



**ASM v EMK (Divorce Cause E804 of 2022) [2023] KEMC 221 (KLR) (1 August 2023) (Judgment)**

Neutral citation: [2023] KEMC 221 (KLR)

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

**DIVORCE CAUSE E804 OF 2022**

**JP ADUKE, SRM**

**AUGUST 1, 2023**

**BETWEEN**

**ASM ..... PETITIONER**

**AND**

**EMK ..... RESPONDENT**

**JUDGMENT**

1. The Petitioner filed the undated petition seeking a divorce on the grounds of cruelty. Return of service on record shows that the respondent was served with petition and annexures hereto. The respondent neither entered appearance nor filed a response. The petitioner filed an application seeking to have the divorce cause proceed undefended. Return of service on record shows that the respondent was served with the said application. These proceedings proceeded undefended.
2. The brief facts of the case are as contained in the petition on record. In summary, ASM and EMK solemnized their marriage on 11th August 2020 at the Registrar's Office in Nairobi. They have two issues together from the union. Both the petitioner and respondent 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. 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 for an order of dissolution of the marriage, for the respondent to pay the costs of this petition and for any other relief granted by the court.
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 (dissolution of Civil Marriages) of the *Act* 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, and relied on the reasoning of the court in *JSM VS ENB*[2015] eKLR. 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*[2017] eKLR 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 undated petition before me 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. This being a family matter, each party to bear own costs.

**ADUKE JEAL PRAXADES ATIENO**

**SENIOR RESIDENT MAGISTRATE**

**JUDGEMENT DATED AND SIGNED THIS 1ST AUGUST 2023**

In the presence of:

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

