

## Woman who accused husband and son of assault to get 40k monthly allowance

**Sunil Baghel**  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @MumbaiMirror

**A** Sessions Court has ordered a 70-year-old woman's husband and son to pay her a monthly maintenance after observing that they had subjected her to "economic abuse" as per the Domestic Violence (Prevention) Act. In a recent court order, additional sessions judge Bharti Kale ordered Bindu Ved's husband and son to pay Rs 40,000, refrain from behaviour that amounts to domestic violence and not alienate any property jointly held by the complainant.

The complainant had alleged that her 42-year-old son Darshan was trying to transfer shares worth a few

crores, held as "family capital", to his account. She alleged that her 70-year-old husband, Jitendra, and son had assaulted her after she refused to sign the documents that would allow them to transfer the shares and that they even threw her out of the family home.

In 2018, the woman had filed an application against her husband and son before the Girgaon Metropolitan Magistrate's court. Her advocates Vivek Kantawala and Bhairavi Waravdekar told the court that they were trying to transfer shares that were jointly owned by her without her consent.

She alleged that they had physically assaulted her and had thrown her out of their home in August 2018 when she refused to sign the documents. She moved to her daughter's marital home

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after the incident, she said.

Her husband and son, however, have countered her allegations and accused her of disturbing peace in the family home at the behest of her daughter and son-in-law.

They also contended that Ved was granted joint ownership of the shares and properties as a matter of administrative convenience for the family. They said that she had not contributed towards acquiring any assets. The hus-

band and son claimed that all the family's assets were acquired by Jitendra or inherited from his (Jitendra's) parents.

"Since the parties are yet to adduce evidence, there cannot be any finding as to merit of the case. At the same time the fact that she had taken shelter at her daughter's place after a long and seemingly happy relationship with the respondents suggests there has been occurrence of some unpleasant incident which could be domestic violence, which also covers economic abuse," the Metropolitan Court had observed while passing an order in her favour, which was upheld by the Sessions Court. The courts, however, did not accept her plea for a monthly maintenance of Rs 2 lakh, and instead, granted Rs 40,000.