

Court tells man to stay away from Facebook founder

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Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, is seen in this Monday, Sept. 27, 2010 file photo at the NBC News' "Education Nation" Summit, in New York. Zuckerberg has obtained a temporary restraining order against a California man accused of stalking him, his girlfriend and his sister. A Santa Clara County Superior Court judge on Feb. 1, 2011 ordered 31-year-old Pradeep Manukonda of Milpitas, Calif., to stay away from Zuckerberg and stop contacting him. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

(AP) -- Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has obtained a temporary restraining order against a California man accused of stalking him, his girlfriend and his sister.

A Santa Clara County Superior Court judge on Feb. 1 ordered 31-year-old Pradeep Manukonda of Milpitas to stay away from Zuckerberg and stop contacting him.

Manukonda tried to contact Zuckerberg numerous times in December via letter, e-mail and Facebook, including more than 20 times in one day, Facebook security officer Todd Sheets said in a court declaration. Manukonda also left a note on Zuckerberg's car and was later spotted outside his house, Sheets said.

Guards stopped Manukonda just as he was about to walk up the front stairs to Zuckerberg's Palo Alto residence, where Zuckerberg's girlfriend was inside, according to court documents.

Sheets said he contacted Palo Alto police at the time and that an officer gave Manukonda a verbal stay-away order. Two days later, Sheets says Manukonda sent Zuckerberg a letter at his home and flowers two days after that, despite an in-person interview with Sheets where he promised to stop.

Manukonda did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Facebook confirmed the restraining order but declined to comment.

In the letters included as evidence in the court file, Manukonda pleads with Zuckerberg for a few minutes of his time. Though his requests are vague, he appears to be seeking money to pay for medical treatment for his mother.

"I plead, please help me in saving my mother," he writes in a letter dated Jan. 23. "I am ready to die for you. Please Mark please."

Later in the same letter he writes: "I am waiting outside your house."

The order also requires Manukonda to stay away from Zuckerberg's girlfriend.

The restraining order was first reported by TMZ.com.

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