 of the said Act, the CWC, Mumbai Suburban District declared the said male minor Sumit “Legally Free for Adoption” on 12/09/2023. The Free for Adoption Certificate is on record at page Nos.23-24 to the Petition.

3. The Prospective Adoptive Parents are Indian nationals, presently residing at Bangalore, Karnatka, aged about 43 and 42 years respectively. Having been married for the past 13 years (12/03/2011) with no biological children.

4. The Motivation Letter from the Prospective Adoptive Parents is on record at page No.38 to the Petition.

5. Affidavit by the Chief Functionary of the Specialized

Adoption Agency (Petitioner) in support of the adoption of the said male minor is on record at page Nos.151-155 to the Petition.

6. The Minutes of Adoption Committee Meeting held on 31/01/2024 is on record at page No.20 to the Petition. It states that the Adoptive Parents are suitable to adopt the said male minor.

7. The Medical Report dated 24/08/2023 of the Prospective Adoptive Parents are on record and it states "They are physically and mentally fit for adopting a child." Their HIV and HbsAg Test Reports certify their case as Non-Reactive. These report are on record at page Nos.28-37 to the Petition.

8. The Prospective Adoptive father is working as a Senior Manager with Veolia Water Technologies and Solutions (India) Private Ltd., Bangalore since November 2015 and his monthly (December-2023) gross salary is Rs.2,87,251/-. His Pay slips and Income Tax Returns are on record at page Nos.62-68 to the Petition. The Prospective Adoptive mother is a Homemaker.

9. The copies of Pan Card, Proof of Residence and supportive financial documents are on record at page Nos.39-54 & 69-71 to the Petition.

10. The Home Study Report Part I: Self Assessment Reports by the Prospective Adoptive Parents is on record at page Nos.92-104 & 111-122 to the Petition.

11. The Home Study Part II : Assessment Reports dated 29/08/2020 and 29/08/2023 of the Specialized Adoption Agency, "St. Michael's Home/ Convent" Bangalore, Karnataka have found the Prospective Adoptive Parents suitable for adopting a child. The said reports are on record at page Nos.105-110 & 123-127 to the Petition.

12. The child security Undertaking dated 17/07/2023 of the Prospective Adoptive mother's brother and sister-in-law residing at USA to look after the said male minor in case of any mishap to the Prospective Adoptive Parents is on record at page Nos.135-137 to the Petition.

13. The Pre-adoption foster care undertaking dated 09/01/2024 is on record at page Nos.57-61 to the Petition.

14. The Medical Examination Report of the said male minor dated 29/12/2023 states, "Health status of the child: Normal. Overall Observation of the child: Up to now, his overall development is within normal limits". The Prospective Adoptive Parents have countersigned the said Report which is on record at page Nos.141-

147 to the Petition.

15. The HIV Test Report of the said male minor dated 20/11/2023 certifies the case as Negative. This report is on record at page No.149 to the Petition. The Photograph of the said male minor is on record at page No.150 to the Petition.

16. The Declaration of consent and undertaking by the Prospective Adoptive Parents states that they are willing to be appointed and declared as Adoptive Parents of the said male minor. The said Declaration is on record at page Nos.55-56 to the Petition.

17. As regards the change of name, the Prospective Adoptive Parents desire that the said male minor “Sumit” be renamed as “Arjun Abhishek Ghanekar”.

18. The undertaking dated 08/01/2024 given by the Authorised Agency “St. Michael’s Home/Convent” Bangalore, Karnataka for furnishing post adoption follow-up reports is on record at page No.159 to the Petition.

19. The Petitioner institution’s recognition from the Women & Child Development, Maharashtra State to place children in adoption is valid for a period up to 05/05/2025.

20. Mr. O. Hareendran, Scrutiny Officer has tendered Report / Representation from the Indian Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) dated 29/04/2024 which is taken on record and marked 'X' for identification.

21. Having considered the material on record as well as the Report of the Scrutiny Officer dated 29/04/2024 marked 'X', in my view, it would be in the interest of the said male minor child that he is adopted by the Proposed Adopters.

22. It is relevant to note here that in the case of **Nisha Pradeep Pandya alias Nisha Amit Gor and Anr. Vs. Union of India and Ors.**,¹ concerning challenge raised to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021, the Division Bench of this Court on 10th January, 2023 passed an interim order. The relevant portion of said order of Division Bench reads as follows :

“8. In the meantime, there will be an ad-interim order only until the next date in terms of prayer clauses (d), (e) and (f) of the petition which reads as follows:

(d) Pending the final hearing and disposal of the present Petition, the Hon'ble Court may be pleased to

stay the effect, implementation and purport of the letter dated 30th September, 2022 issued by Respondent No.2;

(e) Pending the final hearing and disposal of the present Petition, the Hon'ble Court may be pleased to direct the Respondents not to transfer pending adoption matters before the District Magistrates for adjudication.

(f) Pending the final hearing and disposal of the present Petition, the Hon'ble Court may be pleased to direct the Hon'ble Courts to continue with the adjudication of the adoption matters that are pending on their record and file.

9. Additionally, the safer and more prudent course of action would be to allow all matters to be placed before the learned Single Judge of this Court who is assigned those matters. Those orders may be continued to be passed until the challenge is finally decided.”

23. Hence, it is clear that this Court can consider and dispose of the present Petition.

24. In these circumstances, the Petition is allowed in terms of prayer clauses (a) to (d) of the Petition, which read thus:-

“a) That the Prospective Adoptive Parents be given the said child in Adoption can be declared as parents and has all parental legal rights, Privileges and responsibilities over the said minor.

b) That the Prospective Adoptive Parents may be granted leave to remove the said minor from the jurisdiction of this Hon’ble Court and to take the said minor out of the jurisdiction of this Hon’ble Court whenever required.

c) That the concerned Municipal Authority/Birth Certificate issuing Authority may be directed to issue Birth Certificate in the name of the said minor Arjun Abhishek Ghanekar born on 15/06/2023 and stating that thereon that the Prospective Adoptive Parents as the Parents of the said minor.

d) That the Prospective Adoptive Parents be allowed to change the name of the minor from Sumit to “Arjun Abhishek Ghanekar” on 15/06/2023.

25. In the Judge’s Order there is an undertaking of the Adoptive Parents to invest an amount of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) in the Adopted Child’s name. They also undertake not to withdraw this investment till the Adopted Child attains majority. They have agreed to handover the investment receipt to the Adopted Child on his becoming a major. This undertaking is accepted as undertakings to this Court.

26. The Judge's Order is also accepted and separately signed.
27. The Indian Adoption Petition is accordingly disposed of.
28. There shall be no orders as to costs.

[R.I. CHAGLA, J.]

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