



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK
CRLA No.776 of 2023

Sanjit Kumar Gouda ***Appellant(s)***
Mr. Sarbeswar Sahoo, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha ***Respondent(s)***
Mr. Aurobinda Mohanty, ASC

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.K. SAHOO
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. S. MISHRA

ORDER
23.07.2025

Order No.

I.A. No.1654 of 2023

08. This matter is taken up through Hybrid arrangement (video conferencing/physical mode).

This is an application for bail.

Nobody has entered appearance for the informant even though notice has been served on the informant as per the order of this Court on 28.02.2025 by the Inspector-in-Charge of Chandahandi Police Station.

It is ascertained from the learned State counsel as to whether any appropriate communication is being made to the informants/victims in the POCSO cases



while serving notices on them regarding availability of free Legal Aid Counsel or not. The learned State counsel could not satisfactorily answer the same. Quite often, it is seen that the notices are being simply served on the informant/victim without making them aware that the High Court Legal Services Authority shall provide free Legal Aid to them, if they so desire. To partly achieve the object, it would be appropriate to attach a blank Vakalatnama along with notice. While serving such notice, the informant/victim be informed regarding availability of free legal aid lawyers by the High Court Legal Services Authority. If they desire to engage such lawyer, a Vakalatnama may be filled and the same be furnished to the legal aid authority.

In that direction, every Police Station should be sensitized. It is accordingly directed that the copy of this order be sent to the Director General of Police so as to issue appropriate instructions to all the Police Stations.

In the instant case, Learned counsel for the State submits that from the instruction received from the I.I.C. of Chandahandi Police Station, it does not appear that any such communication regarding engagement of counsel by the High Court Legal Services Authority has been given to the informant and he seeks some time to obtain that specific instruction.



Put up this matter on 04.08.2025.

A free copy of this order be handed over to the learned counsel for the State to do the needful.

**(S.K. Sahoo)
Judge**

**(S.S. Mishra)
Judge**

Subhasis/Swarna