BLOGS

9 Landmark Cases in IPC for CLAT PG 2024

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Introduction

Indian Penal Code is an important subject for CLAT PG and often questions are asked based on concepts and landmark cases in IPC.

Here are a few landmark cases in IPC for CLAT PG 2024 to help you clear the exam!

1. Mahbub Shah v. Emperor

The Court held that common intention implies a pre-arranged plan, prior meeting of minds or prior consultation between all persons constituting the group. The Court held down the following principles:
(i) Essence of liability under Section 34 is found in common intention
(ii)Therefore, to invoke Section 34, it must be shown that the act was done in furtherance of common intention
(iii) For the intention to be common, it must be known to all members and be shared by them

2. Suresh Kumar Koushal v. Naz Foundation (2013)

The Supreme Court, in this case, upheld Section 377 of the IPC, criminalizing homosexual acts, but this decision was later overruled by the Navtej Singh Johar case.

3. Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)

This was a landmark case that overruled Suresh Koushal case and decriminalized consensual homosexual acts between adults. It upheld the principles of individual autonomy, equality, and non-discrimination.

4. Shakti Vahini v. Union of India (2018)

This case dealt with the issue of honor killings and the protection of couples facing threats from family members. The Supreme Court issued guidelines to prevent honor killings and provide protection to inter-caste and inter-religious couples.

5. Ratanlal & Dhirajlal v. The State of Madhya Pradesh (1959)

This case highlighted the principle of “actus reus” in criminal law. It emphasized that for an act to be considered a crime, there must be a voluntary and guilty act. The case dealt with the acts committed while under intoxication.

6. Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)

This case highlighted the misuse of Section 498A of the IPC, which deals with dowry harassment by some women to trouble their spouses and in-laws. The Supreme Court, in this case, issued guidelines to prevent the arbitrary arrest of individuals in dowry harassment cases.

7. Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)

A crucial case involving the constitutional validity of the death penalty. The Supreme Court upheld the death penalty but introduced the “rarest of rare” doctrine, which guides the courts in determining when the death penalty should be imposed.

8. K.M. Nanavati v. State of Maharashtra (1962)

This case is famous for its contribution to the development of the “grave and sudden provocation” defense in homicide cases. The Supreme Court held that provocation must be such that it would lead a reasonable person to lose self-control. Nanavati’s conviction was set aside, and he was eventually pardoned. However, the case led to a significant public debate on the jury system in India, eventually leading to its abolition.

9. Pandurang v. State of Hyderabad

In this case, the Supreme Court differentiated between similar intention and common intention. The Court held that several persons can simultaneously attack a man and each can have the same intention and each can individually inflict a separate fatal blow and yet none would have the common intention as there was no prior meeting of minds to form a pre-arranged plan.

To go through more such landmark cases for CLAT PG, click here!