

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
INTERIM APPLICATION (L) NO. 19695 OF 2026
IN
SUIT (L) NO. 19692 OF 2026

Pratiksha Foundation Charitable Trust & Anr. ...Applicants/Plaintiffs

Versus

FulcrumSec and Ors. ...Defendants/Respondents

Mr. Birendra Saraf a/w. Mr. Chirag Mody, Mr. Parag Khandhar, Mr. Soham Bhalerao, Mr. Tapan Radkar, Mr. Sankit Jain i/b. DSK Legal for the Applicants/Plaintiffs.

CORAM : ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.
DATE : 12th JUNE 2026

P.C.

1. Dr. Saraf, Learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the Applicants at the outset, submitted that the matter is being moved for urgent ad interim relief *ex parte* since he submitted that giving notice of the Application would, in all likelihood, defeat its very purpose.
2. He then tendered a draft amendment seeking to incorporate two additional prayers in the Interim Application and also an Additional Affidavit which, in paragraph 11, sets out in detail, the reasons why the Applicants are moving for *ex parte* ad-interim relief. Having perused the same, I am

satisfied that this is a case which warrants the grant of *ex parte* ad-interim relief. The Additional Affidavit is taken on record. The draft amendment is marked 'X' for identification and is allowed. Amendment to be carried out forthwith. Reverification is dispensed with.

3. Dr. Saraf then submitted that the Applicants run various educational institutions in which thousands of children are enrolled and imparted education. He submitted that the Applicants had been constrained to file the present Suit since the Applicants had fallen victim to an incident of hacking by which the databases of the Applicants which contain confidential and highly sensitive information pertaining to the children to whom education is or had been imparted, have been compromised. He pointed out that the information included not only details of the children's movements, i.e., when and from where they travel to school, but also details of medical conditions, including those affecting the mental health and well-being of various children.
4. He then invited my attention to the e-mail dated 12th May 2026 by which Defendant No. 1 had demanded a ransom of USD 750,000, failing which Defendant No. 1 had threatened to divulge the confidential information and make the same public. He pointed out that in the said email, Defendant No. 1 had described itself as a "cyber criminal" and that the email set out a stage-wise manner in which Defendant No. 1 had proposed to enforce the threat set out in the said email.
5. Dr. Saraf then submitted that after the e-mail was received, the Applicants were advised to engage with Defendant No. 1 only to ascertain the identity

of Defendant No. 1. He submitted that thereafter correspondence was exchanged between the Applicants and Defendant No. 1 in which he submitted that Defendant No. 1 had even made an offer to make payment of certain sums to Defendant No. 1. When asked to point out this correspondence, he submitted that the same was not annexed to the Plaint but he undertook to file an Affidavit bringing on record the entire correspondence which ensued between the parties after the receipt of the e-mail dated 12th May 2026. His statement in this regard is accepted.

6. Dr. Saraf then submitted that the reasons why the Applicants had to urgently file the present Suit because Defendant No. 1 had, on 10th June 2026, addressed an e-mail to one of the parents which divulged the details of highly confidential information regarding several children, particularly concerning various mental health issues faced by them. I have perused the same with the assistance of Dr. Saraf and find what has been pointed out to me as being most disturbing. The disclosure of such highly sensitive and confidential information, particularly with regard to the mental health issues of the children, could indeed have grave and deleterious effects, in particular on the children themselves. Also, from what has been pointed out to me, Defendant No. 1 has details of the vocation, income and other details of the parents of the children and the daily movement of the children. Such information, if made public, could also potentially pose a grave risk to the safety of the children.
7. I am therefore inclined to grant the Applicants ad interim relief in terms of prayer clauses (a), (c-1) and (c-2) since, in my view, and particularly on

the basis of what has been set out in paragraph 11 of the Additional Affidavit, a case for the grant of *ex parte* ad interim relief has been made out.

8. The Affidavit setting out the correspondence between the Applicants and Defendant No. 1 shall be filed within two weeks from today.
9. Let a copy of this order be served upon the Defendants.
10. Stand over to 1st July 2026 for further hearing on interim relief.

[ARIF S. DOCTOR, J.]