

POLICE



DEPARTMENT

No.S1-86898/2020/PHQ

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Dated. 02-03-2022

Circular. 8/2022/PHQ

Sub : Kerala Police Headquarters- Child Friendly Police Stations- Instruction issued-Reg

Ref : 1. PHQ Circular No. 07/2020 dated 26.01.2020
2. PHQ Circular No. 27/2020 dated 10.08.2020

01. Children are the most valuable but most vulnerable sections of any society. This is particularly important in the case of Kerala, which is undergoing rapid social and economic transformations. Declared as a pandemic of unprecedented proportions, COVID-19 has resulted in extraordinary mental health issues among children. They suffer from behavioral, emotional, learning and social issues. Such children often fall prey to various anti-social activities. Crime against children is also on the rise.

02. Police is the first point of contact for children in most vulnerable situations. Hence, the role of Police Officers in securing childhood and child protection is crucial. Police has been mandated under various legislations to play an important role in the case of both child in conflict with law and child in need of care and protection. If Police executes their duty, equipped with knowledge and sensitivity, child rights will be protected and crimes against children can be prevented.

03. Children and Police (CAP) is a unique platform of Kerala Police, for initiating and co-ordinating various child centred projects to ensure care, protection and development of children. The '**CAP HOUSE**' was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Kerala, on 26th January 2020. CAP House is envisioned as a State Level Resource Centre of Kerala Police, to further its commitment towards ensuring a conducive and nurturing environment for the children of Kerala by ensuring strengthened implementation of its child related initiatives.

04. "Child Friendly Police Stations having Child Friendly Spaces" is one of the several initiatives of "CAP House" which envisages the transformation of Police Stations to provide effective, timely, and friendly services to children and their guardians. The mission of 'Child Friendly Police Station' is to create an invisible wall of protection around every child through the active partnership of parents, teachers, relevant stake holders and society at large.

05. Initially, the concept of Child Friendly Police Stations was experimented in selected six Police Stations of Kerala. As part of this, Capacity Development Programmes were organized in collaboration with the **UNICEF and Women & Child Development Department of the State Government** and 5,000 Police personnel were trained in Child Friendly Police attitude and skills.

06. The initiative was then extended to 126 more Police Stations of the state.

07. The Aims & Objectives of 'Child Friendly Police Stations':

Child Friendly Police Station is a CAP initiative to ensure that:

- Our children are growing up in an atmosphere of affection, protection and care.
- Any abuse or atrocity against children is to be investigated promptly and meticulously, and the offenders are brought before law.
- Children at risk are identified at an early age and are nurtured to become capable and responsible citizens of the nation.
- Parents, teachers and society at large are aware about the rights of the children.
- Our children are aware of their rights as well as their duties as responsible citizens of our country.
- Our children travel in safety and comfort.
- No child is engaged in child labour or child beggary.



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- Our Police Stations become abodes of justice so that any child, parents or anyone with an issue related to children can confidently approach these stations for support.
- Every Child Friendly Police Station will operate on an affection driven - partnership model by strengthening co-ordination between Government/Non-Government agencies responsible for the care and protection of children and civil society.
- Ultimately an invisible wall of protection is created around every child through the active partnership of parents, teachers and society at large.

08. The Structure of Child Friendly Police Stations:

The Child Friendly Police Station will have:

- A designated Police Officer as 'Child Welfare Officer: CWO'.
- A designated Women Police Officer as 'Assistant Child Welfare Officer: ACWO'.
- A separate space/room with proper ambience to talk to children.
- A Library is to be maintained with child related publications and provisions for comfortable sitting, drinking water and toilet availability of child welfare officer in the separate room.
- A cradle for new-born babies, so that feeding mothers can make their complaints comfortably.
- Child related informative posters related to Acts or other provisions are displayed. A Board in Malayalam on 21 indicators is also displayed in the Police Station.
- Name of "Child Welfare Officer" prominently displayed.
- Notice Board with Child Helpline Numbers. Provisions for displaying posters/acts/notices related to children are to be displayed.

09. Procedures to be followed in the 'Child Friendly Police Stations':

- The SHO should conduct counselling and awareness programs to parents in his/her jurisdiction along with CWO / ACWO and a record of the same should be kept in a register.
- SHO with the assistance of CWOs should identify a Child Psychologist and Lead Teacher in a school in the vicinity and include them in conducting the programme.
- CWO / ACWO should visit the houses in the jurisdiction and engage with children and parents. SHO should ensure the same.
- CWO / ACWO should not be detailed for other duties in the station except in dire emergencies.
- CWO / ACWO should be in liaison with ITDP officials, SC/ST promoter to evaluate the state of children at colonies especially at settlement colonies if any.
- CWO / ACWO should take initiative to report the cases involving children to the child protection officer in District Child Protection Unit. SHO should monitor the same.
- CWO / ACWO should ensure necessary help to the parents to produce the Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) before the JJB member during their assigned dates of sittings. SHO should monitor promptly.
- CWO should ensure that the child is not interviewed by any other member in the police station except the CWO / ACWO and other trained designated officers.
- CWO should ensure monitoring and follow up of children who are victimised and also those who are in conflict with law. They should keep a separate record of such children and details of such children and follow up shall be entered in the register accordingly.
- Separate register is maintained in the Police Station to:
 - (a) Record cases related to children;
 - (b) Complaints registered on crime against children
 - (c) Action taken.
 - (d) Visitors Remarks Register
- FIR is registered for missing children.
- A copy of FIR of the Crime case against children including missing children is given to parents/ legal guardians/ complainant, free of cost promptly.
- Officers in Police Stations should be aware of the right procedure to be followed in case of



Child in need of care & protection and child in conflict with law.

- 'Child Welfare Officer' in the Police Station has the right knowledge about the provisions under Special Acts for Protection of Children and he/she uses it in best interest of the child.
- In the case of a crime against children, case is registered without fail and is investigated by the designated officer. All evidences are adduced in a timely manner.
- Arrangements for recording statement u/s 164 CrPC, without any lapse of time.
- Speedy arrest of the accused, to get him/her remanded to the judicial custody.
- Charge sheeting of the cases within the stipulated time.
- Day-to-day supervision of the progress of the investigation by the immediate superior officer.
- Mandatory review and discussion of the cases in crime conferences of IoPs and Sub Divisional Officers (SDPOs), to assess the progress of the investigations and to chalk out action plans for further investigations, ensuring compliance of actions.
- Immediate presentation of the child in conflict with law before the CWC.

10. Strict adherence to the following procedures while dealing with atrocities against children:

- Assigning a registration number for each complaint and recording the same in writing.
- Reading over the details to the informant.
- Maintenance of a Special Register for entry of required details.
- Immediate registration of statutory FIR.
- Arrangements for the care & protection of the victim should be completed within 24 hours.
- Immediate reporting to CWC and the special court/Court of Sessions. Strict measures to book anti-social elements working to recruit children for illegal activities, both physically and through online platforms.
- Creative measures to prevent children from getting into the influence of anti-social elements by forming an invisible wall of protection around children.
- Stringent adherence to the stipulated procedures under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) act in the cases of sexual offenses against children.

11. 'CAP House' being the State Resource Centre will prepare an Activity Calendar for every month and should send the report to the DPCs concerned. CAP House will organize basic and periodic training for the Police personnel of Child Friendly Police Stations. The DPCs are to organize activities in Child Friendly Police Stations in co-operation with the Indian Medical Associations (IMA) or any other meaningful NGOs. They will submit the monthly report to the State Police Chief through the Director, Social Policing Division/ the State Coordinator, CAP Project.

Conclusion

The CAP project intends to make the Police Stations in Kerala, not only child friendly but also people friendly so that a total transformation of attitudes and ethos take place in the Police Stations. All officers will study the above instructions and ensure that they are implemented in letter and spirit.



Anil Kant IPS
State Police Chief

To : All officers in list B for necessary action

Copy To : CAs to DGP & SPC, ADGP HQ, IGP TRSM and other staff officers in PHQ

