

CIRCULAR NO. 36/2012

Sub: Concept of Victim Liaison officer – reg.

In order to maintain and establish meaningful link between the investigating officer and the family of the deceased victim, it is decided to introduce the concept of Victim Liaison Officer (VLO) in the State Police. The main role of the VLO is to maintain regular communication with the family of the victim/deceased, where a point of contact between the family/victim and the Police is deemed essential, such as in the investigation of murder/rape cases/SC/ST atrocities. This helps to acquire vital and relevant information useful for investigation and at the same time will help in instilling confidence in the victim/his family.

Primary objectives of Victim Liaison Officer

- ❖ To provide a mutual communication channel between the family of the deceased/victim and the Police.
- ❖ To gather evidence and information from the family of the deceased/victim in an effective manner which contributes to more meaningful investigation of cases.
- ❖ To mitigate, any negative effects of investigation and criminal justice process through the provision of timely information and practical support to the family of the deceased/victim.
- ❖ To prevent hindrance to investigation by way of uninformed or motivated complaints and allegations through media.

Deployment of Victim Liaison Officer

- ❖ The investigating officer will designate a member of the investigation team as Victim Liaison Officer (VLO), in the rank of Sr.CPO/CPO, in homicide cases and Women Sr.CPO/WCPO, in rape cases/molestation of minor children/missing of minor girls with the approval of the concerned SDPOs. His duty in this regard will be in addition to his normal duties. The investigating officer should

designate the VLO within 48 Hrs of commencement of investigation and the name and designation of the VLO should be mentioned in the first or second CD without fail. The SDPO will incorporate the name and designation of the VLO in the CR.

- ❖ VLO should possess basic communication skills as he/she is supposed to maintain a proper link between the victim and the investigation team.
- ❖ VLO should meet the victim/family of the deceased at least once every week and inform the progress of investigation.
- ❖ The VLO should keep a separate diary in which the details of his/her visits to the victim/family of the deceased/victim and the information obtained from them which are useful for investigation of the case should be noted.
- ❖ VLO will promptly report all relevant information useful for investigation to the investigating officer.
- ❖ Duty of the VLO will be till charge sheeting of the case.
- ❖ DPCs are directed to impart proper training and awareness to the Police personnel selected from each Police Station for acting as VLOs in different cases.

Supervision by Sub-Divisional Police Officers

The Sub Divisional Police Officers should approve nomination of Victim Liaison Officers with due care paying adequate attention to their professional integrity and blemishless antecedents and character. SDPOs should periodically review the performance of the VLOs. Complaints, if any, received against the VLOs should be enquired into by the SDPOs themselves personally and any misbehavior on the part of the VLOs should be dealt with deterrently by the District Police Chiefs.


STATE POLICE CHIEF

To : All Officers in List 'B'

Copy to: CAs to all Officers in PHQ.
: The Manager, PHQ/Stock File