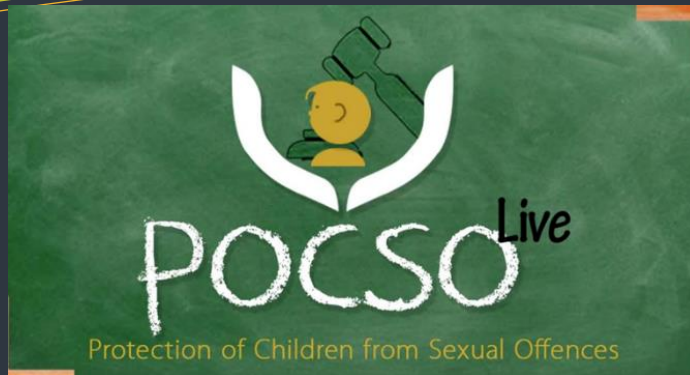


THE LAW

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

is an Act to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography and provide for establishment of Special Courts for trial of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

School authorities and teachers play a vital role in preventing child sexual abuse. By providing education on the topic of child sexual abuse, school authorities and teachers can help to raise awareness of the issue and empower children to protect themselves



PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT, 2012

The POCSO Act, 2012 strengthens the legal provisions for the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation. It provides protection to all children under the age of 18 years from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. The Act provides for stringent punishments which have been graded as per the gravity of the offence

As education systems have an important part to play in child protection as children spend a significant amount of their childhood in the school environment, which is the next influential setting for the child after the family; schools must take all necessary steps to make it a safe place for children.

SCHOOLS MUST ENSURE

1. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
2. CONSTITUTION OF SCHOOL COMPLAINT'S COMMITTEE
3. OTHER PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

A school's Child Protection Policy is a statement that defines the school's commitment to safeguard children from harm and abuse. It specifies the staff and others' responsibilities and roles in the protection of children. The child protection policy has to be a strong reflection of the schools commitment to protect its children. It has to be implemented through every aspect of the school administration and management. Schools must specify how the policy will be put into action. The policy must apply to all personnel and persons related to the school and who come in direct or indirect contact with children.

POCSO LAW is

Gender Neutral

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 was enacted to provide a robust legal framework for the protection of children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process.

TOP THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS LAW

1. The law is Gender Neutral

2. Not reporting the sexual abuse is an offence

3. Maintaining confidentiality of the victim's identity is mandatory

SCHOOL COMPLAINT'S COMMITTEE

There should be a School Complaint's Committee constituted as per the provisions of POCSO Act, 2012. It will serve as complaint's redressal body. An improved response system and alert administrative machinery is required to take immediate action on reported cases of misbehaviour.

How can we help?

- Retainer Services
- Training programs
- Drafting Support

Retainer Services

- Consultation, Conference and legal opinion regarding any issue relating to POCSO matters
- Review of any policies, documents, contracts, correspondence or communication
- Half yearly meeting with POCSO Committee to discuss implementation of policies and procedures

Training Programs

- First Responder Training under POCSO – duration 2 hours
- Child Protection Committee (School Complaint's Committee) training – 2 hours
- Any other training under POCSO – duration 1 hour

Drafting Support

- Drafting of Child Protection Policy
- Drafting of Social Media Policy
- Drafting of Privacy Policy
- Drafting of any other Policy

WHY US?

- Subject matter expert
- Legal advice whenever required can be provided
- Dedicated to the cause of protection of children and well being

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MANDATORY REPORTING

Any person who has an apprehension that an offence under the POCSO Act has knowledge that an offence has been committed has a mandatory obligation to report the matter.

Failure to report is punishable with imprisonment of up to six months or fine or both.