



CNR: KAHC010227522026

NC: 2026:KHC:50858
RFA No. 703 of 2026

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
DATED THIS THE 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026
BEFORE
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HANCHATE SANJEEVKUMAR
REGULAR FIRST APPEAL NO. 703 OF 2026 (DEC/INJ)**

BETWEEN:

1. LAKSHMI N
D/O NINGEGOWDA
AGED ABOUT 16 YEARS

(SINCE MINOR
REP BY HER NATURAL GUARDIAN FATHER)

NINGEGOWDA
S/O KRISHNEGOWDA
R/AT NO. 124,
ANDRAHALLI MAIN ROAD
SAIBABA LAYOUT,
BEHIND ANUPAMA SCHOOL
PEENYA 2ND STAGE,
SRINIVASA PROVISION STORE
BANGALORE NORTH
PO VISWANEEDAM
BENGALURU – 560 091.



...APPELLANT

(BY SRI. SAMPATH KUMAR A V, ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA,
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY
VIDHANA SOUDHA



CNR: KAHC010227522026

NC: 2026:KHC:50858
RFA No. 703 of 2026

BANGALORE - 560 001.

2. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS,
BANGALORE NORTH,
BANGALORE - 560 002.
3. THE BLOCK EDUCATIONAL OFFICER,
NORTH RANGE 1,
2ND BLOCK,
P AND T ROAD, RAJAJINAGAR,
BANGALORE - 560 010.
4. HEAD MASTER/HEAD MISTRESS,
APOLLO AKSHARADHAMA SCHOOL,
SANJEEVI NAGAR,
NAGARAHOLE CIRCLE
HEGGANAHALLI CROSS
BANGALORE - 560 091.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. V SESHU, AGA)

THIS RFA IS FILED UNDER SEC.96 OF CPC, AGAINST THE
JUDGMENT AND DECREE DATED.20.01.2026
PASSED IN OS NO.8792/2024 ON THE FILE OF THE XXXI
ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU,
C/c. V ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE,
BENGALURU AND ETC.,

THIS APPEAL, COMING ON FOR FURTHER ARGUMENTS,
THIS DAY, JUDGMENT WAS DELIVERED THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HANCHATE SANJEEVKUMAR



CNR: KAHC010227522026

**NC: 2026:KHC:50858
RFA No. 703 of 2026****ORAL JUDGMENT**

The Regular First Appeal is filed by the appellant/plaintiff calling in question the judgment and decree dated 20.01.2026 passed in O.S.No.8792/2024 by the Court of V Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (hereinafter referred to as 'Trial Court' for short), whereby the suit filed for declaration to declare that the plaintiff name is "Veena N." instead of "Lakshmi N." and mandatory injunction directing the defendants to effect the new name as "Veena N." in school records and other records came to be dismissed.

2. For the sake of convenience and easy reference, the parties are referred to as per their rankings before the Trial Court.

3. It is the case of the plaintiff, in brief, that the plaintiff was born on 20.10.2010 at Jyothi Nursing Home and Maternity Hospital, Rajagopalnagar, Bengaluru. During the naming ceremony, the parents named the plaintiff as



CNR: KAHC010227522026

NC: 2026:KHC:50858
RFA No. 703 of 2026

"Lakshmi N.". Thereafter, the parents of the plaintiff desired to change the name of the plaintiff from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N.", as the new name would bring more prosperity in future to the plaintiff. Therefore, the plaintiff, duly represented by her father, has filed the suit for declaration and mandatory injunction to change her name to "Veena N." in place of "Lakshmi N."

4. The defendants Nos.1 to 3 have appeared and filed the written statement and denied the case of the plaintiff and therefore, prays to dismiss the suit.

5. Based on the pleadings, the Trial Court has framed the following issues:

1. *Whether natural guardian of the plaintiff proves that his minor daughter's correct name is 'Veena N.' and not as 'Lakshmi N.'?*
2. *Whether natural guardian of the plaintiff is entitled for the relief of declaration and mandatory injunction as sought for?*
3. *Whether natural guardian of the plaintiff is entitled for suit reliefs as sought for?*

**CNR: KAHC010227522026**

4. *What order or decree?*

6. The father and natural guaridan of plaintiff is examined as PW.1 and produced documentary evidence and got marked as Exs.P1 and P2. The defendants have not adduced any evidence either oral or documentary.

7. The Trial Court has dismissed the suit on the reason that the plaintiff has not produced any documents to prove that her name is "Veena N." and also that public notices have not been issued publishing the change of name from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N.". Further, the parents of the plaintiff have not approached the first defendant School seeking change of the name of the plaintiff in the school records and other records. Therefore, on all these reasons, the Trial Court has dismissed the suit.

8. Being aggrieved by the same, the plaintiff has preferred the present appeal by raising various grounds and learned counsel for the plaintiff in consonance with the

**CNR: KAHC010227522026**

grounds raised in the appeal, submitted that the parents of the plaintiff have published a public notice in a daily newspaper intending to change the name of the plaintiff from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N.", but the same was not produced before the Trial Court and, therefore, the same has been produced in this appeal by way of additional evidence by invoking the provisions under Order XLI Rule 27 of CPC. Therefore, prays to consider the application and allow the appeal and grant a decree as prayed for. Further, it is submitted that as per the Government Circular regarding change of name, etc., a decree from the competent Civil Court is necessary. Therefore, the plaintiff has filed the suit. Hence, prays to allow the appeal and grant a decree as prayed for.

9. On the other hand, learned AGA has submitted that the suit is not maintainable. Therefore, he prays to dismiss the appeal. Further, he submitted that the plaintiff has not produced any evidence to show that her name is



"Veena N." and what her original name is "Lakshmi N.". Therefore, he prays to dismiss the appeal by justifying the judgment and decree passed by the Trial Court.

10. Having heard the submissions from both the sides and upon perusal of the records, the following points would arise for consideration:

1. Whether, under the facts and circumstances involved in the case, the plaintiff makes out sufficient grounds and reasons to change her name from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N." in the school records and other records and thus, the plaintiff is entitled to decree for declaration?
2. Whether, Civil Court has jurisdiction to try the suit whenever the suit is filed for declaration for change of name?
3. Whether, the judgment and decree passed by the trial Court requires interference by this Court?

11. It is a simple case of the plaintiff seeking declaratory relief for change of her name from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N.". When the plaintiff was born, her parents have put the name "Lakshmi N." to the child. Now,



the parents of the plaintiff desire to change the name to "Veena N." from "Lakshmi N.". According to their astrological and numerological belief, the new name "Veena N." will bring more prosperity to the plaintiff. The plaintiff is a minor child and is represented by her father and natural guardian – Sri. Ningegowda.

12. The Trial Court has simply dismissed the suit on the ground that the plaintiff has not produced any documents to show that her name is "Veena N.". This reasoning of the Trial Court is unwarranted, as it is not the case of the plaintiff that, at the initial stage, while admitting the plaintiff to the school, her name was wrongly mentioned as "Lakshmi N.". The plaintiff simply desires to be called as "Veena N." and not "Lakshmi N.". Therefore, there could not have been any occasion to produce any document showing the name of "Veena N.".

13. Further, the Trial Court has assigned the reason that the parents of the plaintiff have not approached the



NC: 2026:KHC:50858
RFA No. 703 of 2026

first defendant seeking change of the name of the plaintiff in the school and other records. The defendant No.4 is not having the authority to change the name of the plaintiff in the school or in any other records. The only recourse available to the plaintiff is to file a suit and obtain a decree from the competent Civil Court. In this regard, the Government of Karnataka has issued Circular No. ED 100 DTB 2014 dated 26.10.2025, and the said Circular states that if any person desires to change the name or the name of the parents, or date of birth, etc., the concerned candidate shall obtain a decree from the competent Civil Court. Therefore, as per this Circular, the parents of the plaintiff have filed the suit for declaration. Therefore, the reasoning given by the Trial Court is not correct.

14. Therefore, when the suit is filed and evidence is given upon oath, unless the same is contrary to the evidence on record or otherwise disproved, the same can be accepted. In the present case, the plaintiff simply



desires to change her name from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N.". The letter "N" stands for the name of her father, 'Ningegowda'. There is no objection by anybody else for changing the name of the plaintiff. In this regard, the plaintiff has produced a public notice through newspaper publication intending to change the name of the plaintiff from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N.", and the same is produced by filing an application invoking under Order XLI Rule 27 of CPC.

15. Therefore, upon considering the entire case on its own merits, the plaintiff is entitled to the relief of declaration as prayed for and, accordingly, the name of the plaintiff can be changed from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N." If this decree is passed, there would not be any harm to the defendants or to any other person. Therefore, the plaintiff is entitled to the relief of change of her name from "Lakshmi N." to "Veena N."



16. Every person in society is necessarily to be recognized by his/her name. It is a civil right of every citizen in India to be recognized by his/her name. Therefore, for correction or change of name, filing a suit before the Civil Court is maintainable, as it relates to the adjudication of a civil right. Therefore, for change of the name of a candidate, the competent Civil Court has jurisdiction as per Section 9 of CPC.

17. It is the burden on the plaintiff to establish how the plaintiff is entitled to the relief of declaration for change of her name. However, the Civil Court has jurisdiction to make adjudication on the issue of change of name.

18. Therefore, the suit is liable to be decreed by allowing the appeal. Accordingly, the judgment and decree passed by the Trial Court is liable to be set aside. Accordingly, my answer to the points No.1 to 3 is in the **affirmative**. In the result, I proceed to pass the following:



CNR: KAHC010227522026

ORDER

1. The Regular First Appeal is ***allowed***.
2. The judgment and decree dated 20.01.2026 passed in O.S.No.8792/2024 by the Court of V Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bengaluru, is hereby ***set aside***.
3. The suit is decreed declaring that the plaintiff is entitled to change her name to "Veena N." in place of "Lakshmi N.". Accordingly, mandatory injunction is issued to the defendants to change the name of the plaintiff as "Veena N." in place of "Lakshmi N." in all the school records.
4. It is hereby declared that, now onwards, the plaintiff shall be recognized by her name as "Veena N." daughter of Ningegowda, for all consequential purposes.
5. No Costs.
6. Draw decree accordingly.

Sd/-
(HANCHATE SANJEEVKUMAR)
JUDGE