

Satinder Kumar Vs Sunita

Court: High Court Of Punjab And Haryana At Chandigarh

Date of Decision: Nov. 11, 2005

Acts Referred: Civil Procedure Code, 1908 (CPC) â€” Order 6 Rule 17, 151
Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 â€” Section 13 , 13B

Citation: (2006) 3 CivCC 524 : (2006) 143 PLR 570 : (2006) 2 RCR(Civil) 192

Hon'ble Judges: Ajay Kumar Mittal, J

Bench: Single Bench

Advocate: B.R. Mahajan, for the Appellant; L.M. Gulati, for the Respondent

Judgement

@JUDGMENTTAG-ORDER

Ajay Kumar Mittal, J.

This appeal is directed against the judgment and decree dated 14.8.2003 whereby a petition u/s 13 of the Hindu

Marriage Act, 1955 (for short ""the Act"") filed by the appellant against the respondent was dismissed by the Additional District Judge, Amritsar.

2. The appeal was admitted for final hearing on 15.4.2004. During the pendency of the appeal, the parties filed Civil Misc. No. 22086-C.II of

2005 under Order 6, Rule 17 read with Section 151 of the CPC for amendment of the divorce petition and converting the same into a petition u/s

13-B of the Act. A joint petition u/s 13-B of the Act duly signed by the parties and their respective counsel has also been filed along with the

application.

3. It is averred in the application that the parties have been living separate from each other for the last more than 11 years and it has now become

impossible for them to live together and therefore, they have mutually agreed to get the marriage dissolved by a decree of divorce. The parties also

came present in Court and their statements were also separately recorded.

4. Both of them have stated that they were married on 28.3.1993 and are living separately for the last more than 11 years and there was no chance

of their living together. They have filed petition u/s 13-B of the Act without any coercion or pressure and have now decided to get the marriage

dissolved by a decree of divorce by mutual consent. Both of them have further stated that joint petition u/s 13-B of the Act and the affidavits

appended therewith bear their signatures. It is further clear from their statements that it has been agreed between the parties that the appellant will

pay a sum of rupees four lacs to the respondent towards maintenance for herself and the minor daughter. The respondent in her statement has

further stated that she has already received a sum of rupees three lacs from the appellant and has also received a sum of rupees one lac in the

Court today. The respondent has also stated that the amount received by her is on account of full and final settlement for the past, present and

future maintenance and she shall not demand any further amount from the appellant. Both of them have categorically stated that they had no

objection if the marriage between them is dissolved by a decree of divorce by mutual consent.

5. From the averments made in the joint petition filed by the parties u/s 13-B of the Act and from their statements recorded today, I am of the view

that the prayer made in the Civil Misc. application deserves to be accepted. Accordingly, Civil Misc. is allowed and the petition u/s 13 of the Act

is allowed to be converted into a petition u/s 13-B of the Act.

6. In Chander Kanta v. Mohinder Partap Dogra (2003)135 P.L.R. 230 Balwinder Singh v. Raj Rani (2001)128 P.L.R. 273, Ved Parkash v.

Manju 1998(3) R.C.R 44 and Suresh Chand Vs. Kusum alias Sushma, it has been held that the statutory period of six months after notice for

grant of decree of divorce u/s 13-B of the Act can be dispensed with in cases where the parties are litigating for considerable long time and where

consent of the parties has not been obtained by fraud, force or undue influence.

7. After hearing counsel for the parties and having regard to the averments made in the petition u/s 13-B of the Act, which is supported by

separate affidavits of the parties, I am of the view that the said petition deserves to be accepted. Both the parties have been duly identified by their

respective counsel and have also categorically stated that the petition u/s 13-B of the Act and affidavits filed along with it bear their signatures. It is

clear from the averments made in the petition u/s 13-B of the Act and also their statements that they have mutually agreed to get their marriage

dissolved and have settled their disputes. The respondent has received a sum of rupees four lacs as full and final settlement of her claim regarding

maintenance and has further stated that she will not demand any more money from the appellant. The petition u/s 13 of the Act was filed by the

appellant-husband in November, 1998 and the parties have been litigating since then.

8. In view of the above, the judgment and decree of the trial Court dated 14.8.2003 is set aside and the joint petition u/s 13-B of the Act is

accepted. Accordingly, marriage between the parties is dissolved by passing a decree of divorce by mutual consent. Let a formal decree by

drawn. The appeal stands disposed of in the manner indicated above.