



National Commission for Women

Press Note

Court directs Mahesh Murthy to deposit passport

7th April 2018: The Bandra Court today passed the anticipatory bail order in Mumbai-based angel investor Shri Mahesh Murthy's second sexual harassment case, albeit with very tough conditions. According to the order passed on Saturday, Shri Murthy has been directed to deposit his passport with the IO of the case till further order.

Murthy had filed an anticipatory bail application before the Mumbai Sessions Court after a second case of sexual harassment was registered against him on 20th March, 2018. The Court had initially granted him interim relief, directing the Mumbai Police not to arrest him till 7th April, 2018.

In February 2018, Shri Murthy was arrested in connection to another case of sexually harassment and alleged stalking of a Delhi woman, who approached NCW for help. Following his arrest in February, five more women had come forward with their own accusations against Shri Murthy and filed complaints at the Commission; which were duly forwarded to the DGP, Mumbai Police by NCW. The complainants included a senior government officer, a journalist, and a well-known author amongst others. Bandra Police registered the second sexual harassment case after obtaining a statement from one of the five new complainants who had approached NCW.

The Court today has allowed anticipatory bail in the second sexual harassment case on conditions that are listed below:

1. Shri Murthy has been directed to report to Bandra Police Station from 08/04/2018 to 30/04/2018 between 9 am to 11 am. Thereafter, Shri Murthy has been directed to attend Bandra Police Station on 1st (first) and 15th (fifteenth) day of each calendar month between 9 am to 11 am after 30/04/2018 till filling of chargesheet.
2. He has been directed to furnish his permanent residential address and Xerox copy of Aadhaar card.
3. Shri Murthy shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement threat or pressurize any prosecution witnesses and shall not in any manner tamper with prosecution evidence.
4. Shri Murthy shall not leave India without prior permission of the Court.
5. Shri Murthy has been directed to deposit his passport with the IO till further order.
6. Shri Murthy shall not commit any offence similar to the said offence.

The Judge stated that breach of any of the above conditions by Shri Murthy shall result in cancellation of bail. The copy of the judgment is awaited.