



National Legal Services Authority

Surakshit Bachpan Abhiyan

A Pan-India School Awareness Campaign
on the Protection of Children from
Sexual Offences Act, 2012

Jagrukta, Suraksha aur
Sanrakshan - Har Bachche
Ka Adhikar

Riya aur Rinku ke saath

Suraksha, Samman aur
Himmat ki Kahani

Har Bachche ka Bachpan,
Hum Sabki Zimmedari...





Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

Every child has the right to feel safe, respected and happy. But sometimes, children may face situations where someone behaves with them in a wrong or unsafe way.

**What is
POCSO ACT
2012?**

To protect children from such situations, the Government of India made a special law called the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**.

This law helps keep all children below 18 years of age safe from sexual offences. It makes sure that children are heard, believed and supported.

The POCSO Act explains what kinds of behaviours are considered sexual offences, how children can report them, and ensures that the process is child-friendly, private and sensitive.

Riya: Rinku, did you know there is a special law just to protect children?

Rinku: Really? What is it called?

Riya: The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 or the POCSO Act.



Your Body Belongs to You

Riya and Rinku are talking about personal safety.



Our bodies are personal. Any sexual touching or behaviour involving a child is an offence under the POCSO Act, 2012.

A child should never be forced, pressured or persuaded into an unsafe touch.

Safety Rules



Say NO



Move Away



Tell Someone

Offences Covered Under the POCSO Act

The POCSO Act recognises different kinds of offences against children.



Sexual Offences

- Penetrative sexual assault
- Aggravated penetrative sexual assault
- Sexual assault
- Aggravated sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Use of a child for pornographic purposes
- Storage of pornographic material involving a child



Other Offences

- Failure to report or record a case
- False complaints or false information
- Publishing or revealing the identity of a child

Rinku:

There are so many difficult names!

Riya:

You don't have to memorise them all. The important thing is to understand that the law protects children from all forms of sexual abuse.



Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

Various Offences and Punishments

A safer childhood is every child's right.

OFFENCE	WHAT IT MEANS	PUNISHMENT
1 Penetrative Sexual Assault Sections 3,4	Penetration of penis, objects or any part of the body to the child's vagina, mouth, anus, urethra or making the child do so with any person or object.	Imprisonment not less than 10 years , which may extend to imprisonment for life, and fine. On a child below 16 years of age: imprisonment for a term not less than 20 years.
2 Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault Sections 5, 6	Penetrative sexual assault by persons in positions of trust such as police officers, relatives, teachers, medical professionals, or in cases of gang assault, repeat offence, use of weapons, etc.	Imprisonment not less than 20 years , which may extend to imprisonment for life, and fine.
3 Sexual Assault Sections 7, 8	Physical contact with sexual intent without penetration, such as touching the child's private parts, making the child touch the offender, or any other act with sexual intent.	Imprisonment not less than 3 years , which may extend to 5 years , and fine.
4 Aggravated Sexual Assault Sections 9, 10	Sexual assault in aggravated circumstances such as by persons in positions of trust, during natural calamities, gang assault, repeat offence, etc.	Imprisonment not less than 5 years , which may extend to 7 years , and fine.
5 Sexual Harassment Sections 11, 12	Making sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, stalking or any other unwelcome act with sexual intent.	Imprisonment not less than 3 years , and fine.

Rinku:
What does
this mean?

Riya: The Act
provides **serious
imprisonment and
fine** for penetrative
sexual assault.



Key Authorities under POCSO Act, 2012

Working Together for a Safer Childhood



Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)

- Receives the complaint of an offence under the POCSO Act.
- Register's FIR and conducts a child-friendly investigation.
- Ensures the child's safety, privacy and confidentiality.

CHILD-FRIENDLY POLICING FOR A SAFER TOMORROW



Child Welfare Committee (CWC)

- Ensures care, protection, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the child in need of care and protection.
- Can provide interim relief, shelter, counselling and other support services.

CARE TODAY, A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



Special Court

- Tries offences under the POCSO Act.
- Conducts in-camera (private) proceedings to protect the child's identity and dignity.
- Ensures the trial is completed as far as possible within one year.

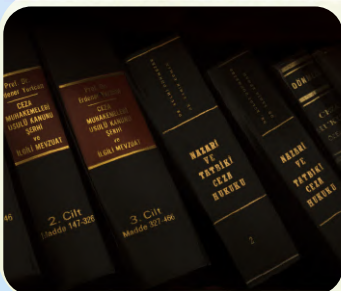
SENSITIVE TRIALS FOR STRONGER JUSTICE



Support Persons

A person assigned by the Child Welfare Committee, in accordance with sub-rule (7) of rule 4, to render assistance to the child through the process of investigation and trial, or any other person assisting the child in the pre-trial or trial process in respect of an offence under the Act.

A GUIDING HAND FOR CHILDREN



Public Prosecutor (Special Public Prosecutor)

- Conducts prosecution in Special Courts.
- Presents evidence in a child-sensitive manner.
- Works to ensure that the child gets justice.

A STRONG VOICE FOR CHILDREN

Safe Internet for Children

Think Before You Click



One day, Rinku was using a tablet when a message from an unknown person appeared.

The internet can be useful and fun, but children should always be careful about what they share and whom they talk to.



Rinku: Riya, someone I don't know is asking for my photo. What should I do?



Riya: Don't reply, Rinku. Never share personal information or private pictures with strangers online.



Rinku: And what if someone keeps sending strange messages?



Riya: Stop talking to them, save the messages if possible, and tell a trusted adult.

Do Not

- Share your address, phone number, school name or passwords.
- Share private photographs or videos with strangers.
- Meet an online friend alone.
- Reply to messages that make you uncomfortable.
- Click unknown links or accept requests from strangers.



If Someone Makes You Uncomfortable Online

- Stop communication.
- Take screenshots, if possible.
- Tell your parent, teacher, guardian or another trusted adult.
- Block and report the account.
- Ask for help immediately.

Riya & Rinku say:

"Think before you click. If something feels wrong online, stop and tell a trusted adult."

• Report • Protect • Prevent

Online Safety is Child Safety.

Warning Signs: A Child May Need Help



Sometimes, a child may not clearly say that something is wrong. Changes in behaviour can be a sign that the child needs help.

Watch for signs like:



Becoming unusually quiet or withdrawn



Fear of certain people or places



Sudden anger or anxiety



Trouble sleeping or nightmares



Avoiding school or friends



Unexplained injuries

If a Child Speaks Up

DO:



Listen



Believe



Reassure



Protect

DON'T:



Blame



Scold



Force Questions



Ignore

Remember: Don't ignore the signs. Listen, support and protect.

Meet the LSUC

Sometimes, a child may need more than care and protection - they may also need legal support.

To make legal support easier for children, the **NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024** provides for a **Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC)** in every district.



Riya, what if a child needs a lawyer or help with a legal problem?



That is where the **LSUC** can help.

The LSUC is meant to provide specialised and child-friendly legal services to children. It includes trained Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), with preference for people who have experience or specialised training in working with children, including children with disabilities.

Where can LSUC Support Children?



Police Stations



Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)



Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)



Child Care Institutions (CCIs)



Children's Courts



Other situations where a child needs legal assistance

What does LSUC do?



Understand their legal rights



Get legal advice and representation



Access legal services in a child-friendly manner



Connect with other support services when needed

Remember

Every child should be able to get legal help that is respectful, understandable and child-friendly.

LSUC 
Legal Help That
Stands With Children

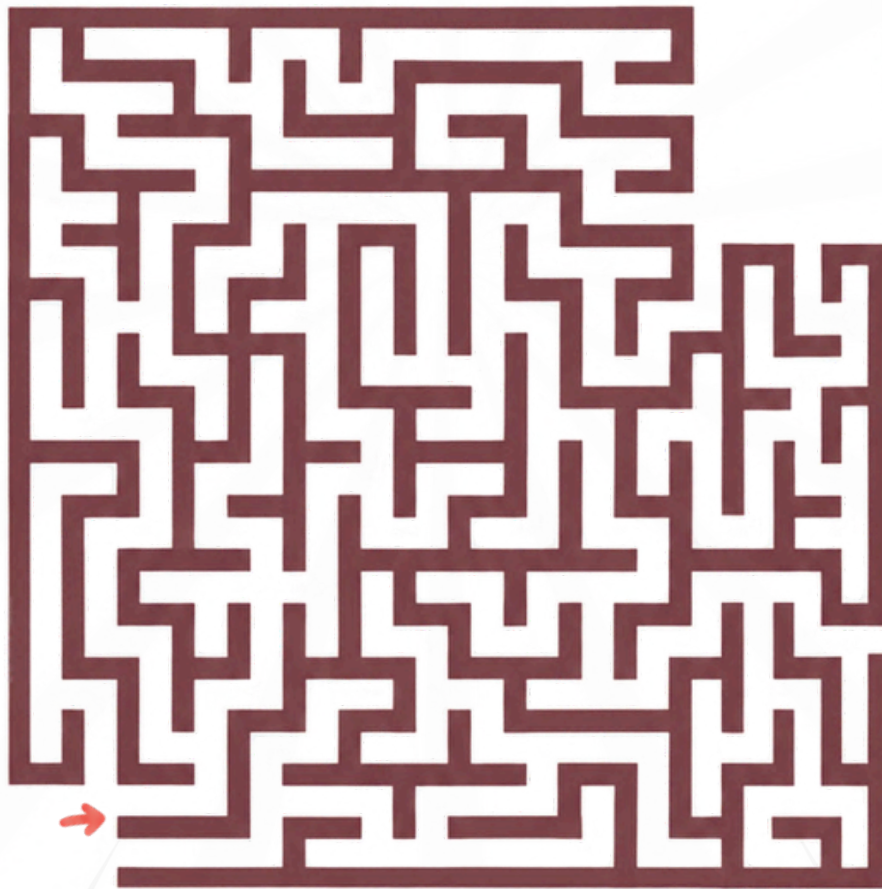
Help the Child Reach a Trusted Teacher



If someone makes a child feel unsafe or gives a bad touch, the child should tell a trusted teacher.



BE SAFE,
BE BRAVE,
SPEAK UP



Speak Up



NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

B Block, Ground Floor,
Administrative Buildings Complex,
Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001

Jaisalmer House
26, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011

Website: nalsa.gov.in | Email: nalsa-dla@nic.in

NALSA Toll Free Helpline No. 15100

Child Helpline No. 1098

Cyber Crime Helpline No. 1930

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