

BRIEF NOTE ON CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONING OF JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

In the Chief Justice's Conference held on 9th and 10th March, 2006 in the Supreme Court of India, vide Item No. 22 of the Agenda under the heading "The plight of Juvenile Delinquents" the following resolution was passed:-

"That High Courts will impress upon the State Governments to set up Juvenile Justice Boards, wherever not set-up. The Chief Justices may nominate a High Court Judge to oversee the condition and functioning of the remand/observation homes established under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000".

Pursuant to the aforesaid resolution passed in the Chief Justice's Conference held on 9th and 10th March, 2006, the then Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court, was pleased to constitute the Committee to oversee the condition and functioning of the remand/observation homes established under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. Thereafter, several Hon'ble Judges have been the Members of the Juvenile Justice Committee.

The role of Juvenile Justice Committee is -

- Setting up of Juvenile Justice System in the State - to monitor if all the below mentioned institutions/ authorities/ units have been set-up under the JJ Act and the guiding JJ Rules.
- Seek and evaluate a quarterly report from Department of Women and Child on the existing status of the setting-up of the institutions/ authorities/ units as per the JJ Act, 2015 and the guiding JJ Rules.
- Seek and evaluate a quarterly report from the District Judges on the pendency and disposal of cases under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015; The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act), 2012; The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956; trafficking cases under Sec. 370 and 370A of Indian Penal Code; The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; and The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

- Seek assistance from District Legal Services Authority on the disbursement of victim compensation funds to child victims (such as, under any Scheme/ Fund awarding compensation; or the Nirbhaya Fund; or Sec.
- Require Department of Women and Child to annually submit reports of Social Audits of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (!CPS) and Integrated Child Development Services (!CDS) for purposes of monitoring its implementation.
- Encourage the Department of Women and Child and CCIs, towards providing skill development programmes for economic empowerment and reintegration of children after their release from CCIs.
- Direct the Secretariat of the HC-JJC to organize conferences for getting all stakeholders to deliberate on urgent issues pertaining to child development and child protection within the State.
- The Secretariats of the HC-JJCs, should be staffed with judicial and/ or administrative officers of the High Court working on a full time basis.
- Listing of the identified area/ issues on the Agenda of HC-JJC and fixing a date for the meeting, along with relevant supporting documents/ reports/ Action Taken Report, and others.

Vide High Court Notification No. A.2621/2022, dated 18.06.2025, the High Court Juvenile Justice Committee has been re-constituted. At Present the Juvenile Justice Committee of the High Court of Gujarat is working under the able leadership of its chairperson and members who are as under:

1. Honourable Ms.Justice Sangeeta K. Vishen- Chairperson, JJC
2. Honourable Smt.Justice Vaibhavi D. Nanavati- Member JJC
3. Honourable Ms.Justice Nisha M. Thakore- Member JJC
4. Honourable Ms.Justice S. V. Pinto- Member JJC
5. Honourable Mr.Justice Utkarsh T. Desai- Member JJC
