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SUPREME COURT

Silence Alone Is Not Cruelty

Supreme Court Clears Husband in Suicide-Linked 498A Case

Sheikh Rayees • June 12, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Supreme Court has ruled that a husband's decision not to communicate with his wife for a brief period cannot, by itself, be treated as cruelty under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code. Setting aside the conviction of a man accused after his wife died by suicide, the court observed that periods of silence and disagreements are not uncommon in married life and do not automatically amount to criminal...

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