Abstract

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department – Guidelines for the Support Persons in accordance with Section 39 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 - Orders – Issued.

Social Welfare and Women Empowerment [SW5(2)] Department

G.O. (Ms) No.23

Dated: 12.08.2026
ஸ்ரீ பராபவ, ஆடி 27
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு 2057

Read:

From the Director of Children Welfare and Special Services, (FAC) Letter No.DSD/3622/2023-D4, dated 17.04.2025, 15.11.2025 and 05.08.2026.

ORDER:-

The Director of Children Welfare and Special Services (FAC) in the letter read above has stated that Section 39 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 mandates the "State Government to prepare guidelines for the involvement of non-governmental organizations, professionals, and experts in assisting the child victims throughout the pre-trial and trial process" and has sent the draft guidelines for the Support Persons in accordance with Section 39 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 for approval of Government.

2. The Government after careful examination, accept the proposal of the Director of Children Welfare and Special Services and approve the Guidelines for Support Persons in accordance with Section 39 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, as appended to this order.

(Order of the Governor)

M. Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

To:-
The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary to Government,
Home / Finance / Law Departments, Secretariat,
Chennai - 9. (w.e)
The Director of Children Welfare and Special Services, (FAC)
Chennai -08. (w.e)

The Accountant General,
Chennai – 18. (w.e)
All District Collectors,
(through Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services)
All District Child Protection Officer's
(through Directorate of Children Welfare and Special Services)

Copy to:-
The Finance (SW/BG-I/BG-II) Department, Chennai – 09.
The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-09.
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister
(Social Welfare and Women Empowerment), Chennai-09.
The Senior Private Secretary to Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Chennai – 09.
The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment (SW2) Department,
Chennai-09.
Stock file/Spare copies.

//Forwarded by Order//

12/08/2026
Section Officer
12/8/26

Guidelines for Support Person under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (Central Act 32 of 2012)

(G.O.(Ms) No.23, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment [SW5(2)] Department, dated 12.08.2026)

The key objective of Support Person under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 (Central Act 32 of 2012) is to provide support to child victim during the legal proceedings and further ensure their well-being and protection. The Support Person is an important liaison, coordinator and buffer between authorities on the one side and the child victim their family on the other side and may assist them right from the time of registering a complaint till the closure of trial while endeavoring to foster the child's wellbeing. The Support Person shall also ensure that all the child's needs including rehabilitative measures, educational support, health care (if required), and overall holistic welfare are provided to the child through the concerned authorities. (See Annexure 1)

I. Definition:-

As per clause (f) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 2 of the POCSO Rules, 2020, "Support Person" means a person assigned by the Child Welfare Committee, in accordance with sub-rule (8) 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 said Act.

II. Purpose of the Guidelines for Support Person:-

The protection and well-being of children who are victims of sexual abuse is of paramount importance in ensuring justice under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 (Central Act 32 of 2012). The formulation of this Guidelines is in accordance with Section 39 of the said Act, which mandates the State Government to prepare guidelines for the involvement of non-governmental organizations, professionals, and experts in assisting the child throughout the pre-trial and trial process.

III. Legal Framework involved:-

The key legislations involved in the implementation of the Guidelines for Support Person include but not limited to:-

1. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 (Central Act 32 of 2012) – Lays down legal provisions for the protection of children from sexual offences and ensures child-sensitive investigation and trial processes;
2. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Rules, 2020 –It provides for the appointment of Support Person under clause (f) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 2 and sub-rule (8) of Rule 4 of the said rules, 2020 to assist child survivors throughout the legal proceedings.
3. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (Central Act 2 of 2016) – Addresses the rehabilitation and welfare of children in need of care and protection, including survivors of sexual abuse.
4. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 45 of 2023) (BNS);
5. Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 4 of 2023) (BNSS);

6. Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Central Act 47 of 2023) (BSA).

IV. Who can be a Support Person:-

1. The following persons can be appointed as Support Person:
   As per sub-rule (6) of rule 5 of POCSO Rules, 2020;

   (i) An official of a children's home or shelter home having custody of the child or;

   (ii) A person employed by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) or;

   (iii) Any person or an organization working in the field of child rights or child protection or;

   (iv) Any person or organization sought by the child and child's parents or guardian or other person in whom the child has trust and confidence or;

   (v) Any person with a post-graduate degree in Social Work, Sociology, Law, Psychology, Child Development, or any other relevant field related to child welfare, health, or education or a graduate with a minimum of three years experience in child education, development, health, or protection issues.

2. **S.No 1(i) and 1(ii)** will be eligible to act as ready Support Person to provide immediate support to a child until a Support Person is officially assigned for the child by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

3. **With respect to S.No 1 (iv),** upon receipt of the choice of the child, child's parents or guardians or any person on whom the child has trust and confidence the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall ordinarily accept the choice provided it is made in the best interest of the child, and shall issue the necessary orders. Where the child or the child's parent/guardian chooses an organization, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall verify whether such organization has been working in the field of child rights or child protection and is empaneled in any district across the State of Tamil Nadu as per clause V below.
4. **With respect to S.No (iii) and (v),** Persons or organization willing to act as Support Person will go through the empanelment procedure as specified in para V below. A panel of 20 Support Persons will be appointed in all district. An organization empaneled anywhere in the State may be nominated either based on the choice of the child or the child's parent/guardian, or by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) on a case-by-case basis, in the best interests of the child.

5. The minimum age to be engaged as a Support Person shall be 25 years.

V. Empanelment of Support Persons/ Organizations:-

To streamline the appointment process and ensure the quality of Support Person, each District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) shall empanel a pool of qualified, trained and child-enabling persons/organizations at the district level. The empanelment process shall be transparent, merit-based and legally compliant following a structured screening, selection and training procedure. This will ensure that competent Support Persons are available to assist child survivors in cases registered under the said Act, upholding the best interests of the child.

1. Advertisement for empanelment:-

a. For the purpose of empanelment or engagement of Support Persons, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) shall invite applications every year through a public advertisement published on;

i) The official website of the concerned district;

ii) Leading local newspapers with wide circulation (One Tamil and One English Newspaper);

iii) Official circulars to Government institutions, Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs), and legal aid authorities engaged in child protection services;

iv) Official social media platforms of the Department.

b. The advertisement shall specify eligibility criteria, experience requirements, application format, submission details and the deadline for application.

2. Scrutiny of applications:-

The District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) shall screen and verify all applications to ensure that candidates/organizations meet the eligibility criteria, which shall include:-

(i) The eligibility criteria as prescribed in para (IV) of this Guidelines;

(ii) A clean background check to ensure there is no criminal record. This shall involve Police verification of the individual applicant and all the persons working in the organization.

After the scrutiny of applications, the candidates shall be called for interview through official letter.

3. Orientation:- During the empanelment process, persons or organizations willing to be empaneled shall be oriented by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) on the duties and responsibilities expected of Support Person.

4. Selection Committee and Procedure:-

a. The selection process shall be conducted by the Selection Committee constituted for empanelment of Support Person. The Committee shall be formed comprising the following functionaries:-

i) District Revenue Officer - Chairperson

ii) Juvenile Justice Board - One member;

iii) Deputy Superintendent of Police nominated by Superintendent of Police;

iv) An experienced Support Person nominated by District Collector;

v) District Child Protection Officer - Convener of the Committee.

b. The Selection Committee shall conduct an interview to assess the previous experience in the field of child rights, knowledge of relevant subjects and the commitment to the cause of child protection of the candidates.

c. Upon completion of the selection process, the list of selected Support Persons shall be placed for the approval of the District Collector. Once approved, the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) shall empanel the approved candidates; and the empaneled list shall be shared with the Police, Child Welfare Committee, Judiciary and Prosecutors.

5. Maintenance of data base of Support Persons:-

The District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) shall be responsible for maintaining an updated and accessible database of empaneled Support Persons and update the records on the relevant POCSO portals to ensure efficient coordination among all stakeholders involved in child protection.

6. Term of empanelment:-

(i) The term of empanelment shall be for three years from the date of empanelment. Upon completion of the term, after review of performance by the Selection Committee, the Support Person can be empaneled for another three years. The pendency of re-empanelment shall not affect the ongoing case (s) assigned to a Support Person.

(ii) The selection committee shall conduct the selection process periodically, as required, in accordance with the case load to ensure adequate availability of Support Persons.

VI. Training:-

1. Empaneled candidates will attend a mandatory training program coordinated by the concerned District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and State Child Protection Society (SCPS)

2. Following the training, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) shall introduce the newly empaneled Support Persons to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to ensure effective case allocation.

VII. Process of assignment of Support Persons:-

Every child victim under the POCSO Act shall be mandatorily informed of their right to engage a Support Person to assist them during the processes of investigation and trial, which shall be acknowledged by signing the Application Form (Annexure 2). The process of assignment of a Support Person shall be as follows:

1. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC), either on receipt of Form B of POCSO Rules, 2020, from the police or on receipt of Form XI of Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice Rules, 2017, from the person producing the child before the Committee, can provide a Support Person, as per sub-rule 8 of rule 4 and sub-rule 6 of rule 5 of the said Rules, 2020. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) will inform the child and the child's parent/guardian of their right to engage a Support Person and will provide a list of suitable empaneled Support Person to choose from. The child and/or parent/guardian may either select from this empaneled list or choose a Support Person of their own. In the case of their own choice, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) will contact the person and inform them of the relevant

provisions. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall ordinarily accept the choice of the child or the child's parent/guardian, provided it is made in the best interest of the child, and shall issue the necessary orders.

2. If there is no person/ organization of own choice, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall appoint a Support Person from the empaneled list maintained for this purpose. The list shall be shown to the child and the parent/guardian and the appointment shall be made based on their choice. If no preference is indicated, the Child Welfare Committee shall appoint a suitable Support Person from the empaneled list, taking into account factors such as gender, language, and other sensitivities relevant to the child.

3. If the child or their parent/guardian after being informed about the right to engage a Support Person chooses not to have a Support Person, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall record their statement and the reasons. If, at a later stage, the child or the child's parent/guardian feels the need for a Support Person, or if the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) or the court considers it necessary, and it is determined that the child requires a Support Person, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall review the case and assign a suitable Support Person.

4. Child Welfare Committee (CWC) should ensure that there is no conflict of interest between the potential Support Person and the child/family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence. A declaration to this effect should be sought from the Support Person before they are assigned to a particular case.

5. If both the parties consen, the Support Person shall sign a non-disclosure agreement (in perpetuity) and submit to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall send a copy to the Support Person and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) (Annexure 6).

6. Contact details of the Support Person assigned shall be given to the child/family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence.

7. A copy of the order assigning the case to the Support Person (as per Annexure 5) shall be given to the Support Person and the child, family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and the Police immediately.

8. The police shall inform the Special Court or Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) (as the case may be) in writing regarding the appointment of the Support Person within 24 hours of receiving the intimation.

9. A copy of the FIR and any other pertinent documents pertaining to the case should be handed over to the Support Person by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) with due acknowledgement;

10. Each Support Person shall be assigned a maximum of 10 cases at a time.

11. Once appointed, the Support Person shall continue in their role until the conclusion of the trial (The child turning 18 years of age shall not affect the continuation of the Support Person's assignment).

VIII. Submission of reports:-

The Support Person appointed by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall submit a monthly report detailing the progress of the case, the child's well-being and any interventions required. The reports so received by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) should be reviewed by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and District Child

Protection Officer (DCPO) to ensure that the Support Person is discharging their duties in accordance with law. This ensures accountability, transparency and continued monitoring of the child's needs and legal proceedings.

IX Convening of meetings:-

Quarterly meetings shall be organized by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to facilitate interactions between the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Support Persons, towards helping the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to ascertain the performance and further assign Support Persons based on the specific needs of each child and their family/guardian or other person in whom the child has trust and confidence. During these meetings, the need for additional Support Person may also be assessed and further empanelment may be undertaken, if so required, to ensure adequate availability of Support Persons.

X Remuneration of services of Support Person:-

1. The Support Persons who are duly empaneled will be provided an honorarium of Rs.10,000/- (including travel allowance) per case for case management, based on satisfactory service.

2. An honorarium will not be paid if the Support Person is an employee or service provider of a Government-run Child Care Institution, District Child Protection Unit, or Child line (1098) service. However, they may claim Travel Allowance (TA) as applicable.

3. Further, if a person/organization empaneled as a Support Person shall be eligible to receive honorarium only when cases are assigned and they render their service towards managing the cases as Support Persons.

4. The honorarium shall be released in four installments of Rs.2,500/- each. Before releasing each installment, the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) shall verify, that the Support Person has completed all the activities as per the Checklist (Annexure 7), on a case-to-case basis.

XI Code of conduct and confidentiality for Support Person:-

Support Persons must adhere to the highest ethical standards and prioritize the best interests of the child at all times. The following conditions are strictly non-negotiable:

(i) Act in the child's best interest – The child's welfare shall be the primary consideration in all matters related to the case. The Support Person shall not engage in negotiations, mediation or settlements, particularly with the accused or their representatives that may compromise the child's rights or well-being;

(ii) Maintain confidentiality of all information related to the child and the case at all times, ensuring that no details are disclosed to unauthorized individuals, including the media or social media. All communications and documents pertaining to the case must be handled responsibly and shared only with relevant authorities as mandated by law. Any breach of confidentiality shall be considered a serious violation of child protection laws and may result in legal consequences under the said Act 2012, and related rules;

(iii) Communication and interaction with the child and caregivers: The Support Person shall not use judgmental or derogatory language while communicating with the child/family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence. The

Support Persons shall not force personal opinions on the child/family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence.

(iv) Avoid personal benefits – The Support Person shall not request or accept any form of monetary compensation, gifts, travel support, food or favors from the child, their family, guardian, other person in whom the child has trust and confidence or any other stakeholder.

(v) Ensure professional and respectful communication – The Support Person shall not use judgmental, coercive, or derogatory language when interacting with the child, their family, guardian, other person in whom the child has trust and confidence.

(vi) Respect the autonomy of the child and family – The Support Person shall not impose personal opinions on the child or their family/guardian/ other person in whom the child has trust and confidence regarding their decisions.

(vii) Comply with the law – The Support Person shall not engage in any activities that may attract criminal liability or violate the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) or any other applicable laws.

Failure to adhere to these code of conduct shall be considered serious misconduct and may lead to removal from the role and legal consequences as per applicable laws.

XII. Removal from case assignment, termination from empanelment, resignation or death of Support Persons

The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall immediately inform the Special Court or Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), other stakeholders as applicable, in writing regarding the removal, termination, resignation, death, subsequent replacement or reappointment of a Support Person on account of end of tenure. This ensures all relevant stakeholders being aware of cessation or continuity of support for the child.

1. Removal or replacement from case assignments

At any time, if a Support Person is found to be unsuitable for the child or fails to provide the necessary support, or upon a request from the child, the child's family/guardian, a person in whom the child has trust and confidence, or the Support Person themselves, his/her assignment to the case shall be removed, with the reasons duly recorded in writing. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall appoint a new Support Person within seven (7) days to ensure uninterrupted assistance and support for the child. However, if a Support Person behaves in a criminal manner, acts with malicious intent, or consistently fails to perform his/her duties, he/she shall be terminated from empanelment.

2. Termination of Support Person from empanelment:-

(i) As per sub-rule (11) of rule 4 of the said Rules, 2020, the services of a Support Person may be terminated by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) upon a request by the child, their family, guardian, or any other person in whom the child has trust and confidence.

(ii) The child or their family, guardian, or any other person in whom the child has trust and confidence requesting termination shall not be required to assign any reason for such a request. If requested, another Support Person or organization

may be appointed by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to continue assistance.

(iii) The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall adjudicate termination requests in cases where there are conflicting requests from the child and their family/guardian, ensuring that the best interests of the child are upheld under sub-rule (6) of rule 4 of the POCSO Rules, 2020.

Upon termination, the Support Person must return all case-related documents in their possession to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within three (3) days, with due acknowledgment from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

A. Grounds for termination of Support Person:-

A Support Person's engagement may be terminated by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) under the following circumstances:-

(i) Upon the child's request – If the child, their family, guardian, or any other trusted person in whom the child has confidence requests the termination, as per sub-rule (11) of rule 4 of the said Rules, 2020.

(ii) Breach of trust or unethical/immoral conduct – If the Support Person engages in misconduct, violates confidentiality, or acts in a manner that compromises the dignity and well-being of the child.

(iii) Unsatisfactory performance – If the Support Person fails to fulfill their responsibilities effectively, leading to significant negative impact on the child's legal, emotional, or rehabilitative support.

(iv) Actions detrimental to the child's best interests – If an inquiry finds that the Support Person behavior, negligence, or actions have harmed or adversely affected the child or their family's well-being.

(v) Persistent failure to perform duties – If the Support Person consistently fails to comply with assigned responsibilities, does not submit mandatory monthly reports, or does not conform to the prescribed guideline.

B. Enquiry for termination of Support Person:-

In the event of any question arising on conduct of the Support Person /organization or a complaint by the victim, their family, or any other concerned person against the empaneled Support Person /organization, the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) shall initiate an inquiry providing an opportunity of hearing without involving the victim or the family. In case the complaint has been given by anyone other than the child or family, both parties shall be given an opportunity to present their case, ensuring fair hearing principles.

The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall remain the authority to inquire into complaints and provide recommendations to the District Collector. The District Collector may remove a Support Person from the empaneled list based on the findings of the inquiry. If the Support Person has been terminated from the empanelment, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall remove the Support Person from all the assigned case(s).

3. Resignation of Support Person:-

(i) If a Support Person is unable to continue their duties, they must submit a written resignation to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), providing a maximum notice period of three (3) days. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall immediately

assign another Support Person or organization and notify the child, family, or guardian accordingly.

(ii) The resigning Support Person must return all case-related documents to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within three (3) days of submitting their notice, with due acknowledgment from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

(iii) If a Support Person appointed from an organization resigns or is terminated by their employing organization, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and the child's family/guardian must be informed immediately. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall appoint a replacement Support Person without delay to ensure continuity of care. All case documents must be returned to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) with due acknowledgment.

4. Death of a Support Person:-

(i) In the event of a Support Person's death, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) must immediately appoint another Support Person to continue assistance for the child.

(ii) The child and their family/guardian must be informed of the situation with sensitivity and reassurance regarding continued support.

(iii) All case-related documents in the possession of the deceased Support Person must be returned to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) by their legal heirs as soon as possible, with due acknowledgment from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

XIII Monitoring and implementation of Guidelines:-

(i) The Director of Children Welfare and Special Services shall serve as the State Level Monitoring Authority for the implementation of these guidelines.

(ii) The Director of Children Welfare and Special Services shall periodically assess the effectiveness of the engagement of Support Person in accordance with the established model guidelines, ensuring that their role is effectively carried out in the best interest of the child.

(iii) The Director of Children Welfare and Special Services may make any necessary amendments to the guidelines in accordance with circulars issued by the Government of India or the Government of Tamil Nadu, or pursuant to directions of any Court.

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

12/08/2026
Section Officer
12/8/26

Annexure-1

Duties of Support Person

The Support Person plays a vital role in ensuring that the child survivor and their family/guardian/ other person in whom the child has trust and confidence receive adequate legal, medical, psychosocial, and rehabilitative assistance while navigating the criminal justice system. They serve as a liaison between the child, relevant authorities, and other stakeholders, ensuring that the child's best interests are protected in accordance with the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, Rules, 2020 and other applicable laws. Their responsibilities include the following:-

The Support Person shall follow the principle of dignity and worth, the principle of participation, the principle of best interest, the principle of safety, positive measures, the principle of non-stigmatizing semantics, the principle of equality and non-discrimination and the principle of the right to privacy and confidentiality, as stated under Section 3, of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act).

1. Legal and procedural assistance:-

Assisting child and family/guardian in pre-trial and trial processes

(i) Explain to the child and family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence, of the role of the Support Person in the pre-trial and trial process.

(ii) Coordinate, as the case may be, for an interpreter, translator and/or special educator that the child may require during the legal proceedings.

(iii) Orient child and family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence, to the procedures and stages of the investigation and trial of the case - medical examination, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 180 (CrPC 161) Statements, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 183 (CrPC 164) Statement, DNA testing, Test Identification Parade etc.

General Duties:

(i) Ensure compliance, to the extent possible, of the stakeholders - such as police, health, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), schools - with the Act and Rules.

(ii) Maintain contact with the child, family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence regularly (at least once a week) and provide information to them on any new developments in the case immediately.

(iii) Accompany the child and family, as far as possible, whenever they interact with authorities such as Police, Court Officials, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Medical Officers etc., during pre-trial and trial stages of the case.

(iv) Inform the child/parent/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence the availability of public and private emergency and crisis services.

(v) In the event that a Support Person has concerns of violations by other stakeholders, they shall convey the same to the relevant authorities and District Child Protection Unit (DCPU).

(vi) Communication between Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and Support Person , as far as possible, will be through electronic modes, and followed by written communication in hard copy with due acknowledgement.

Applying for special relief and compensation:

(i) Inform and assist family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence to avail Special Relief from Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for food, clothing, transport and other essential needs as per rule 8 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020.

(ii) Ensure application for interim/final victim compensation fund for the child. Facilitate and coordinate with authorities, as per the SOP for Compensation notified by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras.

(iii) Follow up with Director of Children Welfare and Special Services on disbursal of interim/final compensation awarded by the Court.

2. Psychosocial and rehabilitation support:-

(a) Ensure the child has access to mental health and psychological support services in collaboration with trained professionals.

(b) Assist the child in continuing their education and preventing school dropout by coordinating with school authorities, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), and NGOs under the Right to Education Act, 2009; and support to facilitate reintegration.

(c) Support the child in enrolling in vocational training or skill development programs if formal schooling is not feasible.

(d) Provide guidance on assisting to obtain identity documents such as Aadhaar, PAN card, Ration card, BPL card, and Bank account to secure the child's access to Government benefits and financial inclusion.

3. Medical assistance:-

The Support Person shall ensure that the child receives necessary medical care and assistance in compliance with the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020, while coordinating with relevant authorities for the child's well-being.

(i) Facilitate access to emergency medical care for the child, if required.

(ii) Accompany child and child's parents or guardian or other person in whom the child has trust and confidence for:

a) Medical examination and treatment, if required as advised by the medical practitioner.

b) Medico-legal examination, ensuring that procedures follow child sensitive and trauma-informed protocols and recorded in a stipulated form as recognized by the National Health Mission-Tamil Nadu (NHM-TN).

c) Sample collection for clinical and forensic examination in compliance with the legal procedure.

d) Verify that the doctor records the child's consent before proceeding with medical examination for treatment, medico-legal examination and sample collection for clinical and forensic examinations as mandated under relevant laws.

(iii) Ensure that the child and child's parents or guardian or other person in whom the child has trust and confidence receives a copy of the medico-legal examination report immediately after the examination as per legal requirements.

(iv) Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP)

(a) If a child who is pregnant with a fetus aged less than 24 weeks requests, along with family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence for an Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), the Support Person may assist the child and the family access required medical care.

(b) If a child who is pregnant with a foetus aged over 24 weeks requests, along with family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence for an Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), the Support Person may coordinate with the Legal cum-Probation Officer (LPO) (in writing) to approach the High Court for an order to allow for the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) to be carried out. The Support Person shall also request the services of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) for further rehabilitation of child post - Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP).

4. Assistance to the child continuing pregnancy:-

The Support Person, in coordination with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), shall ensure that a child who continues their pregnancy receives the necessary support in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and other applicable laws.

(i) Assess the support system available for the child and determine whether the family or guardian is willing and able to provide care for the pregnant child. If the family is supportive, the Support Person shall ensure the child's medical, nutritional, and emotional needs are addressed through the relevant authorities.

(ii) If the family or guardian is unable or unwilling to support the pregnant child, the Support Person shall inform the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and recommend placement with a fit person or Child Care Institution (CCI) under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

(iii) Coordinate with Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and District Child Protection Unit(DCPU) to ensure the child receives:

- Necessary nutrition and maternal health care.
- Access to Government schemes and sponsorship benefits for maternal and child care.
- Regular health check-ups and medical monitoring.

(iv) District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) / Child Welfare Committee (CWC) ensure that the child and new born baby can access neonatal care and sponsorship schemes if the child decides to keep the baby, in accordance with child welfare provisions.

(v) If the child expresses a desire to surrender the baby, facilitate the process with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), ensuring compliance with Section 30(xi) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, while ensuring the child is provided with appropriate counseling and legal guidance.

5. Ensuring Safety in Cases:-

(i) The Support Person shall address safety concerns for children facing threats or intimidation from the accused or their family/associates, ensuring that immediate intervention is sought through relevant stakeholders.

(ii) If there are indications that the child is under the influence or coercion of the accused, the Support Persons shall promptly inform the District Child Protection

Unit (DCPU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC) or Police and escalate the matter to the Court for necessary action and ensure the safety of the child.

6. Support Person's role in assisting child victims residing in Child Care Institution (CCI) :-

(i) The Support Person, in coordination with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and other relevant authorities, shall ensure the child's safe placement in a Child Care Institution (CCI) when required in accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

(ii) Ensure the child's well-being during legal proceedings by working in coordination with the Child Care Institution (CCI) caseworkers, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), and other relevant authorities to provide necessary protection, care, and psychosocial support.

(iii) Collaborate with Child Care Institution (CCI) caseworkers to support the child during the investigation and trial process, ensuring that the child receives necessary psychosocial and legal assistance.

(iv) Provide relevant information to the Child Care Institution (CCI) to assist in the preparation of the Individual Care Plan (ICP) and Social Investigation Report (SIR) as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016, ensuring that the child's needs and rights are considered.

(v) Accompany the child during interactions with the Police, Court, or Medical Authorities, in coordination with the Child Care Institution (CCI) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC), to ensure that the child is support ed in a child-enabling manner and does not experience undue distress

(vi) Keep the child informed, through the Child Care Institution (CCI) caseworker or when meeting the child in the Child Care Institution (CCI), about the progress of the case, including:

- Filing of the charge sheet.
- Status of the accused (arrest, bail, or release).
- Scheduled dates for evidence and trial proceedings.
- Final judgment and sentencing, if applicable.

7. Coordination of services by Support Person:-

Supports person may coordinate with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to avail the services and facilities required for the child/family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence like counseling, trauma care, specialized medical assistance, continuing education, family strengthening, skilling etc.

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

A. Esha Evangeline
12/08/2025
Section Officer
12/8/25

Annexure-2

(Mandatory) Application form (To be filled at the time of informing the child and parent/guardian of their right to engage a Support Person under Rule 5 of the POCSO Rules, 2020)

Basic Details

- **First Information Report No:** _____
- **Child Welfare Committee Case No:** _____
- **Date:** _____
- **Age of Child:** _____
- **Gender:**☐ Female ☐ Male
- **Parent/Guardian Name:** _____
- **Contact Number:** _____
- **Address:** _____

Options for Appointment of Support Person

(Please tick (✓) one of the following options and provide details where applicable)

☐ **Option 1 – Nomination by Child/Parent/Guardian**

The child and/or the parent/guardian wish to nominate the following person, in whom they have trust and confidence, to act as the Support Person.

Name of nominated person: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Contact number: _____

☐ **Option 2 – Appointment from empaneled list**

The empaneled list of Support Person has been shown to the child and the parent/guardian.

They have selected the following Support Person from the list:

Name of Support Person: _____

Organization (if any): _____

Contact number: _____

Note: If no preference is indicated, the CWC shall appoint a suitable Support Person from the empaneled list.

☐ **Option 3 – No Support Person required**

The child and/or the parent/guardian have chosen **not to engage a Support Person** at this stage.

Reason(s): _____

Note: The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) shall record their statement and the reasons.

Acknowledgement

I/We have been informed of the right to engage a Support Person and have exercised the option indicated above.

Signature / Thumb Impression of child	_____
Signature of Parent/Guardian	_____
Signature of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) representative / District Child Protection Officer (DCPO)	_____
Date:	_____
Place:	_____

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

D. Jon Evangelin
12/08/2026
Section Officer
BSO
12/8/26

Annexure - 3

Application to District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) for empanelment as Support Person

	Application to District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) for empanelment as support person
1.	Name:
2.	Age:
3.	Address:
4.	Mobile number: Landline number: Email ID:
5.	State your educational qualifications:
6.	Organizational affiliation and designation (if any):
7.	List all languages you can Speak: Read: Write:
8.	Do you have any experience in working with children and young people (below 18 years of age)? If yes, name them with duration (including voluntary work).

9.	Please list out any child/youth-related training/courses attended by you in any capacity.
10.	Please provide 2 references:
11.	Have you been charged with any criminal offences in the past? What was the outcome?
12.	Declaration I, [Full name], son/daughter/wife of [Parent/Spouse's name], residing at [Full address], hereby declare that: 1. I have no criminal record and have never been convicted, arrested, or charged for any offense under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), POCSO Act, Juvenile Justice Act, or any other law related to crimes against children or any other criminal offense. 2. I affirm that all information provided in this application is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. 3. I understand that if any false, misleading, or misrepresented information is found in my application or during the course of my engagement, my candidature shall be cancelled, my empanelment terminated, and I shall be liable for legal action under applicable laws. 4. I also consent to a police verification/background check as required for my selection as a Support Person. I make this declaration with full understanding and in good faith. Date: _____ Place: _____ Signature of the Applicant:_____ Full Name:

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

12/08/2026
Section Officer

12/8/26

Annexure - 4

Procedural and Documentation Compliances under POCSO Act and Rules to be ensured by Support Person

1. Police:-

i. Ensure that the police inform court of the appointment of Support Person

ii. Ensure that the FIR copy is given to victim and family, immediately

iii. Make sure that the victim is provided with a completed copy Form A along with FIR copy

iv. Summons for 164 statement must be given to victim and family prior to date of examination

v. DNA testing - Whenever DNA testing as the case may be is required, ensure that it not delayed. The drawing of DNA samples must not be carried out with the accused in the same space. Victim child/family/guardian/other person on whom the child has trust and confidence, must not be charged for videography.

vi. Test Identification Parade (TIP) Ensure that TIP is conducted with a one-way mirror.

vii. Bail (CrPC439-1A/BNSS483(2))

Ensure that the police inform the child/family/guardian/other person on whom the child has trust and confidence, when the hearing of the application for bail of the accused is scheduled and that they are represented during the hearing.

viii. Summons for court hearings must be given to child/family/guardian/other person on whom the child has trust and confidence, prior to the date of hearing.

ix. Ensure that the police keep the Support Person informed of all developments related to the case – including arrest, applications filed and other court proceedings.

2. Health:-

Free copy of medical examination report to be given to the child/ family/ guardian/ other person on whom the child has trust and confidence.

3. District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) :-

Ensure process for application for compensation has been initiated

4. Child Welfare Committee (CWC) :-

i. Ensure copies of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) orders are given to family/guardian/other person in whom the child has trust and confidence.

ii. Ensure that the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) makes recommendation for

special relief for the child.

iii. Ensure that the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) appoint an interpreter, special educator and/ or translator if required by the child.

5. Support Person:-

Monthly report (for Child Welfare Committee (CWC)-appointed Support Person) (basic outline)

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

A. Jan Evangelin
12/08/2026
Section Officer
12/8/26

Annexure - 5

Order of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) assigning Support Person (Constituted under Section 27 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

(Reference No) (Date)

Subject: Appointment of Support Person for child victim under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Reference: (FIR No) (Dated)

In compliance with sub-rule (8) of rule 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), has appointed (*Full name of the Support Person*) to be Support Person for the child named (*Name of the child)* being the child of (*Parent/s Full name*) in (*FIR number*) at police station, (Jurisdiction) (Place), to render assistance during the process of investigation and trial.

(Full name of the Support Person), henceforth referred to as the Support Person , will be the point of contact for matters relating to the coordination of the case and will discharge their duties as mentioned in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Rules, 2020 and other directions issued for this matter from time to time by the State Government.

Details of the Support Person:

Full Name :

Mobile Number:

Email :

It is hereby informed that the Investigation Officer (Full name of the Investigation Officer) shall intimate the Hon'ble Special Court/Juvenile Justice Board about the appointment of, (*Full name of the support person*), as the support person for the child (*Full name of child*), Child of (Full name of the parent/s) within 24 hours of receipt of this order, as mandated under sub-rule (10) of rule 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020.

Kindly extend necessary cooperation to the Support Person in order to enable him/her in discharging of the above duties.

(Seal of the Child Welfare Committee) Chairperson & Members

To:

1. The concerned child
2. (Full name of the Support Person)
3. Concerned Investigation Officer (IO)(Name), Police Station,
4. District Child Protection Unit, (District)

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

S. Sri. Evangelin
12/08/2024
Section Officer

12/8/24

ANNEXURE - 6

Declaration of non-conflict of interest

(To be obtained from the Support Person at the time of appointment in every case)

1. Personal Information

(For individual support person)

Name of support person: _____

Father's/Mother's/Guardian's Name:_____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email ID: _____

(For NGO as Support Person)

Name of NGO: _____

Registered Address: _____

Registration Number: _____

Authorized Representative: _____

Designation: _____

Contact Details: _____

2. Case Details

Crime No.: _____

Police Station: _____

Name of the Child: _____

Date of Appointment: _____

3. Declaration

(A) For individual Support Person:-

I, **[Name of Support Person]**, here by declare that:

1. I have no personal, financial, or professional relationship with the child, the

child's family, the accused, or any other party involved in the case that may give rise to a conflict of interest.

2. I do not have any direct or indirect interest in the outcome of this case.
3. I have no prior personal connection, acquaintance, or relationship with the accused in any manner.
4. I do not have any prior history of interaction with the child, the child's family, or the accused that could affect my impartiality and objectivity in providing support.
5. I will not utilize the case records for research, publication, or any other form of academic or public reporting.
6. I will perform my duties with integrity, fairness, and in the best interest of the child.
7. In case any conflict of interest arises during the course of my appointment, I shall immediately inform the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in writing.

(B) For NGO Appointed as Support Person:-

I [Authorized representative's name], on behalf of [Name of NGO], hereby declare that:

1. The organization, its members, and employees involved in this case have no personal, financial, or professional relationship with the child, the child's family, the accused, or any other party involved in the case that may give rise to a conflict of interest.
2. None of the members, employees, or representatives of the organization have any direct or indirect interest in the outcome of this case.
3. The NGO and its members have no prior personal connection, acquaintance, or relationship with the accused in any manner.
4. The organization shall ensure that all assigned personnel maintain impartiality and objectivity in providing support.
5. The NGO shall not utilize the case records for research, publication, or any other form of academic or public reporting
6. The NGO undertakes to submit individual declarations of non-conflict of interest from all its members and employees involved in the case.
7. If any conflict of interest arises at any point, the NGO shall immediately notify the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in writing and take necessary corrective measures.

I/We affirm that the information provided above is true and correct to the best of

my/our knowledge and belief. I/We understand that any false declaration or suppression of material facts may lead to disqualification as a Support Person.

4. Signature & Date

Signature of Individual Support Person /Authorized Representative of NGO: _____

Name: _____

Designation (if NGO): _____

Date: _____

5. Verification by Child Welfare Committee (CWC)

Verified by:

Name of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Member: _____

Designation: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

Section Officer

ANNEXURE – 7

Check list for honorarium

I. **Case initiation:-**

- Ensuring the child/family receives FIR copies and Form A.
- Assisting the child during the recording of their statement under Section 164 CrPC / relevant provision, ensuring the process is child-friendly and trauma-informed.
- Assisting the child and family in understanding the legal process and the role of the Support Person.
- Coordinating with the P olice and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to ensure that the child's immediate needs for safety and protection are met.

II. **Investigation and Medical Processes:-**

- Facilitating access to Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), where applicable, in accordance with the law, ensuring the child's consent and best interest are prioritized.
- Support during DNA testing and Test Identification Parade (TIP).
- Ensuring the victim/family is not charged for videography.
- Ensuring timely information regarding bail hearings.
- Coordination with Health authorities for free medical examination reports.
- Ensuring comprehensive health and psychosocial support, including health assessment, psychological assessment, and continuity of medical and mental health treatment as necessary.
- Coordinating with education authorities to ensure the child's continued education and prevent disruption in schooling during the investigation and recovery process.

III. **Court proceedings:-**

- Summons for court hearings given to child/family/guardian/person of trust prior to hearings.
- Keeping the Support Person informed of all case developments, including arrests, applications filed, and court proceedings.
- Coordination with Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for orders, special relief recommendations, and appointments of Interpreter, Special Educator, or Translator.

IV. **Post-trial / case closure support :-**

- Monthly reporting to Child Welfare Committee (CWC) on support provided.
- Ensuring compensation applications are initiated via District Child Protection Unit (DCPU).
- Any additional post-trial follow-up required for child welfare and holistic support.

M.Pallavi Baldev
Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

12/08/2025
Section Officer
12/8/25