

Rai Singh Vs Kapoori Devi

Court: High Court Of Punjab And Haryana At Chandigarh

Date of Decision: Oct. 11, 2012

Acts Referred: Evidence Act, 1872 " Section 63, 65, 65(e), 65(f), 79
Registration Act, 1908 " Section 57(5)

Citation: (2013) 169 PLR 862 : (2013) 1 RCR(Civil) 646

Hon'ble Judges: A.N. Jindal, J

Bench: Single Bench

Advocate: Rajneesh K. Jindal, for the Appellant;

Final Decision: Allowed

Judgement

A.N. Jindal, J.

CM No. 25695-CII of 2012

1. CM is allowed and translated copy of the sale deed (Annexure P/6) is taken on record.

Civil Revision No. 5812 of 2012 (O & M)

This petition assails the order dated 10.9.2012 (Annexure P/5) passed by the trial court, dismissing the application filed by the petitioner for

leading secondary evidence.

2. In this case, the original sale deed is alleged to have been lost and the counsel for the petitioner, when he was on his turn to lead evidence,

applied for invoking the provisions of Section 65 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, to lead secondary evidence on the ground that the original sale

deed has been misplaced.

3. The secondary evidence by way of placing on record copy of the sale deed i.e. copy of the document kept in the public record is admissible in

evidence. It was also observed in case Om Parkash and Others Vs. Ram Gopal alias Paali Ram alias Doojpuri Maharaj and another as under:-

..... If the original document has been lost, secondary evidence of the contents of the document is admissible in evidence. Certified copy of the

registered sale deed is admissible in evidence u/s 65(f) of the Act. Certified copy of a registered document issued by Sub Registrar u/s 57(5) of the

Registration Act is also admissible for the purpose of proving the contents of the original document. Section 57(5) of the Registration Act reads as

under:-

57(5) All copies given under this Section shall be signed and sealed by the registering officer, and shall be admissible for the purpose of proving the

contents of the original document.

4. Hence, certified copy of original sale deed issued by Joint Sub Registrar u/s 57(5) of the Registration Act is admissible for the purpose of

proving the contents of original document and could be received as secondary evidence of a original document u/s 65 of the Act.

5. On this point, reliance is placed upon Nanni Bai and Others Vs. Gita Bai, wherein it was held that in the absence of a registered sale deed for

any reason, certified copy could be filed as secondary evidence.

6. In Kalyan Singh Vs. Smt. Chhoti and Others, the Apex Court held that a certified copy of a registered sale deed could be produced as

secondary evidence in the absence of the original sale deed. It was also held that correctness of the certified copy referred to in Clause (1) of

Section 63 of the Evidence Act is presumed u/s 79 of the said Act.

7. In the case of Kiran Singh and Others Vs. Balbir Singh and Another, the Allahabad High Court, while dealing with the question of secondary

evidence, held as under:-

There was no need to explain the circumstances in which original was not produced because it is covered by Section 65 (e) and (f) and there is no

such requirement. Clauses (a), (b) and (c) stand independently of each other. Section 65 of the Act explains the circumstances. In any case the

circumstances mentioned in clauses (a) to (g) the secondary evidence can be produced. It is not necessary that if a case is covered by clause (e)

and (f) the person who wants to produce the secondary evidence should explain about the original while filing the certified copy of the public

document, or of a document of which certified copy is permitted under this Act i.e. in the case covered by clauses (e) and (f) then nothing further is

required to be explained. In this view of the matter, I am of the opinion that the learned lower appellate court committed substantial error of law in

rejecting the certified copy of the sale deed as inadmissible. In any case it should have made inquiry from the defendants.

8. As such, the trial court fell in error while declining the application for secondary evidence, rather declining the evidence at this stage would

further complicate the issues and cause delay in adjudication of the matter.

9. Resultantly, this petition is allowed, impugned order is set aside and the petitioner is permitted to lead secondary evidence of the sale deed. This

petition is allowed without serving notice to the respondent with a view to impart complete justice to the parties and to save the huge expenses,

which may be incurred by the respondent as also in order to avoid unnecessary delay in adjudication of the matter. Still, if dissatisfied, the

respondent may move to this court for recalling this order.