



WEB COPY

CRL OP No. 26427 of 2025



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 25-09-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE N. SATHISH KUMAR

CRL OP No. 26427 of 2025

1. MANIKANDAN

2. Karpagam

3. Chinnadurai

4. Poongavanam

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. State rep by the Inspector of Police
Thittakudi Police Station, Cuddalore
District Cr.No.28 of 2024

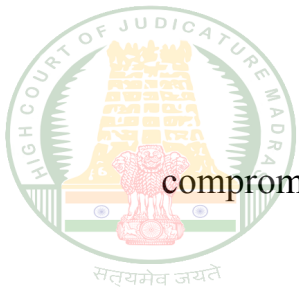
2.Boopathy
W/o.Elaiyaperumal, Village Welfare
Officer, Mangalore Panchayat,
Thittakudi Taluk, Cuddlore District

3.XXXX

D/o.YYYY, ZZZZ, Cuddalore District

Respondent(s)

PRAYER This Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 528 of BNSS, to call for the entire records in connection with Spl.S.C.No.145 of 2025 on the file of the Learned Sessions Judge, Special Court for Exclusive Trail of cases under POCSO Act, Cuddalore and quash the same on the ground of



compromise.

WEB COPY

For Petitioner(s): Mr.M.Vijayaragavan

For R1 Mr.R.Vinoth Raja

Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

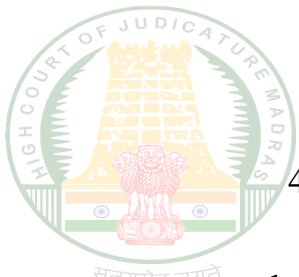
R2 & R3 Appeared in person

ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed to call for the entire records in connection with Spl.S.C.No.145 of 2025 on the file of the learned Sessions Judge, Special Court for Exclusive Trail of cases under POCSO Act, Cuddalore and quash the same on the ground of compromise.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioners and the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the first respondent-Police and perused the materials available on record.

3. Based on the complaint given by the complainant/the second respondent herein, the first respondent-Police registered a case in Crime No.28 of 2024 as against the petitioner herein, for the offences under Section 9 of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 and Sections 5(1), 5(j)(ii) and 6 of POCSO Act, 2012.



WEB COPY

4. The petitioners had stated in the affidavit that the third respondent/victim girl and the first petitioner /A1 married and they are living together and out of their wedlock, female child was born. Further the petitioners and the third respondent are ready to settle the dispute and they amicably entered into compromise. Hence, they submitted that the proceedings against petitioners may be quashed.

5. Mr.Ramesh Kumar.M, SSI, Thittakudi Police Station, Cuddalore District was present before this Court and he informed this Court that the complainant had approached him and informed him that since victim girl and the first petitioner got married, and living together happily, they do not want to proceed further with the criminal proceedings against the first petitioner and others.

6. The petitioners and the victim girl were also present before this Court at the time of hearing. This Court examined the victim girl and she stated that she married the first petitioner and that she is not willing to undergo this agony any further and wanted the criminal proceedings to be quashed.

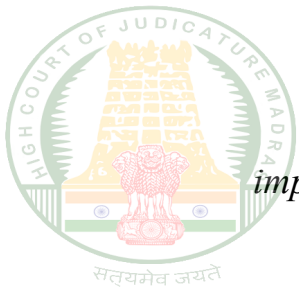


WEB COPY

7. The learned Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the first respondent-Police submitted that though the parties entered into a compromise while this case is pending, this Court, taking into account the seriousness of the offence has to consider the issue as to whether an offence of this nature can be quashed on the ground of compromise between parties.

8. In this regard it is relevant to refer the judgment of the learned Single Judge of this Court, in ***Sabari v. Inspector of Police*** reported in ***2019 (3) MLJ Crl 110***, wherein the learned single Judge had discussed in detail about the cases in which persons of the age group of 16 to 18 years are involved in love affairs and how in some cases ultimately end up in a criminal case booked for an offence under the POSCO Act. The relevant portions of the judgment are extracted here under for proper appreciation:

“ 21. When this case was taken up for hearing, this Court became concerned about the growing incidence of offences under the POCSO Act on one side and also the Rigorous Imprisonment envisaged in the Act. Sometimes it happens that such offences are slapped against teenagers, who fall victim of the application of the POCSO Act at an young age without understanding the



implication of the severity of the enactment.

26. In addition to the above, this Court is of the view that 'warning' of attraction of POCSO Act must be displayed before screening of any film, which have teenage characters suggesting relationship between boy and girl.

27. Apart from the above, this Court is of the view that as per the 3rd respondent's report, majority of cases are due to relationship between adolescent boys and girls. Though under Section 2(d) of the Act, 'Child' is defined as a person below the age of 18 years and in case of any love affair between a girl and a boy, where the girl happened to be 16 or 17 years old, either in the school final or entering the college, the relationship invariably assumes the penal character by subjecting the boy to the rigorous of POCSO Act. Once the age of the girl is established in such relationship as below 18 years, the boy involved in the relationship is sure to be sentenced 7 years or 10 years as minimum imprisonment, as the case may be.

28. When the girl below 18 years is involved in a relationship with the teen age boy or little over the teen age, it is always a question mark as to how such relationship could be defined, though such relationship would be the result of mutual innocence and biological attraction. Such relationship cannot be



WEB COPY

construed as an unnatural one or alien to between relationship of opposite sexes. But in such cases where the age of the girl is below 18 years, even though she was capable of giving consent for relationship, being mentally matured, unfortunately, the provisions of the POCSO Act get attracted if such relationship transcends beyond platonic limits, attracting strong arm of law sanctioned by the provisions of POCSO Act, catching up with the so called offender of sexual assault, warranting a severe imprisonment of 7/10 years.

29. Therefore, on a profound consideration of the ground realities, the definition of 'Child' under Section 2(d) of the POCSO Act can be redefined as 16 instead of 18. Any consensual sex after the age of 16 or bodily contact or allied acts can be excluded from the rigorous provisions of the POCSO Act and such sexual assault, if it is so defined can be tried under more liberal provision, which can be introduced in the Act itself and in order to distinguish the cases of teen age relationship after 16 years, from the cases of sexual assault on children below 16 years. The Act can be amended to the effect that the age of the offender ought not to be more than five years or so than the consensual



WEB COPY

victim girl of 16 years or more. So that the impressionable age of the victim girl cannot be taken advantage of by a person who is much older and crossed the age of presumable infatuation or innocence”.

9. Following the above judgment, this Court has quashed the final report in **Crl.O.P.No.232 of 2021** dated 27.01.2021 [**Vijayalakshmi and another Vs. State Represented by the Inspector of Police, All Women Police Station, Erode and another**].

10. Incidents of this nature keep occurring regularly even now in villages and towns and occasionally in cities. After the parents or family lodge a complaint, the police register FIRs for offences of kidnapping and various offences under the POCSO Act. Several criminal cases booked under the POCSO Act fall under this category. As a consequence of such a FIR being registered, invariably the boy gets arrested and thereafter, his youthful life comes to a grinding halt. The provisions of the POCSO Act, as it stands today, will surely make the acts of the boy an offence due to its stringent nature. An adolescent boy caught in a situation like this will surely have no defence if the criminal case is taken to its logical end. Punishing an adolescent boy who



WEB COPY

enters into a relationship with a minor girl by treating him as an offender, was never the objective of the POCSO Act. These incidents should never be perceived from an adult's point of view and such an understanding will in fact lead to lack of empathy. An adolescent boy who is sent to prison in a case of this nature will be persecuted throughout his life. It is high time that the legislature takes into consideration cases of this nature involving adolescents involved in relationships and swiftly bring in necessary amendments under the Act. The legislature has to keep pace with the changing societal needs and bring about necessary changes in law and more particularly in a stringent law such as the POCSO Act.

11. The main issue that requires the consideration of this Court is as to whether this Court can quash the criminal proceedings involving non-compoundable offences pending against the petitioners. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *Parbathbhai Aahir @ Parbathbhai Vs. State of Gujrath*, reported in *2017 9 SCC 641* and in case of *The State of Madhya Pradesh Vs. Dhruv Gurjar and Another* reported in *(2019) 2 MLJ Crl 10*, has given sufficient guidelines that must be taken into consideration by this Court while

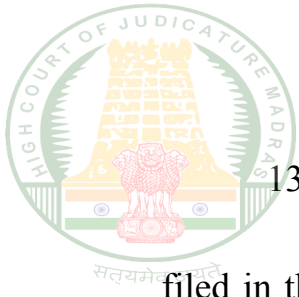


exercising its jurisdiction under Section 482 of Cr.P.C, to quash non-compoundable offences. One very important test that has been laid down is that

WEB COPY

the Court must necessarily examine if the crime in question is purely individual in nature or a crime against the society with overriding public interest. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that offences against the society with overriding public interest even if it gets settled between the parties, cannot be quashed by this Court.

12. In the present case, the offences in question are purely individual/personal in nature. It involves the first petitioner, the third respondent and their respective families only. It involves the future of two young persons who are still in their early twenties. Quashing the proceedings, will not affect any overriding public interest in this case and it will in fact pave way for the first petitioner and the victim girl to settle down in their life and look for better future prospects. No useful purpose will be served in continuing with the criminal proceedings and keeping these proceedings pending will only swell the mental agony of the first petitioner, victim girl and their parents as well.



13. In view of the above, this Court is inclined to quash the Final Report filed in the case in Spl.S.C.No.145 of 2025 on the file of the learned Sessions Judge, Special Court for Exclusive Trail of cases under POCSO Ac, Cuddalore in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482 of Cr.P.C.

14. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition is allowed and the case in Spl.S.C.No.145 of 2025 on the file of the Learned Sessions Judge, Special Court for Exclusive Trail of cases under POCSO Ac, Cuddalore, is quashed as against the petitioners. The Joint Compromise Memo filed by the petitioners and the third respondent for compromising the offences shall form part of the records.

25-09-2025

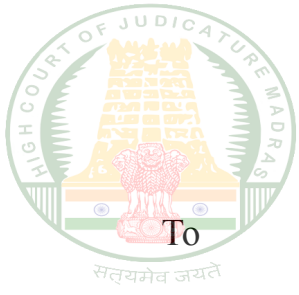
mfa

Index:Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet:Yes

Neutral Citation:Yes/No



WEB CRY

1. Sessions Judge, Special Court for
Exclusive Trail of cases under POCSO
Ac, Cuddalore

2. The Inspector of Police
Thittakudi Police Station, Cuddalore
District Cr.No.28 of 2024

3. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Chennai.



WEB COPY

CRL OP No. 26427 of 2025



N.SATHISH KUMAR J.

mfa

**CRL OP No. 26427 of
2025**

25-09-2025