

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-1594 Year-2024 Thana- MUZFFARPUR COMPLAINT CASE
District- Muzaffarpur

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

- Opposite Party/s

For the Petitioner/s	:	Mrs. Anjana, Advocate
For the O.P. No. 2	:	Mrs. Nachiketa Jha, Advocate
For the State	:	Mrs. Pushpa Sinha, Advocate



matrimonial home. She alleged that soon after the marriage, the petitioner and his family members subjected the complainant to continuous harassment and cruelty on account of unlawful demands for dowry. The complainant was allegedly taunted, mentally and physically tortured, and coerced to bring additional dowry from her parental home. It is further alleged that the complainant discovered an illicit relationship between her husband and her sister-in-law (the wife of her husband's brother). Upon confronting them regarding the same, the complainant was allegedly subjected to severe physical assault by both the petitioner and the said sister-in-law. The petitioner, along with his mother and sister-in-law, subjected the complainant to extreme cruelty which resulted in miscarriage on two separate occasions. Ultimately, the complainant was forcibly ousted from her matrimonial home.

4. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submitted that the petitioner is the husband of the O.P. No.2 and the allegation levelled against him is false and concocted. Learned counsel further submitted that marriage is a sacred ceremony but little matrimonial skirmish suddenly erupts into hatred and the parties can be allowed to ponder to reconcile their dispute outside the court. He submitted that the matter be



referred for mediation.

5. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the O.P. No.2 and learned APP for the State jointly submitted that opportunity shall be given to the parties to reconcile their dispute amicably.

6. The petitioner's counsel also informs that he has received instruction that the petitioner also wants to reconcile the dispute by way of mediation.

7. The parties have agreed to appear before the learned District Court at 10:30 A.M. on 31.03.2026 for resolving the dispute by way of mediation.

8. Heard the parties.

9. This Court finds that the matrimonial dispute is not an offense against the society rather a matrimonial dispute is a private conflict between spouses and does not inherently constitute an offence against society, as has been held by the Apex Court in the case of ***B.S. Joshi v. State of Haryana***, reported in, ***(2003) 4 SCC 675***, in paragraph nos. 12 and 13 which is as under:-

“12. The special features in such matrimonial matters are evident. It becomes the duty of the court to encourage genuine settlements of matrimonial disputes.

*13. The observations made by this Court, though in a slightly different context, in ***G.V. Rao v. L.H.V. Prasad*** [(2000) 3 SCC 693 : 2000 SCC (Cri) 733] are very apt for determining the approach required to be*



kept in view in a matrimonial dispute by the courts. It was said that there has been an outburst of matrimonial disputes in recent times. Marriage is a sacred ceremony, the main purpose of which is to enable the young couple to settle down in life and live peacefully. But little matrimonial skirmishes suddenly erupt which often assume serious proportions resulting in commission of heinous crimes in which elders of the family are also involved with the result that those who could have counselled and brought about rapprochement are rendered helpless on their being arrayed as accused in the criminal case. There are many other reasons which need not be mentioned here for not encouraging matrimonial litigation so that the parties may ponder over their defaults and terminate their disputes amicably by mutual agreement instead of fighting it out in a court of law where it takes years and years to conclude and in that process the parties lose their “young” days in chasing their “cases” in different courts.

10. The parties have willingly desired to appear before the learned District Court on or before 31.03.2026, so that the matter can be referred to the District Mediation Centre.

11. Learned District Court is directed to take necessary steps to refer the matter before the learned Mediator of the District Mediation Center by fixing a date for appearance of the parties to give effect to “Mediation for the Nation 2.0”.

12. Learned Mediator of the District Mediation Center concerned, upon appearance of the parties, shall make his/her best efforts to settle the dispute amicably and thereafter submit his/her report before the concerned learned District Court, well within a period of three months, till then, no coercive action shall be taken against the petitioner in connection with the aforesaid case.

13. In case, the parties resolve their dispute amicably



or arrive at a mutual settlement, in light of the law laid down by the Apex Court as referred hereinabove, the petitioner is required to be released on pre-arrest bail on such terms and conditions as the learned District Court deems it fit and proper.

14. In case of failure on the part of the petitioner to appear on 31.03.2026 before the learned District Court or any date fixed by the learned Mediator, the interim protection granted to the petitioner shall automatically lose its force.

15. In case, it is deliberate on the part of the complainant to reconcile, then in that case, the interim protection granted to the petitioner shall continue and the trial shall proceed in accordance with law.

16. In case, the parties fail to reconcile, then in that case, parties may avail appropriate remedy. Then also, petitioner is directed to be released on pre-arrest bail on such terms and conditions as the learned District Court deems it fit and proper.

17. If both the parties arrive at amicable settlement, then they must withdraw the criminal cases, if any, which they have lodged against each other.

18. With aforesaid direction and observation, the present application stands disposed of.

19. Let a copy of this order be communicated to the



Member Secretary, Bihar State Legal Services Authority and the
Patna High Court Mediation Centre for the purpose of record.

(Purnendu Singh, J)

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