



WEB COPY

OP No. 450 of 2



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 29-04-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE DR.JUSTICE A.D.MARIA CLETE

OP No. 450 of 2023

S.Anand

..Petitioner

Vs

R.Archana

..Respondent

Prayer: That this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to grant the petitioner permanent custody of his minor children, Aanya born on 19.10.2011 and the younger son, Aarav born on 18.08.2014.

For Petitioner(s): Ms.S.P.Arthi

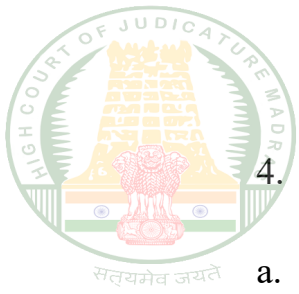
For Respondent(s): Ms.R.T.Shyamala

ORDER

The present Original Petition has been filed praying to grant the petitioner permanent custody of his minor children, Aanya born on 19.10.2011 and the younger son, Aarav born on 18.08.2014.

2. After a brief hearing and having regard to the welfare of the minor child(ren), and pending consideration of the larger issues in the Original Petition, this Court considers it appropriate to refer the matter for a combined mediator-counsellor session to explore an amicable parenting arrangement and obtain child-focused assistance on interim parenting issues.

3. Accordingly, the matter is referred to the Mediation Centre.



4.

The referral shall be subject to the following conditions:

a. As chosen by the learned counsels for both parties, the parties shall appear, in the first instance, before the mediator namely **Ms.S.Thenmozhi** and counsellor namely **Mrs.Preethi Sudhakar** on **11.05.2026** at the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, High Court, Madras, and thereafter on such further date(s) and time(s) as may be fixed by them.

b. The mediator and counsellor may hold joint sessions with the parties, but their functions of course remaining distinct. The mediator shall facilitate consensual settlement while the counsellor shall assist in evolving a child-focused parenting arrangement in the welfare interest of the minor child(ren).

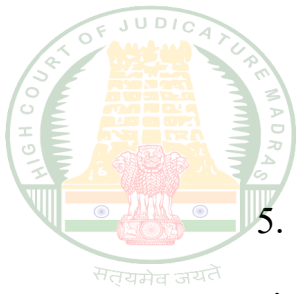
c. Needless to observe that all mediation communications shall remain confidential. No statement, offer, concession, admission, or discussion made in mediation shall be disclosed to this Court.

d. The counsellor may submit a limited parenting proposal/note to this Court to assist in working out an interim parenting arrangement. Such note shall be confined to child welfare, practical parenting arrangements, and the needs of the minor child(ren), and shall not disclose any mediation communication, settlement offer, concession, admission, or reasons for failure of settlement.

e. Both the parties shall bear the fee cost of the Counsellor in equal proportion in adherence to fee structure fixed for the Mediator at the Mediation Centre, High Court of Madras, to be paid directly to the Counsellor and the Counsellor shall forward a receipt of the same to this Court along with the report.

f. On conclusion of the process, the Mediation Centre/designated unit may place before this Court:

- (i) a signed parenting plan, if consensus is reached;
- (ii) the limited counsellor's parenting proposal/note as indicated above, if no consensus arrived at by the parties.



5. Until further orders and without prejudice to the rights and contentions of either party, the existing interim arrangement if any, earlier ordered by this Court shall operate.

6. Post the matter in the fourth week of June, 2026 for report and further orders.

29-04-2026

SRM

To

1. The Director,
Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre,
High Court of Madras,
Chennai.

2. Mrs. Preethi Sudhakar
No. 17/10, Ayshwarya Villa Apartments,
Flat No. 1, Ground Floor,
2nd Canal Cross Road,
Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai – 600 020.



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DR.A.D.MARIA CLETE, J.

SRM

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