



Crl.O.P. No.21379 of 2024

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P. DHANABAL.J.,

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The petitioner apprehends arrest for the alleged offences under Sections 5(1), 5(j)(ii) and 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 under section 9 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 in Crime No.15 of 2024, on the file of the respondent police seeks anticipatory bail.

2.The case of the prosecution is that the petitioner and the complainant were entered into a marital relationship in the year December 2023, at the time of marriage, the victim girl is a minor. The petitioner and the complainant have love affair, due to which, the petitioner kidnapped the victim girl and he have forcible sexual relationship with the complainant. Hence the case.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner would contend that this petitioner married the complainant with her and her family's consent only. The petitioner has not involved any offences as alleged by the prosecution. This petitioner is an innocent person and he had not indulged in any illegal activities as alleged by the prosecution and he has been falsely implicated in this case by the respondent police. Hence, he seeks anticipatory bail to the petitioner.



Crl.O.P. No.21379 of 2024

4. The learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) would submit that the petitioner and the complainant have love affair, due to which, the petitioner kidnapped the victim girl and he have forcible sexual relationship with the complainant. The victim girl is only 17 years old. In this case, 164(5) Cr.P.C. statement was recorded from the victim girl. There is no previous case is pending against the petitioner. However, the learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) vehemently opposed to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner.

5. Heard both side and perused the materials available on record.

6. Considering the rival submissions on either side, considering the love affair between the petitioner and the victim and the statement of victim girl was also recorded and considering the statement of the victim girl, there is no previous case as against the petitioner and considering the relationship between the parties and considering other aspects, this court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner, subject to the following conditions:

7. Accordingly, the petitioner is ordered to be released on anticipatory bail in the event of arrest or on his appearance, within a period of fifteen days from the date on which the order copy made ready, before the learned **Judicial Magistrate, Mannargudi** on condition that the



Crl.O.P. No.21379 of 2024

petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten

Thousand only) with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of

the learned Magistrate concerned and on further condition that:

[a] the petitioner shall report before the Special Judge, Special Court for POCSO Act cases, Thanjavur on every Monday at 10.30a.m. for the period of 8 weeks;

[b] the petitioner shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence.

[c] the petitioner shall not leave India without the prior permission of the Court.

[d] the petitioner shall not abscond either during investigation or trial.

[e] On breach of any of the aforesaid conditions, the learned Magistrate/Trial Court is entitled to take appropriate action against the petitioner in accordance with law as if the conditions have been imposed and the petitioner released on bail by the learned Magistrate/Trial Court himself as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in P.K.Shaji vs. State of Kerala [(2005)AIR SCW 5560].



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Crl.O.P. No.21379 of 2024

[f] If the accused thereafter absconds, a fresh FIR can be registered under Section 269 B.N.S.2023.

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Crl.O.P. No.21379 of 2024

P.DHANABAL,J

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Crl.O.P.No.21379 of 2024

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