

'Jail will do more harm': HC grants bail in Pocso case

New Delhi: The Delhi HC has granted bail to a 23-year-old man in a Pocso Act case arising from his consensual physical relationship with a minor girl, saying putting a "young boy" in the company of hardened criminals will do more harm than good to him.

The judge noted the high court had said in an earlier verdict that the intention of Pocso Act was to protect children below the age of 18 years from sexual exploitation and it was never meant to criminalise consensual romantic relationship between young adults.

In the present case, the FIR was registered at the instance of the girl alleging that the accused was her neighbour who befriended her and established physical relationship with her on the pretext that he would marry her. The girl subsequently discovered that she was pregnant and her medical examination revealed it was too late for abortion.

'Uttarakhand Sahbi ke Liye Shiksha Parishad' State Project Office, Tapovan Marg, Nanurkhesha, Raipur, Dehradun. Website: http://ssa.uk.gov.in

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Banshihar Tiwar State Project Director

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