



CRM-A-1599-2024 (O&M)

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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

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CRM-A-1599-2024 (O&M)

Date of Decision: September 08, 2025

District Appropriate Authority-cum-Civil Surgeon, Sangrur

.....Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Non-applicant(s)/Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: None.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J.

1. Applicant – District Appropriate Authority-cum-Civil Surgeon, Sangrur has filed the present application seeking grant of leave to appeal against the judgment of acquittal dated 17.09.2024, passed by learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Sangrur, in Complaint case bearing No. CHI-184-2017, CIS No. COMA-51-2017, instituted on 24.07.2017, under Section(s) 3, 4, 5, 6, 23, 29 of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and Rules 9(1), 9(4), 9(6), 10(1A), 11(2), 18 of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Rules, 1996, titled as ‘District Appropriate Authority-cum-Civil Surgeon, Sangrur v. Mrs. Davinder Kumari and another’, whereby the complaint filed by the applicant(s) herein has been dismissed by acquitting the accused.

2. Shorn off the factual matrix of the present case, it is suffice to notice that in the recent mandate of law laid down by Hon’ble the Apex Court, in the case of **M/s Celestium Financial v. A. Gnanasekaran etc.** [Criminal Appeal Nos. 1868-70 of 2025, decided on 08.04.2025, reported as 2025 (3) RCR (Criminal) 208 : Law Finder Doc Id # 2737710 : 2025 SCC OnLine SC 1320], their Lordships’ have answered the issue in affirmative that whether an appeal would be maintainable under the proviso to Section 372 Cr.P.C. (corresponding Section 413 of BNSS, 2023), against an order of acquittal



passed in a case instituted upon a private complaint, by treating the complainant in such a proceeding as a 'victim' within the meaning ascribed to the term under Section 2(wa) of the Cr.P.-C.

3. After encapsulating in detail the provisions of Sections 2(d), (n) & (wa), 24, 200, 372, 377, 378, 386 of the Cr.P.C.; Sections 138, 139, 141, 142, 143 and 147 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881; and the earlier view point of the Hon'ble Supreme Court taken in the case of **Mallikarjun Kodagali (dead) represented through Legal representative v. State of Karnataka, (2019) 2 SCC 752**, an ongoing debate whether the right of the victim to file an appeal against acquittal in a complaint case would fall under Section 372 or Section 378(4) of Cr.P.C., has been put to rest. Succinctly, in **Celestium Financial's case (supra)** it has been held that the 'victim' has a right to file an appeal under Section 372 of Cr.P.C. before the Court of Sessions.

4. It is apposite to mention here that the judgment in the case of **Celestium Financial (supra)** has been followed and relied upon by this Court in the case of **M/s Associated Road Carriers Limited v. Manjit Singh and others (CRM-A-885-MA-2013, decided on 07.07.2025)** as well as by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in the case of **Satish Kumar v. Jugal Kishor (CRM-A-2700-MA-2018, decided on 02.07.2025)**.

5. Having gone through the recent mandate of Hon'ble the Apex Court in **Celestium Financial's case (supra)**, and the view taken by this Court in the case of **M/s Associated Road Carriers Limited (supra)** as well as by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in the case of **Satish Kumar (supra)**, there exists no ground to take a different view in the present case.

6. Accordingly, the present application is disposed of by directing the learned Sessions Judge, Sangrur, to treat the present leave to appeal as an appeal filed under Section 372 of the Cr.P.C. (corresponding Section 413 of BNSS, 2023) and entrust the same to any appropriate Court to try the same. The concerned Court shall decide the appeal on merits as per law, as expeditiously as possible.

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9. Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, also stands disposed of.

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	Yes
Whether reportable	No