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SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court

Vehicle Registration Certificate Not Decisive for Interim Custody of Seized Vehicles

Sheikh Rayees • July 29, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Supreme Court has clarified that the mere existence of a vehicle's registration certificate in a person's name does not automatically entitle them to interim custody of a seized vehicle under Sections 451 and 457 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Instead, courts must evaluate the surrounding facts to determine who is prima facie entitled to possession until the dispute is finally resolved.

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