

HARSHADA H. SAWANT
(P.A.)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BAIL APPLICATION NO.1164 OF 2025

Aqeel Aziz Khan

.. Applicant

Versus

The State of Maharashtra

.. Respondent

-
- Ms. Ruby Shaikh a/w. Mr. Imran Shaikh, Advocate for Applicant.
 - Ms. Mahalakshmi Ganapathy, APP for Respondent.
-

CORAM : MILIND N. JADHAV, J.

DATE : MARCH 24, 2025

P.C.:

1. Heard Ms. Shaikh, learned Advocate for Applicant and Ms. Ganapathy, learned APP for Respondent.

2. Applicant is indicted under provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (for short '**POCSO Act**').

3. At the outset, Ms. Shaikh would persuade the Court to allow to implead the victim through concerned Police Station as Respondent No.2. Hence, Applicant is permitted to implead victim as party through the Senior Inspector of Police, of concerned Police Station as Respondent No.2. Amendment is permitted to be carried out forthwith in the presence of the Court.

4. Issue notice to Respondent No.2. Humdast permitted. In addition to Court's notice, Applicant is directed to serve a copy of this

order and copy of the Application on the Investigating Officer directly.
Ms. Ganapathy, learned APP appears for Respondent – State of Maharashtra and waives service on behalf of State.

5. Investigating Officer is directed by this Court to depute a responsible lady Police Officer to serve copy of Respondent No.2 and obtain her consent as to whether she requires legal representation through legal aid. The consent of Respondent No.2 shall be apprised of the Court on the next adjourned date through the learned APP. Let the aforesaid exercise be carried out within a period of one week from today.

6. Stand over to **01st April, 2025**. To be placed under the caption '**For Direction**'.

H. H. SAWANT

[MILIND N. JADHAV, J.]

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