
02 Day Refresher Training Programme on the roles and responsibilities of support persons under the POCSO Act 2012 and Amendment Rules 2020

Organized by JHALSA, collaboration with UNICEF

Supported by CCR, NUSRL Ranchi

Proposed Date – 29 – 30th April 2024

NUSRL, Ranchi

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, along with the Rules of 2020, is a significant legislative measure enacted by the Government of India to safeguard the rights of children from various forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. The Government of Jharkhand is actively implementing this act within the state to ensure the protection of children.

The POCSO Act provides a comprehensive framework for addressing offenses such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and the use of children in pornographic materials. It aims to ensure that children are protected at every stage of the judicial process, from reporting the offense to the final adjudication.

The act incorporates child-friendly mechanisms for reporting incidents of abuse, recording of evidence, and conducting investigations. These mechanisms are designed to make the process less traumatic for the child and encourage them to come forward and report the abuse. Special Courts are designated under the act to exclusively handle cases related to child sexual offenses. These courts ensure speedy trials and effective adjudication of cases, with a focus on the best interests of the child.

The act provides for the appointment of support persons to accompany the child and their family during court proceedings. These support persons offer emotional support and guidance to the child and their family, helping them navigate the legal process. Support persons accompany the child during medical examinations and the recording of statements before the police and court proceedings. They ensure that the child feels comfortable and supported throughout these processes.

The roles and responsibilities of support persons are comprehensively defined under Rule 4 of the POCSO Rules 2020. These include providing emotional support to the child, explaining the legal proceedings in a child-friendly manner, facilitating communication

between the child and the authorities, and ensuring that the child's rights and interests are always protected.

Objective:

- Enhance support persons' capacity by providing comprehensive understanding of the POCSO Act 2012 and Rules 2020.
- Empower support persons on their roles and responsibilities to effectively deal with child sexual abuse cases.

Proposed Date and Venue:

- **Date:** 29th -30th April 2024
- **Venue:** NUSRL, Ranchi.

Training Methodology:

The training approach will incorporate a blend of dynamic elements, including engagement activities, PowerPoint presentations and interactive discussions centered around real-life case studies to ensure a thorough understanding of the subject matter

Participant Group:

Old Support Person empaneled under JHALSA and currently providing support to POCSO victim across all the districts of Jharkhand.

Expected outcomes:

Through this comprehensive training program, participants shall gain the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively support child victims of sexual abuse and navigate the complexities of the legal and child protection systems under the POCSO Act.

- Enhanced capacity of participants to fulfill their roles as support persons under the POCSO Act.
- Improve the understanding of the legal, medical, and psychological aspects of handling CSA cases.
- Strengthening the collaboration among different stakeholders in the child protection system.