## IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

THURSDAY, THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2024 / 24TH PHALGUNA, 1945

WP(C) NO. 3649 OF 2024

#### PETITIONER:

K. HARIDAS, AGED 60 YEARS, S/O.KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR, KAKKARATH HOUSE, CHERAYA P.O., KONGAD, PALAKKAD DISTRICT, PIN - 678631

BY ADVS. BABU S. NAIR SMITHA BABU

#### **RESPONDENTS:**

- THE STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY
  TO THE GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
  WELFARE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, TRIVANDRUM,
  PIN 695001
- THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, NEAR GENERAL HOSPITAL ROAD JUNCTION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN 695035
- THE DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF, DISTRICT POLICE OFFICE, NEAR KSRTC BUS STAND, PALAKKAD, PIN 678014
- THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PALAKKAD, PIN 678014
- 5 THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER , PALAKKAD TOWN SOUTH POLICE STATION, PALAKKAD, PALAKKAD DISTRICT, PIN 678013

SMT. VIDYA KURIAKOSE - GP

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 14.03.2024, ALONG WITH WP(C)NO.38061/2022, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

# IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

THURSDAY, THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2024 / 24TH PHALGUNA, 1945

WP(C) NO. 38061 OF 2022

#### **PETITIONERS:**

- 1 MITERA HOSPITALS PRIVATE LTD, THELLAKAM P.O., ATHIRAMPUZHA VILLAGE, KOTTAYAM - 686 630 REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR
- DR. JAIPAL JOHNSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR, MITERA HOSPITALS PRIVATE LTD, THELLAKAM P.O., ATHIRAMPUZHA VILLAGE, KOTTAYAM 686 630 RESIDING AT MUNJANATTU HOUSE, THELLAKOM P.O., KOTTAYAM 686 630

BY ADVS. S.SUJIN P.T.MOHANKUMAR GEORGE CHERIAN

#### **RESPONDENTS:**

- 1 THE GOVERNMENT OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM 695001
- 2 THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE DISTRICT CRIME BRANCH, KOTTAYAM 686 002
- THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, GENERAL HOSPITAL JUNCTION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM -693 035.
- THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROSECUTION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROSECUTION, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM 682 018.
- 5 THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, MEDICAL COLLEGE P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN 695 011.

- 6 THE ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES (VIGILANCE), DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, GENERAL HOSPITAL JUNCTION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM 693 035.
- 7 T.N. RAJESH, AGED 47 YEARS, S/O NARAYANAN NAIR, THACHANATTIL HOUSE, PEROOR P.O., KOTTAYAM DISTRICT 686 637.

BY ADVS.
LATHA ANAND
S.VISHNU (ARIKKATTIL) - R7
VIDYA KURIAKOSE - R1 TO R6

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 14.03.2024, ALONG WITH WP(C)NO.3649/2024, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

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### **JUDGMENT**

[WP(C) Nos.3649/2024, 38061/2022]

Recognising that not all medical complications are the result of medical negligence or iatrogenic lapses, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in *Jacob Mathews v. State of Punjab* [(2005) 6 SCC 1], declared the law that in cases where a criminal prosecution is initiated against a doctor or health care professional, the Investigating Officer is expected to obtain expert opinions from the best inputs, for which, Expert Committees consisting of Medical Experts and Forensic Experts require to be established.

- 2. The specific directions in the afore judgment would require to be kept in mind while I proceed to deliver judgment with these cases; and therefore, extracted them as under:
  - "51. As we have noticed hereinabove that the cases of doctors (surgeons and physicians) being subjected to criminal prosecution are on an increase. Sometimes such prosecutions are filed by private complainants and sometimes by police on an FIR being lodged and cognizance taken. The investigating officer and the private complainant cannot always be supposed to have knowledge of medical science so as to determine whether the act of the accused medical

professional amounts to rash or negligent act within the domain of criminal law under Section 304-A of IPC. The criminal process once initiated subjects the medical professional to serious embarrassment and sometimes harassment. He has to seek bail to escape arrest, which may or may not be granted to him. At the end he may be exonerated by acquittal or discharge but the loss which he has suffered in his reputation cannot be compensated by any standards.

- 52. We may not be understood holding that doctors can never be prosecuted for an offence of which rashness or negligence is an essential ingredient. All that we are doing is to emphasize the need for care and caution in the interest of society, for, the service which the medical profession renders to human beings is probably the noblest of all, and hence there is a need for protecting doctors from frivolous or unjust prosecutions. Many a complainant prefers recourse to criminal process as a tool for pressurizing the medical professional for extracting uncalled for or unjust compensation. Such malicious proceedings have to be guarded against
- 53. Statutory Rules or Executive Instructions incorporating certain guidelines need to be framed and issued by India Government of and/or the State Governments in consultation with the Medical Council of India. So long as it is not done, we propose to lay down certain guidelines for the future which should govern the prosecution of doctors for offences of which criminal rashness or criminal negligence is an ingredient. A private complaint may not be entertained unless the complainant has produced prima facie evidence before the Court in the form of a credible opinion given by another competent doctor to support the charge of rashness or negligence on the part of the accused doctor.

investigating officer should. proceeding against the doctor accused of rash or negligent act or omission, obtain an independent and competent medical opinion preferably from a doctor in government service qualified in that branch of medical practice who can normally be expected to give an impartial and unbiased opinión applying Bolam's test to the facts collected In the investigation. A doctor accused of rashness or negligence, may not be arrested in a routine manner (sifmply because a charge has been levelled against him). Unless his arrest is necessary for furthering the investigation or collecting evidence or unless investigation officer feels satisfied that the doctor proceeded against would not make himself available to face the prosecution unless arrested, the arrest may be withheld."

- 3. I am considering the afore two cases together because, in one of them, the Expert Body has found in favour of the doctor; while, in the other, against though involving two distinct and different instances of alleged medical negligence. I am of the view that these matters require to be tested against each other, so that the forensic issues involved would obtain its best reflection, recognition and resolution because, both sides of the perspective is now available.
- 4. I do not propose to record the specific facts involved in these cases in great detail because, admittedly, investigation by

the police in both matters are still on going.

- 5. However, for the sake of comprehension, I record that, as far as WP(C)No.38061/2022 is concerned, it has been filed by a Hospital and the accused doctor, challenging the report of the 'State Level Apex Body', (Apex Body) producing it as Ext.P3, whereby, an opinion was entered by them that the allegations against the second among them is capable of being proceeded for investigation by the competent investigating officer.
- 6. Coming to WP(C)No.32649/2024, it presents the opposite scenario because, in this case, the "Apex Body" has taken a contrary view and has found that the allegations of the medical negligence against the doctor concerned are untenable.
- 7. Sri.N.N.Sugunapalan learned Senior Counsel, instructed by Sri.S.Sujin appearing for the petitioner in WP(C)No.38061/2022, argued that Ext.P3 in the said case being the report of the "Apex Body" is wholly untenable and illegal because, it has entered an opinion that the doctor is guilty, without even adverting to Ext.P5, which is another report settled by the same body on an earlier date, exonerating the said doctor.

The learned Senior Counsel submitted that the "Apex Body" has travelled much beyond its powers and competence, in having settled Ext.P3 report; and consequently, that the Investigating Officer could not have even looked into the same, much less relied upon it, in conducting the investigation. He argued that, resultantly, there has been a complete failure of investigating processes in this case; thus leading to grave injustice being caused to the doctor concerned.

8. As I have already said above, the facts involved in WP(C)No.3649/2024 has different tale to tell. Smt.Smitha Babu, learned counsel for the petitioner, argued that Ext.P5 opinion issued by the "Apex Body" exonerating the doctor was done without understanding the imputations made against her in its proper perspective and with the premeditated intend of saving her, thus shielding her from future prosecution. She argued that when one reads Ext.P5 even in a cursory manner, it would become discernible that the Committee has settled their opinion in favour of the doctor concerned, without adverting to the medical processes that ought to have been adopted and in blatant

disregard to the protocols that are in place, as per the established mechanisms. She thus prayed that Ext.P5 be quashed; asserting that, based on this, her clients - who are the parents of the deceased patient – justifiably believe that the police will close the investigation and file a "Refer Report" before the court of the competent Magistrate.

- 9. Smt.Vidya Kuriakose learned Government Pleader, began her submissions making it clear that the official respondents have no interest in the actual investigation or the allegations made against the doctor in either of these cases. She submitted that she would like to address this Court almost in the position of an Amicus Curiae, bringing to my notice the compass in which the entire processes are to be confined and the purposes for which the systems have been put in place.
- 10. Smt.Vidya Kuriakose began saying that, as rightly noticed by this Court in the prefatory paragraph of the judgment, the Government of Kerala set up two Expert bodies, namely the District Level Expert Panel ("Expert Panel"), as also the State Level Apex Body in full obedience of the directions of the Hon'ble

Supreme Court in Jacob Mathew (supra). She explained that, normally, when a complaint is made against the doctor, by either a patient or the by-stander or relative, it requires to be criminally investigated into by the concerned police official; but that this can be done, going by the declaration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, only being assisted and guided by the opinion of a competent therefore, Body. She pointed out that, once the afore Committee/Panel were so constituted, every Investigating Officer is obligated to refer the matter to the "Expert Panel" at the first instance and if there is any difference of opinion among its members, then it would require to be placed before the "Apex Body" appositely. She explained that, in both these cases, there was difference of opinion between the members of the "Expert Panel", which led the matter to be placed before the "Apex Body", which then issued the impugned orders.

11. Smt.Vidya Kuriakose then further explained that, the aforementioned expert bodies were constituted by the order of the Government dated 16.06.2008, which was followed by subsequent orders - one of which is Ext.P4 dated 16.06.2008 produced along

with WP(C)No.38061/2022; and that they make it manifest that the "Expert Panel/Apex Body" is obligated to submit its views before the Investigating Officer within a period of 30 days, and that it is a duty of the said officer to consider the same and continue investigation in the light of the view taken by it. She submitted that, however, as is ineluctable from the Government Orders, including Ext.P4 in WP(C)No.38061/2022, the Investigating Officer is not bound by the views of the Expert Body; and that if he is not satisfied with it, he can obtain additional expert opinion from any source of his choice and then proceed to complete the investigation and file Charge Sheet, as he deems fit, within the purlieus of the criminal investigation processes.

12. Smt.Vidya Kuriakose argued that, therefore, both these writ petitions are unnecessary because, the Investigating Officer concerned will not act exclusively by the views of the "Apex Body", but will certainly make his own investigations, as is warranted in law, including by obtaining additional expert opinion and such other inputs; and that, in any event, these opinions are irrelevant, once the matter reaches the Trial Court since, as is well

recognised, the accused obtains full rights and opportunities to seek exoneration on evidence, dehors the opinion referred to by the "Expert Panel/Apex Body". She added that this is particularly so because, the Charge Sheet will have to be justified not merely on the basis of the opinion of the "Expert Panel/Apex Body", but on the strength of every other relevant criteria as may be applicable. She thus prayed that both of these writ petition be dismissed; adding that as far as WP(C)No.38061/2022 is concerned, it has now become irrelevant because, the Investigating Officer has already filed a Charge Sheet against the accused doctor and that the trial is pending before the competent Court of Magistrate, before which, the views of the "Apex Body" would be of little significance.

- 13. Smt.Vidya Kuriakose concluded reasserting that there is no cause for the petitioner to be concerned in any manner because, the Government Order makes it explicitly clear that the 'Expert Panel' or the 'Apex Body' cannot intervene in the investigation in whatsoever manner.
  - 14. Sri.K.Anand, learned Senior Counsel, instructed by

7<sup>th</sup> learned counsel for the respondent Sri.S.Vishnu WP(C)No.38061/2022, argued that the 'Apex Body' is without error because they have correctly recognized the omissions committed by the accused Doctor, which led to the unfortunate death of his client's wife during child birth and to the consequent rendering of the child to be without mother. He argued that, therefore, when the facts speak for themselves - which, he asserted points to a clear iatrogenic lapse - investigation was bound to be completed, which has now been done, and a Charge Sheet having been filed before the competent Court of Magistrate. He argued that, therefore, it is for the petitioners to seek exoneration, if they are able to do so; and that, therefore, they cannot rely upon Ext.P5 in substantiation of their defence, which they are otherwise entitled to impel.

15. The rival positions of the parties being so recorded, it is certainly without doubt that, in cases where allegations are made against doctors, a greater degree of care and scrutiny will require to be maintained. This is what the Honourable Supreme Court, in Jacob Mathew (supra) recognized, leading to the directions

extracted as afore.

- apodictic that, had it not been for the intervention of the Honourable Supreme Court, any complaint against any Doctor, alleging medical negligence, would have had to be investigated by the Investigating Officer, leading to either the filing of Charge Sheet, or referring of the same, but without proper scientific and medical assistance. It is this lacunae which was addressed by the Honourable Supreme Court, leading to the Government of Kerala constituting the 'Expert Panels' at the District Level and the 'Apex Body' at the State Level.
- Government Pleader, every case of medical negligence put up for a criminal investigation will have to go through an evaluation of the merits by one of these Bodies; and, at the first instance, it is always done by the 'Expert Panel' at the District Level. It is when there is difference of opinion between the members of the said panel, that the matter will reach the 'Apex Body' at the State Level, as has been reflected in both these cases.

- 18. It is, therefore, easy to understand that, what has been done by the Honourable Supreme Court is to cast some kind of a check on the power of the Police to investigate a complaint against a Medical Doctor/Healthcare Personnel and this, in fact, operates to the benefit of such persons, rather than to their detriment. This is because, without such, an Investigating Officer could have done anything that he pleased, thus completing the investigation as per his choice, leading to charges being framed or dropped, as the case may be.
- objection against the processes now put in place by the Government of Kerala through their various orders, including Ext.P4 in WP(C)No.38061/2022; and in any event, even going by the said order, it does not make it obliged on the Investigating Officer to act exclusively as per the views of the 'Expert Panel/Apex Body', but, on the contrary, enjoins him to continue the investigation using other expert opinion, if required, thus culminating it as per law, before the competent Court. It is eventually the Court which takes the final call either way because,

even if the Investigating Officer is to refer the complaint against a Doctor, the complainant would nevertheless obtain the right to file a 'private complaint' or 'protest complaint', as the case may be; thus leading the processes forward, which would then be completed without any reference to the opinion of the 'Expert Panel' or the 'Apex Body'.

- 20. Viewed from the afore orientation, when I examine Ext.P3 in WP(C)No.38061/2022, the 'Apex Body' is seen constituted of three Doctors and the Director General of Prosecution which is an eminent post under the State of Kerala who entered an opinion that 'there is medical negligence from the part of the treating doctor' (sic). Their opinion was not that the doctor is guilty which they cannot, in any case, enter but that the circumstances presented can lead to the opinion that there is negligence on the part of the doctor.
- 21. No doubt, Ext.P5 report by a Committee of two other doctors found that there was no medical negligence on the part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner, but again, this is only an opinion and would not be binding on the Investigating Officer because, he is only to be

guided by it — if at all assumed that it has any relevance. However, as far as this case is concerned, the fact remains that the Authority which settled Ext.P5 is not the notified 'State Level Apex Body', though it is so stated therein, perhaps inadvertently, but was only a Committee constituted at the behest of the 'Apex Body' mentioned in Ext.P3, for further expert analysis.

22. Whatever be the reason, the 'State Level Apex Body', however, found that Ext.P5 was not acceptable and proceeded to settle Ext.P3, holding that further investigation against the Doctor concerned was necessary and justified. As rightly argued by Smt. Vidya Kuriakose, it would not warrant this Court to enter into the merits of the said opinion because, the Investigating Officer has proceeded with the investigation subsequently, perhaps having obtained various other inputs also in the process, to file a Charge Sheet against the Doctor and the trial is now stated to be pending Nothing stops her from being exonerated against her. acquitted, if she is able to establish her innocence; for which, Ext.P3 or Ext.P5 would be of no significance or relevance, whatsoever.

- 23. To paraphrase, Criminal Courts are not bound by any such opinion, but only by the Investigation Reports and evidence to be presented; and I cannot, therefore, see the apprehensions of the petitioners in this case to be tenable, in any manner at all.
- Moving on to WP(C)No.3649/2024, this Court certainly 24. travels with the pathos of the petitioner therein, who lost his young daughter and believes that this was on account of an iatrogenic lapse on the part of the treating Doctor. Unfortunately, he suffered a shock when he understood that the 'Apex Body' has found against his imputations and in favour of the treating Doctor; and he justifiably believes that the Investigating Officer would do nothing more, but to accept it and then close the investigation by filing a 'Refer Report'. I cannot find fault with him in harbouring such an apprehension because, going by Ext.P5, the 'Apex Body' has entered into an affirmative opinion that 'there is no gross medical negligence in Crime No.651/2022 of Town Police Station, Palakkad' (sic).
- 25. I am afraid that the 'Apex Body' could not have entered into any such opinion, they being wholly incompetent to do so and

it was upon the Investigating Officer to have completed the investigation, by collating materials and evidence as is necessary. Obviously, therefore, the officer cannot close investigation merely based on the opinion of the aforesaid Authority. If the scenario is so viewed, certainly, the apprehension of the petitioner would stand allayed fully, if not substantially.

- **26.** In fact, Smt.Vidya Kuriakose affirmed to the afore view of this Court.
- 27. I notice from the files of this case that this Court has already injuncted the Investigating Officer from filing a final Charge Sheet in Crime No.651/2022 and this was done, adverting to the apprehensions of the petitioner as afore that such a Charge Sheet would only exonerate the Doctor concerned.

In the afore circumstances, I dispose of these Writ Petitions in the following manner:

i) WP(C)No.38061/2022 is dismissed; however, clarifying that the learned Trial Court is not bound by either Exts.P3 or P5 expert opinions and that it will be obligated to complete the trial against the 2<sup>nd</sup> petitioner therein, as per law and based on the

WPC 3649/24 & 38061/22

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evidence to be adduced.

ii) (a) WP(C)No.3649/2024 is allowed; with a consequential

direction to the 4th respondent to complete the investigation as per

law without being bound by Ext.P5 and based on every other

relevant and germane inputs and materials; and only then to file a

Charge Sheet before the competent Magistrate.

b) Needless to say, the findings of the Apex Body, that

there is no gross medical negligence, would be treated by the

Investigating Officer only as an opinion and the investigation will

be thus completed.

Sd/-

SAS/RR

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
JUDGE

## APPENDIX OF WP(C) 38061/2022

| PETITI( | ONER E | XHIBITS |
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| SELLLIONER EXHIBITS |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Exhibit P1          | TRUE COPY OF THE FIR NO. 0574/2020 DATED 24/04/2020 IN ETTUMANOOR POLICE STATION, KOTTAYAM.  |
| Exhibit P2          | TRUE COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL EXPERT PANEL COMMITTEE   |
| Exhibit P3          | TRUE COPY OF THE REPORT DATED 20/08/2022 OF THE STATE LEVEL APEX BODY.   |
| Exhibit P4          | TRUE COPY OF THE CIRCULAR NO. 73304/SSB3/2007/HOME DATED 16/06/2008 ISSUED BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT   |
| Exhibit P5          | TRUE COPY OF THE REPORT DATED 10/05/2022 OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.  |
| Exhibit P6          | TRUE COPY OF THE COMPLAINT DATED 12/04/2022 AGAINST THE PETITIONERS BEFORE THE DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, KOTTAYAM.                      |
| Exhibit P7          | TRUE COPY OF THE OBJECTIONS FILED IN C.C NO.83 OF 2022 DATED 07/07/2022.   |
| Exhibit P8          | TRUE COPY OF THE STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE 2ND PETITIONER DATED 15/07/2022 BEFORE THE APEX BODY.  |
| RESPONDENT EXHIBITS |  |
| Exhibit R7(a)       | True copy of the relevant pages of the Final Report dated 21.12.2022 in Crime.No.574/2020 filed before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court-1, Ettumanoor |
| Exhibit R7(b)       | True copy of the doctor s initial assessment dated 23.04.2020  |
| Exhibit R7(c)       | True copy of the Doctors record dated 23.04.2020 and 24.04.2020  |
| Exhibit R7(d)       | True copy of the nurses record dated 23.04.2020 and 24.04.2020   |
| Exhibit P7(e)       | True copy of the delivery details dated 24.04.2020 of the 1st respondent   |
| Exhibit R7(f)       | True copy of the anesthesia notes dated 24.04.2020   |
| Exhibit R7(g)       | True copy of the pre-operative checklist dated 24.04.2020  |
| Exhibit R7(h)       | True copy of the pathology report dated 26.06.2020 of the Department of Pathology, Medical College, Kottayam   |

| Exhibit R7(i)       | True copy of the Expert Opinion dated 06.04.2021 of the Medical Board of All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi  |
|---------------------|---|
| Exhibit R7(j)       | True copy of the statement of Dr.Ahsa<br>Rani, recorded by the investigating<br>officer on 08.12.2022   |
| Exhibit R7(k)       | True copy of the statement of Dr.Sithara C.J recorded by the investigating officer on 21.11.2022  |
| Exhibit R7(l)       | True copy of the death summary issued by the 2nd petitioner dated 23.04.2020  |
| PETITIONER EXHIBITS |   |
| Exhibit P-9         | True copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the 1st Petitioner and Valankanni Matha Hospital (P) Ltd., dated 01. 08. 2017                                |
| Exhibit P-10        | True copy of the relevant page of the Nurses Record, with entries, dated 23. 04. 2020   |
| Exhibit P-11        | True copy of the Blood Compatibility<br>Report, issued from Velankanni Matha<br>Hospital (P) Ltd., dated 23. 04. 2020.  |
| Exhibit P-12        | True copy of the page No. 180 of the Labour Room Register   |
| Exhibit P-15        | True copies of the relevant pages of the<br>Lab Register, with entries dated 24. 04.<br>2020  |
| Exhibit P-16        | True copy of the print-out from the haematology automatic analyser, dated 24. 04. 2020  |
| Exhibit P-13        | True copy of the relevant pages of the Doctors Record containing entries dated 24. 04. 2020.  |
| Exhibit P-14        | True copy of the duly filled-in<br>Transfusion Reaction From, issued from<br>Blood Bank of Velankanni Matha Hospital<br>Private Ltd., 15 Nos., dated 24. 04. 2020 |
| RESPONDENT EXHIBITS |   |
| Exhibit R7(m)       | True copy of the Nurses Operation Record dated 24.04.2020 along with annexures  |
| Exhibit R7(n)       | True copy of the reply to the RTI application dated 15.10.2020, containing the report of the Maternal Death Audit Committee                                       |
| Exhibit R7(o)       | True copy of the application dated  |

03.12.2022 under the RTI Act
Exhibit R7(p) True copy of the reply dated 03.01.2023 under the RTI Act

## APPENDIX OF WP(C) 3649/2024

### PETITIONER EXHIBITS

| Exhibit P1 | A TRUE COPY OF THE F.I.R. IN CRIME NO.651/2022 OF THE PALAKKAD TOWN SOUTH POLICE STATION DATED, 6-7-2022                        |
|------------|---|
| Exhibit P2 | A TRUE COPY OF THE POSTMORTEM CERTIFICATE DATED, 6-7-2022 ISSUED BY THE POLICE SURGEON, DISTRICT HOSPITAL, PALAKKAD             |
| Exhibit P3 | A TRUE COPY OF THE ADDITIONAL POSTMORTEM CERTIFICATE DATED, 27-7-2022 ISSUED BY THE POLICE SURGEON, DISTRICT HOSPITAL, PALAKKAD |
| Exhibit P4 | A TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER DATED, 4-5-2023 IN HRMP NO.4622/11/10/2022/PKD OF THE STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION                    |
| Exhibit P5 | A TRUE COPY OF THE OPINION OF THE STATE LEVEL APEX BODY DATED, NIL  |
| Exhibit P6 | A TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT IN W.P. (CRL.)NO.1170/2023 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT DATED, 18-12-2023                                  |