

DELHI

Judicial Services Exam

CIVIL JUDGE CADRE

High Court of Delhi

Judgement

Volume - 1



DELHI JUDICIAL SERVICES

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Versus union of India and Anr.

Judgement Writing



Judgement writing

A judge, by his conduct, by his fairness in hearing and by his just and equitable decisions, should earn for himself and the judiciary, the trust and respect of the public and the members of the bar.

Introduction: - What is a judgment?

A Judgment may be defined as a reasoned pronouncement by a judge on a disputed legal question which has been argued before him. It is a literary composition, but a composition subject to certain conventions. It possesses its own characteristics and its own standards of merit. The art of composing judgments is not taught; it is acquired by practice and by study of the models provided in the innumerable volumes of the law reports in which are recorded the achievements of past masters of the art.

Dictionary meaning

- 1. Judgment. Black's Law Dictionary, 9th Ed. West Publishing Company. 2009 A court's final determination of the rights and obligations of the parties in a case. The term judgment includes an equitable decree and any order from which an appeal lies.
- 2. English law. An opinion delivered by a member of the appellate committee of the House of Lords; a Law Lord's judicial opinion.
 - * An action is instituted for the enforcement of a right or the redress of an injury. Hence a judgment, as the culmination of the action declares the existence of the right, recognizes the commission of the injury, or negatives the allegation of one or the other. But as no right can exist without a correlative duty, nor any invasion of it without a corresponding obligation to make amends, the judgment necessarily affirms, or else denies, that such a duty or such a liability rests upon the person against whom the aid of law is invoked.
 - * The pre-requisite for a 'good' Judgment/Order is a good hearing. The process of reasoning by which the court comes to the ultimate conclusion and decrees the suit should be reflected clearly in the judgment. Judgment is the most important document for the parties as well as the Judge and more important for the Judge are the reasons in support of his/her judgment. Clear thinking is the key to clear



writing. A clearly expressed judgment demonstrates the interest of the subject and the exposition of legal reasoning. Reasons given by a judge in a judgment indicate the working of his/ her mind, approach his/ her grasp of the question of fact and law involved in the case and the depth of his knowledge of law. In short, a judgment reflects the personality of the judge and, therefore, it is necessary that it should be written with care and after mature reflection.

Civil and criminal matters

- 1. In civil matters, the judgments as the requirement of law goes, may be broadly classified into two categories, namely, long and short judgments. In original suits, the final decision of a case requires writing of a long and reasoned judgment. These includes suits for permanent or prohibitory injunction; possession and mesne profit; specific performance of contract; cancellation of documents; partition and possession; dissolution of firm and accounting; redemption or foreclosure of mortgage etc. As compared to it a Judge is required to write short judgments, in the matter of interlocutory orders; summary suits; preliminary issues; review; restoration; accepting compromise etc.
- 2. The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (the Code) "Judgment" in Section 2(9) as the statement given by the Judge, on the grounds of a decree or order. The "order" under Section 2(14) is defined as formal expression of any decision of a Civil Court, which is not a decree. The "decree" in section 2(2) means formal expression of an adjudication, which, so far as regards the Court expressing it, conclusively determination the rights of the parties with regard to all or any of the matters in controversy in the suit and may be either preliminary or final. The rejection of a plaint and determination of any question under Section 144 is also a decree.
- 3. Order XX of the Code, deals with "Judgment and Decree", Rule 4 (1) provides that judgment of Court of Small Causes need not contain more than the points for determination and the decision thereon. Sub-Rule (2), provides for a judgment of other Courts to contain a concise statement of the case, the points for determination, the decision thereon, and the reasons for such decisions. Rule 5 mandates that in suits in which issues have been framed, the Court shall state its finding or decision, with the



- reasons there of, upon each separate issue, unless the finding upon any one or more of the issues is sufficient for the decision of the suit.
- 4. In criminal matters, Chapter XXVII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides for 'the Judgment'. Section 353 requires the judgment in every trial to be pronounced in open Court immediately after the termination of the trial, or at some subsequent time of which notice shall be given to the parties or their pleaders. The judgment as provided in Section 354, is to be written in the language of the Court, and shall contain the point or points for determination, the decision thereon and the reasons for the decision. The section further provides that the judgment shall specify the offence (if any) of which, and the section of IPC, or other law under it, accused is convicted and punishment to which he is sentenced. If the judgment is of acquittal it shall state the offence of which the accused is acquitted and direct that he be set at liberty. In case of conviction for an offence punishable with death or in the alternative with imprisonment for life, the judgment has to state the reasons for sentence awarded and special reasons for death sentence. In case of conviction with imprisonment for a term of one year or more, a shorter term of less than three months, also requires the Court to record reasons for awarding such sentence unless the sentence is one of imprisonment, till the rising of the Court or unless the case was tried summarily under the provisions of the Code.
- 5. For orders under Section 117 (for keeping peace and for good behaviour), Section 138(2) (confirming order for removal of nuisance), Section 125 (for maintenance) and Section 145 or 147 (disputes as to immovable properties), the Code provides in sub-section (6) that order shall contain the point or points for determination, the decision thereon and the reasons for the decision. Section 355 provides for a summary method of writing judgment by Metropolitan Magistrate, giving only particulars regarding the case, name, parentage and residence of the accused and complainant, the offence complained of or proved; plea of the accused and his examination (if any); the final order and the date of order, and where appeal lies, a brief statement of the reasons for the decision. The order to pay compensation where the Court imposes sentence or fine; order of compensation for groundless arrest and the order to pay cost in noncognizable cases, may be made with the judgment under Sections 357, 358 and 359 of the Code. Section 360 provides for order to release on



- probation and special reasons in certain cases where the Court deals with accused person under Section 360 or Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.
- 6. The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 have provided sufficient guidelines for writing judgment. These, however, are not exhaustive. There is a wide discretion left with the Judges to choose their style of writing, language, manner of statement of facts, discussion of evidence and reasons for the decision.

The format of Judgment writing

Civil judgment and criminal judgment are different in their structure and format. So, make a thorough reading of the facts and understand what kind of case it is. Start the judgment with the name of the court and then the name of the presiding officer followed by the cause title of the case. Start the body of the judgment with the facts of the case in your point of view. In case of civil cases write down the issues framed, both issue in law and issue in fact. Take out each issue and critically analyze it with the arguments advanced from both the side. If it is a criminal case, frame the charges and discuss each charge based on the pleadings given. Compare and elucidate all materials said to be placed before the court and apply the relevant provision of law. The most important part of the judgment is the ratio decidendi where you have to make a decision about the case and give reasons for that decision. This is where the candidate's articulation skills are assessed in the judgment written. One can either adopt a chronological approach or a thematic approach to reach a conclusion. Either way, a logical sequencing of the trial is necessary as far as a good judgment is concerned. Here is an outline of how a judgment should proceed:

Introduction

- * Preliminary issues
- * Summary of the prosecution/plaintiff's case
- * Summary of the defendant's case
- * Issues to be determined



Evidence and factual findings

- * Argument of prosecution or plaintiff on the first issue or charge
- * Argument from the side of the defendant
- * Evidence from either side
- * Judges evaluation of the evidence and the arguments

Applicable Law on each issue

- * Statement of law
- * Case law in support
- * Application of law to the facts

Judgment

- * Finding of the guilt
- * Decision made
- * Reasons for the decision
- * The sentence or the order passed

Style of judgment writing

Writing as much as possible in plain English language is the best way to nail a judgment writing task. At the same time avoid repetitions and long sentences which could cause difficulty in understanding the point. A good judgment explains the losing party why they lost, so each and every nuance of the case could be explained in the simplest manner. Including footnotes can help you to avoid dragging the judgment into a lengthy one. Even though the substance is more important than the style, following a single style of writing will make the judgment look neat and tidy

Conclusion

A judge renders justice through his decisions. The decision-making culminating in the judgment is the heart and soul of the judicial process. Good judgments enhance the prestige of the Judge and eventually the prestige of the judiciary. Bad judgments, obviously, have the opposite effect. Therefore, there is a need for the judges to make a constant and continuous effort to render good judgments. Decision making is not about writing a judgment. Nor does it begin when a judge starts hearing final arguments. It pervades every stage of the case-in making interim orders, in framing issues or charges, in allowing or disallowing questions in oral evidence, in admitting or rejecting documents, in hearing arguments, in analyzing the material and



reaching a decision, and even in granting or refusing adjournments. In short, it is the way judge hears, behaves, conducts and decides a case.

In the midst of swelling litigation, backlog and insufficient research facilities, writing a good quality judgment is an ongoing challenge. Art of writing a judgment depends on the knowledge, proficiency, and aptitude of the judge. Judicial officers, seldom have the occasion to reflect on their approaches to writing judgments. Their experience prior to appointment often does not train them how to write judgments. As a rule, many blindly pursue the usual method followed by their forerunners, their assumptions about what must go in a judgment. Judges spend most of their time reading judgments written by others.

It is worthwhile to keep the following basic rules in mind while writing a judgment:

- * Reasoning should be intelligible and logical.
- * Clarity and precision should be the goal.
- * Use of strange and difficult words and complex sentences should be avoided.
- * A judge cannot use his personal knowledge of facts in a judgment.
- * The findings and directions should be precise and specific.
- * While exercising appellate or revisional jurisdiction, unnecessary criticism of the trial courts" conduct, judgment or reasoning should be avoided.



Case Study Indian contract ACT, 1872

S. no.	Case name	Related To
1.	Mhada us. Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. (P) Ltd., (2018) 3 SCC 13	Government Contracts and Tenders
2.	Sam Built Well (P) Ltd. v. Deepak Builders, (2018) 2 SCC 176	Government Contracts and Tenders - Judicial Review / Validity - Opinion of project owner / Experts on satisfaction of eligibility criteria Relevance of - Judicial restraint.
3.	Mhada us. Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. (P) Ltd., (2018) 3 SCC 13	Government Contracts and Tenders arbitration or Foreign seated arbitration Determination of :
4.	Raveechee & Co. v. Union of India. (2018) 7 SCC 664	Arbitration Act, 1940 SS. 29 and 13- Pendente lite interest.

Negotiable instrument ACT, 1881

S. no.	Case name	Related To
1.	Kishan rao vs. Shakargauda	Supreme Court reiterated that mere denial of a debt or liability cannot shift the burden of proof from the accused in a case of dishonour of the cheque.
2.	Priyanka Nagpal vs. State (NCT of Delhi), (2018) 3 SCC 249	Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 - S. 138 - Sentence and compensation:
3.	P. Ramadas vs. State of Kerala, (2018 3 SCC 287	Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 - S4138:
4.	P. Ramadas vs. State (NCT of Delhi), (2018) 3 SCC 249	Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 - S. 138 - Sentence and compensation:
5.	P. Ramadas vs. State of Kerala, (2018) 3 SCC 287	Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 - 5. 138:



Specific Relief Act, 1963

S. no.	Case name	Related To
1.	Maharashtra State Electricity	Contract and Specific Relief -
	Distribution Co. Ltd. us. Datar	Termination /Discharge of
	Switchgear Ltd., (2018 3 SCC	Contract - Termination/
	133	Repudiation for Breach of
		Contract:
2.	Kalawati vs. Rakesh Kumar,	Specific Relief Act, 1963 - S.
	(2018) 3 <i>SCO</i> 658	16(e) -Specific performance of
		contract.
3.	Krishna Devi us. Keshri	Contract and Specific Relief -
	Nandan, (2018) 4 <i>SCC</i> 481	Formation Defects - Fraud and
		misrepresentation - Matters
		required to be established:
4.	M.P. Power Management Co.	Contract and Specific Relief -
	Ltd. us. Renew Clean Energy (P)	Performance of Contract Time of
	Ltd., (2018) 6 SCC 157	Performance - Time of the
		Essence - Termination/Discharge/
		Compensation/Penalty for delayed
E	V.D. Cudhama Dadduu	performance:
5.	Y.P. Sudhanva Reddy v.	Section 34, 35, 37 and 38
	Karnataka Milk Federation,	
6.	(2018) 6 SEC 574 Urmila Devi D. Mandir Shree	Specific Relief Act, 1963 - S. 21 -
0.	Chamunda Devi, (2018) 2 SCC	Compensation in lieu of specific
	284	performance:
7.	Manjeet "Singh vs. National	Contract and Specific Relief -
'.	Insurance Co. Ltd.; (2018) 2	Termination/ Discharge of
	SCC 108	Contract Termination/ Repudiation
		for Breach of Contract:
8.	Eureka Builders Gulabchand,	Transfer of Property Act, 1882 -
	(2018) SCC 67	Ss. 8, 7 and 54 - Nemo dat quod
		non habet:



Transfer of Property 1882

S. no.	Case name	Related To
1.	A Dharmalingam VS. Lalithambal, (2018) 6 SCC 65	Transfer of Property Act, 1882 - Ss. 54, 7 and 8 Sale of remainder men's interest during lifetime of holders of life estate:
2.	Dharmalingam vs. Lalithambal, (2018) 6 SCC 65	Transfer of Property Act, 1882 - Ss. 54, 7 and 8 Sale of remainder men's interest during lifetime of holders of life estate:
3.	A.P. Industrial Infrastructure Corpn. Ltd. vs. S.N. Raj Kumar, (2018) 6 SCC 410	NA
4.	Balwant Vithal Kadam v. Sunil Baburaoi Kadam, (2018) 2 <i>SCC</i> 82	Transfer of Property Act, 1882 - S. 54 - Agreement for sale/ agreement to sell of immovable property:
5.	A. Dharmalingam vs. Lalithambal, (2018) 6 SCC 65	Transfer of Property Act, 1882 - Ss. 54, 7 and 8 Sale of remainder men's interest during lifetime of holders of life



The Transfer of Property Act, 1882

S. no.	Case Name	Facts	Date
1.	Tanu ram bora	[Section 43 of	February
	Versus	Transfer of	8 th 2019
	Promod ch.	Property Act,	
	Das (d)	1882 Transfer By	
	Through	Erroneous	
	Lrs. And	Representation of	
	Others	Title Will	
		Hold Good If	
		Transferor Acquires	
		Title	
		Later.	
2.	Ganesan (d)	Not always	11 July,
	Through Irs	Necessary that	2019
	Versus	attesting witnesses	
	Kalanjiam	Should	
1 /	And others	Actually see	
	l l Unie	The testator	r in vou
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Sign the will	J
3.	Sopan (dead)	Sale with a	July 16,
	Through his	Mere Condition	2019
	L.r.	of Re-transfer Is	
	Versus	Not a Mortgage	
	Syed nabi		



	Indian Penal Code, 1860		
5.No.	Case Name	Facts	Date
1.	Mahesh kumar	[Section 304	7 August, 2019
	Versus	B Indian Penal Code	
	State of Haryana	1860; Section 113B Of Indian Evidence Act, 1872] A case of death in lieu of demand of dowry can only be made out when it is proved that soon before her death the victim was subjected to cruelty harassment.	
2.	Pramod Suryabhan Pawar Versus The State of Maharashtra &Anr.	When 'Consent Will Be Vitiated By 'Misconception Of Fact' Arising Out Of Promise To Marry?	August 21, 2019



			+
3.	Gargi	[Section 302 r/w	19 September,
		Section 120-B of	2019
	Versus	Indian Penal code,	
		1860 hereinafter	
	State of	referred as 'IPC']	
	Haryana		
		[Section 106 of	
		Indian Evidence Act,	
		1872 hereinafter	
		referred as 'IEA']	
4.	Kalu alias Laxmi	Section 302 IPC	7 November,
	Narayan	The interplay	2019
		Of circumstantial	
	Versus	evidence, last seen	
		theory and section	
	State of MP	114,101 read with	Λ
	0 0	Section 106 of the,	
		Indian evidence act,	00/0
5.	Awadhesh	Matter will fall	8 November,
	Kumar	under section 302	2019
		IPC OR 304 part 1	ropper in y
	Versus	(300 exception 4	
		IPC)	
	State of u.p and		
	Another		



6.	State of	Principle of vicarious	19 November
	Madhya	liability under	20, 2019
	Pradesh	section 149 IPC.	
	Versus		
	Killu and others		
7.	Chaitu Lal	Offence off	28 November,
		Attempt To Rape	2019
	Versus	Can Be Attracted	
		Even If Accused	
	State of	Had Not Undressed	
	Uttarakhand	Himself -Section	
		376 @ read with 51	
		Indian	
		Penal Code, 1860	
8.	Jai prakash	Self-Imposed	28 November,
	0 0	Resctive	2019
	Versus	Constitutional power	
		of Hon'ble Supreme	
	State of Utta	court under article	copper in v
	Pradesh	136	
9.	Suraj	NA	December 13,
	Jagannath		2019
	Jadhav		
	Versus		
	The State of		
	Maharashtra		
10.	Harinder singh	Section 302	17 December,
	Alias Hira		2019
	Versus		
	State of punjab		



[Section 304 B Indian Penal Code 1860; section 113B of Indian Evidence Act, 1872]

A case of death in lieu of demand of dowry can only be made out when it is proved that soon before her death the victim was subjected to cruelty or harassment.

Mahesh Kumar Versus State of haryana

Division bench of hon'ble supreme court

Hon'ble I. Nawenwimui mind and Hemant Goplans

Dated: 7 august, 2019 **Author**: Hemant Gupta J.

Law point

- 1. In section 304B IPC, the words "soon before her death" is to emphasise the idea that her death should, in all probabilities, have been the aftermath of cruelty or harassment related to the demand for dowry.
- 2. "soon before her death" can be defer to a period either immediately before her death or within a few days or even a few weeks before it but the proximity to her death is the pivot indicated by that expression.
- 3. There must be existence of a proximate and live link between the effect of cruelty based on dowry demand and the death concerned.
- 4. It is not sufficient to prove that the deceased was treated with cruelty relating to demand of dowry soon before her death in the absence of independent evidence though available but not examined.

Brief facts

The case of the prosecution was as follows:

The Complainant Sohan Lal (PW3), father of deceased, stated that Mahesh Kumar got married to the deceased Omwati on 26.05.1991. Soon after the marriage, she was illtreated byher husband Mahesh Kumar (Appellant),



Father-in-law Rajpal (A2), Mother- in-law Smt. Savitri (A3) and Sister-in-law Kamlesh (A3), as they demanded dowry.

Complainant further claims that he gave dowry more than his capacity but they were not satisfied and continue with the ill-treatment and also started beating her. The deceased sent a letter to the complainant informing him about the same, after which, the complainant went to the village where his daughter was residing, met her and her in- laws and informed them that he was unable to satisfy their demand of dowry as it was beyond his capacity and that his daughter should not be harassed for bringing insufficient dowry.

The complainant states that the deceased's in-laws had tendered an apology at that time and father-in-law of the deceased executed the same in writing. They promised to send deceased to her parental home on Raksha Bandhan. Subsequently, after the festival she went back to her matrimonial house with the Appellant and at that time the complainant had given them a sum of Rs. 1,000/- in cash. After about ten months, the Appellant left the deceased at her brother Rajbir's house and demanded Rs:5,000/-, It is further claimed that, on 03.02.1994, the Complainant paid Rs 2:000/ to the Appellant when he came to take the deceased back with him and promised to pay the remaining amount soon, after arranging the same. At that time, the deceased had apparently expressed apprehension that her in-laws would not allow her to live, lest the demands were not fulfilled. It was on 08.02.1994, that the complainant received information that his daughter, had expired in Civil Hospital, Gurgaon, and alleges that the same was caused by the administration of poison by the accused. An FIR was thus lodged on 09.02. 1994, against the Appellant, A2, A3 and A4.

The investigation was conducted by Investigating Officer Assim Khan PW9 and all the four accused were arrested. After completing investigation, a report was filed in the Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class, Gurgaon who committed the case to the Trial Court. The charge was framed against all the four accused under section 304- B IPC.