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COURT OF RECORD

Bastard” Isn’t Obscene, Says Supreme Court

Heat-of-the-Moment Abuse Falls Outside IPC Section 294

Sheikh Rayees • April 7, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

A sharp exchange of words, even one featuring the term “bastard,” does not automatically cross into criminal obscenity. The Supreme Court has clarified that casual abuse, unless laced with sexual or prurient overtones, cannot attract punishment under Section 294 of the Indian Penal Code.

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