



W.P.(MD) No.130 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 06.01.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

W.P.(MD)No.130 of 2026

S.Sudhakar

... Petitioner

Vs

1.The Regional Transport Officer,
Melur,
Madurai District.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Melur,
Madurai District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the first respondent to return the original driving license No.TN-48-19990000940 of the petitioner to him forthwith.

For Petitioner	: Mr.A.Balaji
For R-1	: Mrs.K.Malathi Additional Government Pleader
For R-2	: Mr.A.Albort James Government Advocate(crl.side)



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ORDER

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This Writ Petition has been filed seeking a direction to the first respondent to forthwith return the petitioner's original Driving License No. TN-48-19990000940 to him.

2.The petitioner is a Driver of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam) Limited and the vehicle driven by the petitioner met with an accident on 02.12.2025. Hence, an FIR was registered at Melur Police Station in Crime No.590 of 2025 and the second respondent seized the petitioner's driving license and handed over the same to the first respondent. The respondents, without any authority, have impounded the driving license of the petitioner. Though the petitioner has made a representation to the first respondent on 18.12.2025 seeking return of the driving license, the said representation has not been considered till date. Hence, the petitioner has approached this Court.

3.The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that there is no provision under law to seize and retain the petitioner's driving license either the first respondent or the second respondent. Unless the driving



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license is returned, the petitioner's livelihood will be adversely affected.

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4.The learned Additional Government Pleader appearing for the first respondent and the learned Government Advocate (crl.side) appearing for the second respondent strongly opposed for returning the driving license stating that the petitioner drove the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner, which resulted in the accident.

5.Heard both sides and perused the materials available on record.

6.Considering the submission made by the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner as well as the respondents, once an accident has occurred, neither the first respondent nor the second respondent has any power to collect the license and withhold the same. The first respondent may cancel or suspend the driving license under certain circumstances prescribed under law and otherwise, there is no question of retaining the driving license by either the first respondent or second respondent. Hence, this Court is of the view that without any authority, the respondents cannot retain the driving license and are bound to return the same to the petitioner. Accordingly, the first respondent is directed to



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return the petitioner's driving license, taking into consideration the representation of the petitioner dated 18.12.2025, within a period of one week from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

7. With the above direction, this Writ Petition is disposed of.

No costs.

06.01.2026

Index : Yes/No
Internet: Yes/No
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
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Note: Issue order copy on 08.01.2026

To

1. The Regional Transport Officer,
Melur,
Madurai District.

2. The Inspector of Police,
Melur,
Madurai District.



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KRISHNAN RAMASAMY, J.

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