

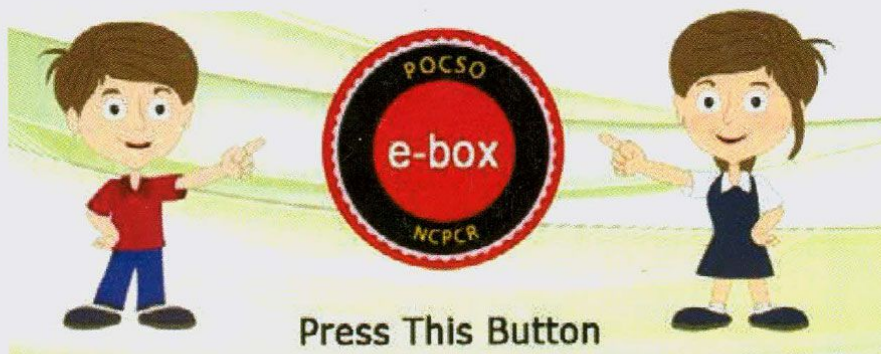


AN EASY GUIDE TO

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Rules, 2012

- ▶ The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was enacted by the Government of India to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process, by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.
- ▶ POCSO Act, 2012, provides a comprehensive definition and recognition of crime which covers all possible sexual crimes and sexual exploitation against children.
- ▶ Under POCSO Act, 2012, a person below the age of 18 years is a child.
- ▶ It safeguards the interests of child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanism.
- ▶ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is mandated to monitor the implementation of POCSO Act, 2012.

Suraksha... POCSO e-box... a click away



A child-friendly e-initiative of NCPCR at www.ncpcr.gov.in to report crimes committed against children

HELPLINE NO: 9868235077

Some Symptoms of Sexual Abuse



Child has frequent unexplained injuries especially in private body parts



The child walks and sits with difficulty



Fatigue and sleeping difficulties



Poor attendance of child in school



Unexpected behavioural changes in a child such as social withdrawal or unjustified/inappropriate aggression



Regressive behaviour such as bed wetting and thumb sucking



Sudden dislike/withdrawal from certain specific people or places he/she was comfortable with earlier



Sudden accumulation of money or gifts



The child starts paying too much or too little attention to his/her appearance

Note: The above symptoms are only indicative of abuse but there may be others which are not so obvious and therefore, parental attention is required.

Important:

Listen to children reporting sexual abuse

Believe the child

Tell the child that he/she is brave

Tell the child it is not his/her fault that he/she has been abused

✓ Do's

Adopt supportive behaviour towards child victims



Listen to the case with patience when the child complains about a person or an incident or a physical discomfort



Raise your concern with people close to the child



Call CHILDLINE at 1098



Ensure the child has undergone medical examination immediately after reporting the incident



Report incident of abuse at the nearest Police Station



Be sensitive while discussing the incident or its details with the child

✗ Do Not

Do not adopt unsupportive behaviour towards child victims



Blaming the child



Ignoring when the child complains about a person or an incident or a physical discomfort



Reacting in extremes when the incident is reported



Sending the child back to the person/place where the abuse happened



Asking the child not to seek help from others



Disclosing the child's identity to other people or to the media



Not providing medical attention to the child



Not taking action even when one is aware of the abuse being taking place



Not reporting the incident at the Police Station