



DEENABANDHU TRUST

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POCSO ACT

What Is POCSO Act?

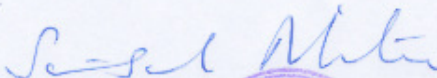
In order to effectively address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through less ambiguous and more stringent legal provisions, the Ministry of Women and Child Development championed the introduction of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The Act has been enacted 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 related matters and incidents.

The POCSO Act, 2012 is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting and recording.

The POCSO Bill seeks to award strong punishment in cases of drugs being administered to children to bring about early sexual maturity. The legislation introduced a minimum jail term of 20 years or for the entire life and death penalty in rare cases according to the courts' discretion.

The Act was amended in 2019, to make provisions for enhancement of punishments for various offences so as to deter the perpetrators and ensure safety, security and dignified childhood for a child.


(Saibal Mitra)
Secretary



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