



Crl.O.P.(MD) No.6137 of 2024

WEB COPY BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 23.04.2024

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE B.PUGALENDHI

Crl.O.P.(MD) No.6137 of 2024

Thilagavathy

... Petitioner

-VS-

1.The Inspector of Police
District Crime Branch
Madurai

2.Jeyabarathi

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Section to 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to direct the first respondent and his personnel not to harass or ill-treat the petitioner and his family on the guise of enquiry in a civil dispute.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Vishnu

For Respondents : Mr.T.Senthil Kumar
Additional Public Prosecutor for R1

ORDER

The petitioner has approached this Court that the respondent police is harassing her under the guise of an enquiry.



Crl.O.P.(MD) No.6137 of 2024

WEB COPY

2. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submits that based on a complaint, petition enquiry is pending against the petitioner.

3.The Police get the power of enquiry / investigation only on registration of an FIR. In ***Lalitha Kumari Vs Government of Uttar Pradesh and others*** reported in ***(2013) 14 SCR 801***, the Hon'ble Supreme Court permitted the Station House Officers to conduct preliminary enquiry on certain nature of complaints like matrimonial dispute, commercial disputes, medical negligence etc., However complaints of civil in nature are entertained and these petition enquiries are also prolonged for several months. The Police Standing Order PSO.No.562 prohibits investigation in the cases of civil in nature. Circulars are also issued by the Additional Director General of Police in Circular NO.18/ADGP/L&O/Camp/2024 dated 09.01.2024 that the police are strictly refrained from enquiring or entertaining in civil matters like money dispute, land dispute, property dispute, pathway dispute, intellectual property dispute.,etc.,



Crl.O.P.(MD) No.6137 of 2024

WEB COPY

4.These circulars also caution police officer that any petition enquiry without endorsement of Superintendent of Police / Commissioner of Police on civil matters would be considered illegal and will attract disciplinary action.

5.Therefore, it is the responsibility of the superior officers like Deputy Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police, Superintendent of Police and Commissioner of Police to ensure that these instructions of the Additional Director General of Police in Circular No.18/ADGP/L&O/Camp/2024 dated 09.01.2024 are strictly complied with.

6. In view of the above, the respondent Police shall conclude the petition enquiry within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order. With the above directions, this criminal original petition is closed.

23.04.2024

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes / No
LS

Page 3 of 4



WEB COPY



Crl.O.P.(MD) No.6137 of 2024

B.PUGALENDHI, J.

LS

To:

- 1.The Inspector of Police,
District Crime Branch,
Madurai.
- 2.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

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