

179 (2) IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-26947-2022
Date of Decision: 20.06.2022

M/s Knight Queen Industries Pvt. Ltd. and another ...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another ...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. Vikram Singh, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. R.S. Khaira, AAG, Punjab.

ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

Complaint No.	Case	Dated	Section	Titled
NACT/3095/2017		_____	138 of N.I. Act	M/s Punjab Kashmir Finance Ltd. Versus M/s Knight Queen Industries Pvt. Ltd. and anr.

1. Challenging the order of proclamation on being declared a proclaimed offender, the petitioners have come up before this court under section 482 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Cr.P.C).
2. The accused could not be served through the ordinary process, including summons, bailable warrants, and even non-bailable warrants. The concerned court finally proceeded against the petitioners under section 82 of Cr.P.C and declared the petitioners proclaimed offenders vide order dated 29.05.2018, passed by Learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Jalandhar.
3. After arguing for considerable time, Id. counsel for the petitioners submits that the criminal justice system must not hamper and suffer because of the petitioners. Thus, would confine the prayers in the petition to grant of bail on the petitioner’s surrendering before the majesty of the concerned court, and reserving liberty to raise the given-up relief in the subsequent petition(s), if the need so arises.
4. Id. counsel appearing for the State has strenuously opposed this petition, including the limited relief as confined by the petitioners.

5. Given above, this court is confining the adjudication of this matter to the extent mentioned herein before, reserving the liberty to the petitioners as prayed.

6. The petitioners offer the following explanation for non-appearance, which read as follows:

“That thereafter the petitioners were issued notice by the Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class, Jalandhar on dated 16.05.2017 for 14.07.2017. That on dated 14.07.2017, the case was fixed for appearance of the petitioners, but the notices issued to the petitioners were not received back, which is as evident from order dated 14.07.2017. The Ld. Trial Court, still came to the conclusion that notice has been served and even issued the Bailable Warrants in sum of Rs. 10,000/- for 30.08.2017. The copy of the orders dated 16.05.2017 and 14.07.2017 are attached as Annexure P-2 and P-3.”

7. The offence is under Negotiable Instruments Act which is the summons case. Furthermore, the explanation offered by the petitioners is plausible and there is no material to discard the same at this stage.

8. The primary object of service is to secure the accused's presence in trial. The petitioners have approached this court on its own, which establishes the bonafide at this stage. Without adjudicating the explanation offered and stand taken by the petitioners, this court, in the exercise of its inherent powers under section 482 Cr.P.C, deems it appropriate to grant the following limited relief to the petitioners, subject to the compliance of the conditions mentioned in this order.

9. The possibility of the accused henceforth not attending the trial, and the likelihood of fleeing justice, can be taken care of by imposing elaborative and stringent conditions. In Sushila Aggarwal, (2020) 5 SCC 1, Para 92, the Constitutional Bench held that unusually, subject to the evidence produced, the Courts can impose restrictive conditions.

10. Without commenting on the case's merits, and in the facts and circumstances peculiar to this case, and also for the reasons mentioned above, the ends of justice would meet with the following order.

11. The petitioners shall surrender before the concerned court within ten days from today. On appearance, the concerned court shall release the petitioners on bail on the same day, subject to furnishing bail bonds to its satisfaction and imposing additional conditions, as it may deem appropriate in the background of the accused's conduct.

12. The petitioners to execute a bond for attendance in the concerned court. On the reverse page of personal bonds, the petitioners shall mention the permanent address, along with the phone number linked with the AADHAR card, the other phone numbers (if any), and e-mail (if any). In case of any change in the above particulars, the petitioners shall immediately and not later than 30 days from such modification, intimate about the change to the concerned Police Station and the concerned Court.

13. **There shall be a stay of the petitioner's arrest in the case mentioned above for ten days;** however, if the petitioners fail to appear within the time stipulated above, then stay on arrest shall stand vacated without any further reference to this court. It is clarified that if the petitioners appear before the concerned court, then all warrants issued by the concerned court against the petitioners, in the matter mentioned above shall stand recalled and canceled. **It is clarified that if the petitioners fail to appear before the concerned court within above mentioned time limit, then this order shall stand recalled automatically under section 362 read with 482 CrPC, without any furtherance reference to this court.**

14. **Within ten days from today,** the petitioners shall procure a smartphone and inform its IMEI number and other details to the SHO/I.O. of the Police station mentioned before. The petitioners shall always keep the phone location/GPS on the "ON" mode. Whenever the Investigating officer asks to share the location, the petitioners shall immediately do so. The petitioners shall neither clear the location history, WhatsApp chats, calls nor format the phone without permission of the concerned SHO/I.O. This condition shall continue till the completion of the trial or closure of case, whatever is earlier.

15. **Within ten days from today,** the petitioners shall deposit a sum of rupees ten thousand in 'High Court Lawyers Welfare Fund,' Account number 65018692589, SBI, IFSC code SBIN0050306, Branch Code 50306, Branch Address State Bank of India, High Court Branch, Sector 1, Chandigarh. After depositing, the petitioners shall file the proof of deposit, before the concerned court and send its copy alongwith a copy of this order to the Secretary, Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Association, either in physical or electronic mode.

16. Any Advocate for the petitioners and the Officer in whose presence the petitioners puts signatures on personal bonds shall explain all conditions of this bail order in any language that the petitioners understand.

17. Any observation made hereinabove is neither an expression of opinion on the merits of the case nor shall the trial Court advert to these comments.

18. *There would be no need for a certified copy of this order, and any Advocate for the Petitioners can download this order along with case status from the official web page of this Court and attest it to be a true copy. In case the attesting officer wants to verify the authenticity, such an officer can also verify its authenticity and may download and use the downloaded copy for attesting bonds.*

Petition partly allowed to the extent mentioned above. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)
JUDGE

20.06.2022
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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes
Whether reportable: NO.