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SUPREME COURT

SC Says Rape Case Can Be Dropped If Settlement Brings Closure

But Only in Rare, Clear-Cut Cases

Sheikh Rayees • July 17, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a nuanced decision walking the tightrope between legal gravity and personal agency, the Supreme Court of India has ruled that rape charges may, under exceptional circumstances, be quashed if the complainant and accused reach a meaningful, voluntary settlement. The ruling came in response to a challenge to a Bombay High Court (Aurangabad Bench) order that refused to quash a rape case, even though the woman at the heart of...

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