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SUPREME COURT

# Supreme Court Declares Maintenance Proceedings Civil Despite Penal Outcomes

Sheikh Rayees • January 13, 2025

## PUBLISHED REPORT

In a significant clarification, the Supreme Court has ruled that maintenance proceedings under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) are fundamentally civil in nature, despite potential penal consequences for non-compliance. The Court emphasized that their placement within criminal law does not alter their core character. The bench, led by the Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, observed, “Even if non-compliance with an order for...

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