

## **POCSO E-box for children to file direct online complaints of sexual abuse to NCPCR**

Sexual offences against children are rampant but only a small percentage gets reported. According to 'Child Abuse – India 2007', a study conducted by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, about 53% of children surveyed, reported having faced one or the other form of sexual abuse in their lifetime. Sexual offences against children are frequent but only a small percentage gets reported. In most cases, the offender is a family member/near relative or an acquaintance. The child victim in such cases generally does not report these offences due to various factors. Sexual abuse scars the psyche of the affected child for the entire life. A child who is sexually abused has to face very serious consequences such as cognitive impairment, violent and risk behaviour including depression and anxiety. Feeling shame and guilt with poor interpersonal relationship & self esteem are other consequences of sexual abuse of children.

Being concerned about such offences against children, the Union Government has enacted POCSO Act, 2012 to protect them 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. Any human being up to the age of 18 years is recognised as a child under the POCSO Act.

To enable easy direct reporting by children, an online complaint box for reporting child sexual abuse, the POCSO e-box has been launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi in New Delhi in the presence of Hon'be Minister of State, Smt. Krishna Raj on 26.08.2016.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) e-box is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.

The POCSO box is displayed prominently in the home page of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)'s website ([www.ncpcr.gov.in](http://www.ncpcr.gov.in)) where an user has to simply push a button named POSCO E-Box. This navigates to a page with a window containing an animation movie. The animation movie's comforting and authoritative mother figure representing NCPCR reassures the child that she/he need not feel guilty about the incident and that NCPCR is a helping friend. After the user presses the arrow on this page, it goes to another page where he/ she has to select at least one picture option (picturing the situational harassment) and provide details such as mobile number, e-mail and then click the submit button. The complaint is then registered and a unique auto-generated complaint number is flashed. This complaint is to be followed up by Member, NCPCR who will give a call back from NCPCR's dedicated number 9868235077 for further appropriate action.

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