



**NOA v LLM (Divorce Cause E238 of 2022) [2023] KEMC 138 (KLR) (22 May 2023) (Judgment)**

Neutral citation: [2023] KEMC 138 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
IN THE MILIMANI COMMERCIAL CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURTS**

**DIVORCE CAUSE E238 OF 2022**

**JP ADUKE, SRM**

**MAY 22, 2023**

**BETWEEN**

**NOA ..... PETITIONER**

**AND**

**LLM ..... RESPONDENT**

**JUDGMENT**

1. The Petitioner filed the petition dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 seeking a divorce on the grounds of irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, desertion, cruelty and adultery. Return of service on record shows that the respondent was served with the petition and annexures thereto. The respondent entered appearance and filed an answer to the petition. These proceedings proceeded defended.
2. The brief fact of the case are as contained in the petition and answer to petition on record. In summary, NOA and LLM solemnized their marriage in Kenya on [particulars withheld] at the Office of the Attorney General. Both the respondent and the petitioner are domiciled in Kenya. They have NIL issues together from the union. The parties have no intentions of salvaging this marriage. The particulars of the grounds for divorce are outlined in the petition as follows:
  1. Irreconcilable differences /Irretrievable breakdown of the marriage;
  2. Adultery;
  3. Cruelty;
  4. Desertion;
3. At the hearing thereof, the petitioner relied on the petition and pleadings on record as evidence in support of the petition for divorce. Notably, the petitioner averred that the contents of the petition remained true as at the date of the hearing. The petitioner prayed that the petition be allowed as prayed. The respondent equally testified and prayed for an order of divorce to issue.



4. The issue for determination before this court is whether or not the marriage between the parties merits an order of divorce under The Marriage Act, 2014 (hereafter, the Act).
5. The applicable law is s.66 of the Act (dissolution of Civil Marriages) which provides that the court may grant separation or divorce on the following grounds:
  1. adultery by the other spouse;
  2. cruelty by the other spouse;
  3. exceptional depravity by the other spouse;
  4. desertion by the other spouse for at least 3 years;
  5. the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage.
6. I have considered the particulars of the grounds outlined in the petition and how those have contributed to the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage as contemplated under s.66 of the Act. I have also noted the length of physical separation of the couple herein (2020 to date), the levels of antagonism between the parties and relied on the reasoning of the court in JSM v ENB[2015]. With respect to intention to salvage the union, I have noted the unequivocal terms of para 12 of the Petition on lack of such intention. The reasoning of the court in ROK v MJB and TPH v NVS [2017] eKLR cannot be emphasized enough-

“ marriage is a voluntary union.....this court cannot by any means order or compel the parties to remain married when the petitioner has categorically stated that she wants the same dissolved...”
7. Seeing as this court cannot force two adults to live together when there is no more love between them, I allow the petition dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 on the following terms:
  1. the marriage between the two be and is hereby dissolved.
  2. Decree nisi do issue to be made absolute in 30 days.
  3. The costs of the petition awarded to the Petitioner.

**ADUKE JEAL PRAXADES ATIENO**

**SENIOR RESIDENT MAGISTRATE**

**JUDGEMENT SIGNED AT NAIROBI THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2023 IN THE ABSENCE/PRESENCE OF THE PARTIES AT 12.20PM.**

In the presence of :-

Court Assistant: Benjamin Kombe

Counsel for the Petitioner-

Counsel for the Respondent-

