# Legal Case Summary: Abdul Wahid vs State of Rajasthan (2025)

Case Title: Abdul Wahid vs The State of Rajasthan

Citation: 2025 INSC 256

Court: Supreme Court of India

Date of Judgment: 28 February 2025

Bench: Justice Sanjay Karol, Justice Aravind Kumar

## Facts of the Case:

- Abdul Wahid, the appellant, was convicted under Section 8 of the POCSO Act for sexually assaulting a minor girl.  
- The alleged incident occurred in 2017 when the minor went missing and later identified Abdul Wahid as the assailant.  
- The Trial Court and High Court upheld the conviction based on the victim's testimony and medical evidence.  
- Abdul Wahid approached the Supreme Court challenging the credibility of the victim’s statements and lack of corroborative evidence.

## Procedural History:

- Trial Court convicted Abdul Wahid under Section 8 of the POCSO Act.  
- High Court affirmed the conviction.  
- Appeal filed before the Supreme Court citing contradictions in the victim's statements and procedural lapses in the investigation.

## Issues before the Court:

1. Whether the conviction could be sustained solely on the minor victim’s testimony.  
2. Whether contradictions in statements and delay in FIR weaken the prosecution’s case.  
3. Whether the medical report corroborates the charge of sexual assault.

## Judgment:

- The Court found contradictions between the victim’s statements and medical findings.  
- FIR was delayed and the explanation was not convincing.  
- Victim’s statement under Section 164 CrPC was recorded late and did not match earlier claims.  
- Medical report ruled out any signs of recent sexual assault.  
- Held that benefit of doubt must go to the accused.

## Key Legal Findings:

1. Sole testimony of a child witness needs careful scrutiny, especially when unsupported by medical or forensic evidence.  
2. Delay in lodging FIR and recording of statement casts doubt on prosecution version.  
3. Conviction under Section 8 POCSO not sustainable in light of contradictions and lack of medical support.

## Final Decision:

✅ Appeal allowed  
✅ Conviction under Section 8 POCSO Act set aside  
✅ Appellant acquitted of all charges  
✅ Appellant to be released unless required in any other case  
✅ No costs awarded