



ANL v FMM (Divorce Cause E379 of 2022) [2023] KEMC 188 (KLR) (20 July 2023) (Judgment)

Neutral citation: [2023] KEMC 188 (KLR)

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

DIVORCE CAUSE E379 OF 2022

JP ADUKE, SRM

JULY 20, 2023

BETWEEN

ANL PETITIONER

AND

FMM RESPONDENT

JUDGMENT

1. The Petitioner filed the petition dated 25th March 2022 seeking a divorce on the grounds of irretrievable breakdown of the marriage and cruelty. 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, ANL and FMM solemnized their marriage in Kenya on 15th November 2015 at the Office of the Attorney General. Both the respondent and the petitioner are domiciled in Kenya. 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. Cruelty;
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 called four witnesses who testified. The respondent really pleaded with the court not to grant an order of divorce.
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, 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 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...” Seeing as this court cannot force two adults to live together when there is no more love between them, I allow the petition dated 25th March 2022 on the following terms:
 1. the marriage between the two be and is hereby dissolved.
 2. Decree nisi do issue forthwith to be made absolute in 30 days.
 3. The Petitioner to bear the costs of the Petition.

ADUKE JEAL PRAXADES ATIENO

SENIOR RESIDENT MAGISTRATE

JUDGEMENT SIGNED AT NAIROBI THIS 20TH JULY 2023 IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PARTIES AT 10.00AM

In the presence of :

1. Court Assistant: Benjamin Kombe
2. Counsel for the Petitioner-
3. Counsel for the Respondent:

