

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) Act, 2015

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) provide a specialized legal framework for children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection. It mandates a child-friendly approach, focusing on rehabilitation of children. It applies to all children below 18 years of age.

Main Purpose:

- Protect children's rights
- Provide care and shelter
- Reform and rehabilitate children
- Ensure a child-friendly justice system



👶 Children in Need of Care and Protection

Family & Social Issues

- Orphan / Semi Orphan
- Prisoners children
- Runaway
- Abandoned
- Neglected
- Illegal Adoption

Exploitation & Abuse

- Child Marriage
- Begging
- Trafficking
- Corporal Punishment
- Street Children

Health & Vulnerability

- Chronic Disease
- Special Needs
- Drug Addict
- Natural Calamity





Children in Conflict with Law

- Child in conflict with law means a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and who has not completed eighteen years of age on the date of commission of such offence
- The JJ Act categorizes offences committed by children into three distinct levels, ensuring that the response and intervention are proportionate to the nature of the offence.

1

Petty Offences

Minor violations where the maximum punishment under any law is imprisonment up to 3 years.

2

Serious Offences

Offences for which the punishment under any law is imprisonment between 3 to 7 years.

3

Heinous Offences

Offences for which the minimum punishment under any law is imprisonment of 7 years or more.



Statutory Structures

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Established under the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005**. Investigation, Policy review, Monitoring, Social Audits.

State Child Protection Commission

Established under the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005**. Protects, promotes, and monitors children's rights.

Child Welfare Committee (CWC)

A statutory body constituted under **Section 27 of the JJ Act, 2015**. Handles cases of children in need of care and protection (CNCP). Ensures well-being, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)

Constituted under **Section 4 of JJ Act, 2015**. Deals with children in conflict with law (CCL). Ensures child-friendly procedures.



Administrative Structures



State Child Protection Society

Under **Section 106 of JJ Act, 2015**. Plans, implements, and monitors child protection programs.



Central Adoption Resource Agency

Under **Section 67 of JJ Act, 2015**. Promotes and regulates adoption.



District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)

Under **Section 107 of JJ Act, 2015**. Implements and monitors child protection programs.



Childline – 1098 Helpline

Sec 2 (25). 24-hour emergency outreach service. Links children to care and rehabilitation.



State Adoption Resource Agency

Under **Section 67 of JJ Act, 2015**. Promotes and regulates adoption. Works with CARA.

Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)

Dedicated police unit under JJ Act, 2015. Handles cases involving juveniles. Provides immediate care. Follows child-friendly procedures.



Services to Children

The JJ Act mandates a comprehensive range of services to ensure the holistic well-being and recovery of every child:

01

Rescue and Rehabilitation

02

Shelter and Safe Environment

03

Counseling and Psychological Support

04

Medical Care

05

Education and Skill Development

06

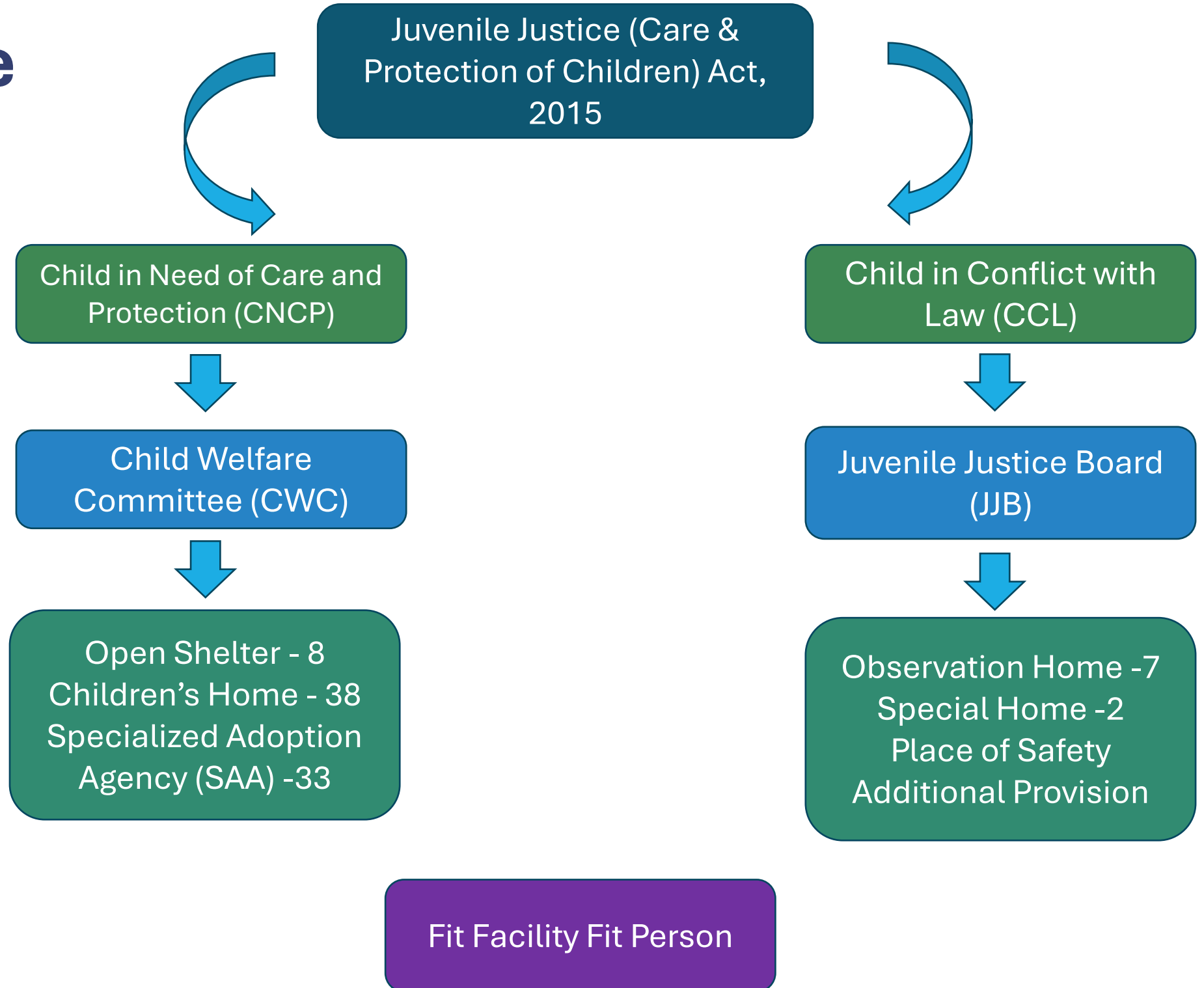
Family Reintegration

07

Free Legal Aid

Institutional Care

Provides group care for children separated from families due to poverty, abuse or neglect.



Non-Institutional Care

Refers to community based family- like support for children who are in need of care and protection instead of placing them in children home.

Adoption

Legal process for permanent family placement

Sponsorship

Financial assistance up to children living with extended families education and health needs **₹4000 PM**

Foster Care

Placement in another family

After Care

Support for ages **18–21 years**

ADOPTION



Adoption – A beautiful way to make a family



WHAT IS ADOPTION?

1

Permanent Separation

The process through which the adopted child is permanently separated from his biological parents

2

Lawful Child

Becomes the lawful child of adoptive parents

3

Equal Rights

Has all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a biological child





Institutions



SARA

State Adoption Resource Agency



CWC & DM

Child Welfare Committee & District Magistrate



DWO & DCPO

District Welfare Officer & District Child Protection Unit



SAA, PAPs & AAFA

Specialised Adoption Agency, Prospective Adoptive Parents & AAFA



CENTRAL AUTHORITY

CARA

All adoptions routed through **CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority), New Delhi**

CARINGS

All steps updated on **CARINGS (online portal)** in real time

<https://carings.wcd.gov.in/>

★ SALIENT FEATURES

Process Features

- Combination of online and interactive process
- Mandatory registration on CARINGS

Types of Adoption

01

In-country adoption

02

In-country relative adoption

03

In-country step-parent adoption

04

Inter-country adoption

05

Inter-country relative adoption

06

Inter-country step-parent adoption





WHO CAN BE ADOPTED? (CRITERIA)

☐ Children below **18 years**

Categories:

1

Category 1

Orphan, abandoned, surrendered children (declared legally free by CWC)

2

Category 2

Relative adoption
(paternal/maternal relation)

3

Category 3

Step-parent adoption (child from earlier marriage)



ELIGIBILITY OF PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS (PAPs)

General Requirements

- Physically, mentally, emotionally, financially capable
- No life-threatening medical condition
- Not convicted or accused in child rights violation

Eligible:

- Married couple
- Single male or female
- With or without children

Conditions

- Consent of both husband and wife
- Single female → can adopt any child
- Single male → can adopt only boy
- Minimum 2 years stable marriage (except relative/step-parent adoption)



AGE CRITERIA

Age of Child	Couple (Max age)	Single Parent (Max age)
Up to 2 yrs	85 yrs	40 yrs
2–4 yrs	90 yrs	45 yrs
4–8 yrs	100 yrs	50 yrs
8–18 yrs	110 yrs	55 yrs



Process for Children

Abandoned / Orphan

01

**Produced before
CWC with in 24hr.**

02

**Tracing efforts –
News Paper Notification for
Abandoned child – 2 months**

03

Declared legally free

04

**Added to adoption
process**

Surrendered Children

01

**Surrender before
CWC**

02

**60-day
reconsideration**

03

**Declared legally free
if no claim**





Process for In-Country Adoption

1

Phase 1

- Registration on CARINGS
- Home Study Report (HSR)
- Suitability assessment

2

Phase 2

- Child referral
- Adoption Committee Meeting
- Acceptance by PAPs

3

Phase 3










- Pre-adoption foster care
- Application to DM
- Adoption order
- Birth certificate

4

Phase 4

- Post-adoption follow-ups (4 reports)

Inter-Country Adoption

	Registration
	Document upload
	CARA approval
	Child referral
	Acceptance
	NOC by CARA
	Foster care
	Adoption order
	Passport, visa, Post Adoption follow-ups

Fees

₹ IN-COUNTRY

₹6K

HSR

Home Study Report fee

₹50K

Adoption Fee

Main adoption processing fee

₹2K

per follow-up Report

4 Post-adoption follow-up Reports

₹2K

Revalidation

Revalidation fee

🌐 INTER-COUNTRY

\$5K

Adoption Fee

International adoption fee

\$1K

Additional Child

Fee per additional child

Status in Telangana

- Total adoptions during 2025–26 were 209.
- Out of these, 180 were in-country and 29 were inter-country adoptions.
- 38 children aged 7–18 years were adopted in-country.
- 6 children aged 7–18 years were adopted inter-country.
- 6 special needs children were adopted in-country.
- 23 special needs children were adopted inter-country.

PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT, 2006

Definition of Child Marriage

Marriage where:

- Boy is below 21 years
- Girl is below 18 years

Such marriages are **illegal and punishable** under the law.

Objectives of the Act

- Prohibit child marriage
- Protect children from exploitation and abuse
- Provide legal remedies for victims
- Promote child welfare and education

Causes of Child Marriage

Poverty

**Lack of
Education**

**Social Customs /
Traditions**

**Gender
Inequality**

Punishment Under the Act

- Adult male marrying a child: Imprisonment + fine
- Anyone performing/promoting child marriage: Punishable
- Parents/guardians involved: Also liable for punishment

Voidable Marriages & Void Marriages

Voidable Marriages

- Minor can annul marriage within 2 years of attaining majority by petitioning in the court

Void Marriages

- Marriage considered void ab initio if the minor is kidnapped trafficked or forced in to marriage



Rights of the Child

The Act ensures that children who are victims of child marriage are protected and provided for under the law.



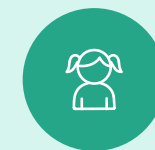
Right to Maintenance and Support

Children are entitled to financial maintenance and support following annulment of marriage.



Right to Residence and Custody

Children have the right to a safe place of residence and appropriate custody arrangements.



Right to Legitimacy of Children Born Post Annulment

Children born of such marriages retain their legal legitimacy even after the marriage is annulled.

List of CMPOs

- 1** The District Collector of the concerned District is District CMPO.
- 2** Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO)/Sub-Collector at the divisional level.
- 3** The Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) at the Project level covering 3-5 mandals which is under their jurisdiction.
- 4** The Tahsildars at the Mandal level for the villages which are under their jurisdiction.
- 5** The ICDS Supervisors at the Mandal level covering their respective villages under their jurisdiction.
- 6** The Panchayat Secretaries of the Panchayat Raj Department and Village Administrative Officers of Revenue Department at the Village level.



Role of CMPO & Police



Role of Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO)

- Prevent child marriages in the community
- Create awareness
- Monitor communities
- Rescue children
- Provide counseling to child and family



Role of Police

Prevention: Monitor communities. Stop marriages before they occur.

Rescue and Protection: Rescue children. Ensure safe custody.

Legal Action: Register cases. File FIRs. Assist prosecution.

Coordination: Work with CMPOs and authorities. Maintain records.



Role of Other Line Departments

Revenue / Local Administration

- Issue notices
- Support CMPOs
- Provide administrative support

Women & Child Development

- Monitor implementation
- Provide rehabilitation, counseling, legal aid

Education Department

- Awareness programs
- Ensure children stay in school

Health Department

- Provide health care
- Counseling and psychological support

NGOs / Community Organizations

- Awareness campaigns
- Report violations

Child Marriage

Prevented 134 child marriages in the month of March. 1300 child marriages were prevented in the FY 2025-26. Intensified the campaign against child marriage with the slogan ' Balya Vivaham Bathuku Aagam'.

- A district in which not even a single child marriage occurs within one year will be declared as a Child Marriage Free District.
- The goal is to declare Telangana as a Child Marriage Free State by 2030.



POCSO Act, 2012

The Protection Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. is a law protecting children under 18 from sexual assault, harassment, pornography.

Salient Features of the POCSO Act, 2012

The POCSO Act, 2012 defines the following categories of offences against children:

- **Gender-Neutral Scope:** The act protects all children below 18 years, regardless of gender. It recognizes that both boys and girls can be victims of sexual abuse.
- **Aggravated Offences:** It classifies certain crimes as "aggravated," such as those committed by a person in a position of trust or authority (e.g., teacher, doctor, family member).
- **Mandatory Reporting:** Section 19 makes it mandatory for any person, including healthcare providers, to report knowledge or suspicion of an offense to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police. Failure to report is punishable by law.
- **Child-Friendly Procedures:** No Police Station Interview: Statements are recorded at the child's home or preferred place, avoiding police uniforms.
- **Support Person:** A support person is assigned for psychological and emotional support during the investigation.
- **Special Courts:** Cases are handled by special courts to ensure a fast-tracked, non-traumatic process, ideally within one year. Total 36 POCSO special courts in the state.
- **Confidentiality of Identity:** Section 23 prohibits the media from disclosing the identity of the child in any manner.
- **Stricter Penalties:** The Act provides severe punishments, ranging from minimum imprisonment to life imprisonment and the death penalty for grave, aggravated offences.
- **Compensation:** Rs. 1lakh has been given as a compensation for POCSO victims.

Key Punishment Provisions under POCSO Act (2019 Amendment):

- **Penetrative Sexual Assault (Section 4):** Minimum 20 years, up to life imprisonment, and a fine.
- **Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault (Section 6):** Minimum 20 years, up to life imprisonment or death penalty.
- **Sexual Assault (Section 8):** Minimum 3–5 years imprisonment with a fine.
- **Aggravated Sexual Assault (Section 10):** Minimum 5 years, up to 7 years imprisonment.
- **Sexual Harassment (Section 12):** 3-5 years imprisonment depending on the intensity of the case.
- **Using Children for Pornography (Section 14 & 15):** 5-7 years for using a child; up to 3 years for storing/possession.



Trial Process



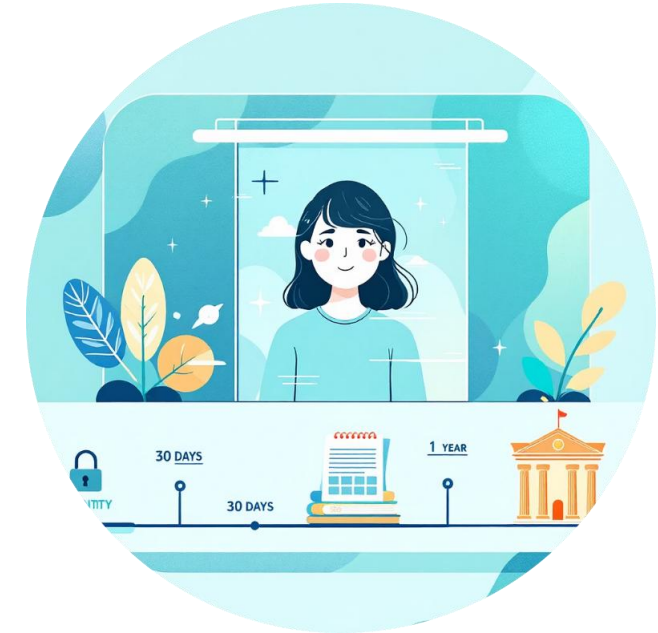
Questioning

- Questions asked through Judge
- No aggressive questioning
- No repeated testimony



Safety & Comfort

- Child not exposed to accused
- Frequent breaks allowed
- Child-friendly court atmosphere
- Family presence allowed



Protection & Timeline

- Identity protected
- Evidence within 30 days
- Trial within 1 year



CHILD & ADOLESCENT LABOUR Act, 1986

Definitions

- **Child:** Below 14 years
- **Adolescent:** 14–18 years

Objective

- Prohibit hazardous work
- Regulate conditions
- Protect health, education, welfare

⚠️ Punishment

Employer

First Offence:

- 6 months–2 years imprisonment
- ₹20,000–₹50,000 fine

Second Offence:

- 1–3 years imprisonment

Parents / Guardians

- **First offence:** No punishment
- **Repeat offence:** Up to ₹10,000



Procedure

Filing a Complaint

Any person can file complaint

Proof of Age

Medical certificate is proof of age



PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Act, 2005

LEGAL RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS

Physical Abuse

Causing bodily pain, harm or danger to life/health

Sexual Abuse

Humiliating or violating dignity of a woman

Verbal & Emotional Abuse

Insults, threats, humiliation (e.g., not having a child or male child)

Economic Abuse

Denial of financial resources, restricting access to household necessities

Aggrieved Woman

Any woman in a domestic relationship

Respondent

Any person in a domestic relationship

Filing of a Domestic Violence Case

Aggrieved Woman:

Any woman who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the respondent can file a Domestic Violence Case.

Respondent:

Any person who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the aggrieved person.

Who can File a Domestic Violence Case?	
Daughter against Father	Yes
Sister against Brother	Yes
Mother against Son	Yes
Daughter in law against Father in Law	Yes
Daughter in law against any family member or relative of Husband	Yes
Mother in law against daughter in law	Yes
Mother in law against son in law	Yes
Any male family member against any female family member	No

Domestic Violence Act — Rights & Remedies

When a **Domestic Incident Report (DIR)** is filed, the woman gets the following rights:



Whom to Approach

Protection Officers

DWO / CDPO

One Stop Centres

Dedicated support centres

Women Helpline 181

Online complaint registration system

Magistrate

Judicial authority

- ❏ Shelter is provided through government-recognized homes.
 - Shelter will be provided for 5 days through OSCs which can be extended upto 20 days there after will be shifted to Shakti Sadhans



DOWRY PROHIBITION Act, 1961

What is Dowry?

Dowry means any property or valuable security given directly or indirectly:

- By either party or their parents**
- Before, during or after marriage**

Includes demands for **cash, gold, car or property**

Dowry Prohibition — Legal Provisions

Section 498A IPC (Section 85 of BNS Act)

Cruelty by husband or relatives

Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 years + fine

Section 304B IPC (Section 80 of BNS Act) — Dowry Death

Death within 7 years of marriage under unnatural conditions

Punishment: Minimum 7 years to life imprisonment

Victims Can Approach

→ Protection Officer

→ Sakhi Centre

→ Police Station

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) Act, 2013 (POSH Act)

The Act defines sexual harassment at workplace and provides a complaint redressal system.
Sexual harassment includes:

Physical contact or advances

Demand for sexual favours

Sexually coloured remarks

Showing pornography

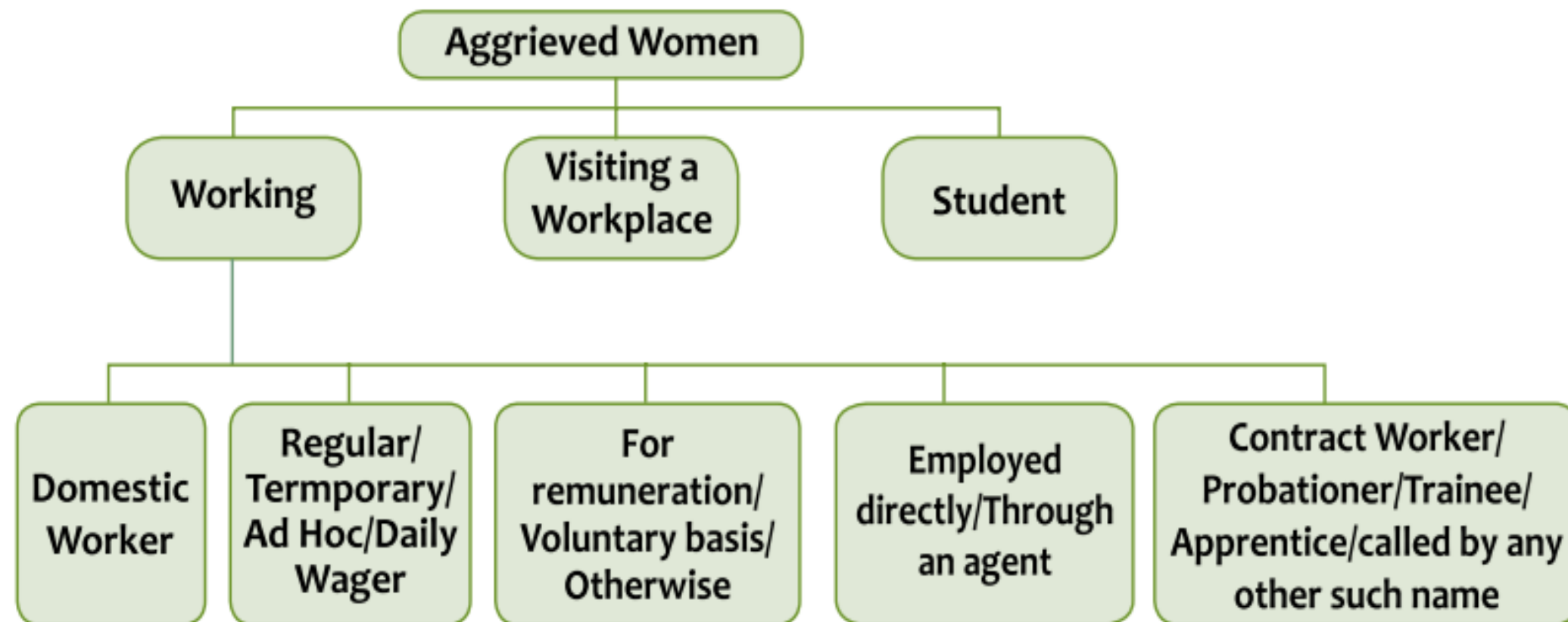
Any unwelcome conduct of sexual nature

Creating hostile or unsafe work environment

Who is an Aggrieved Woman?

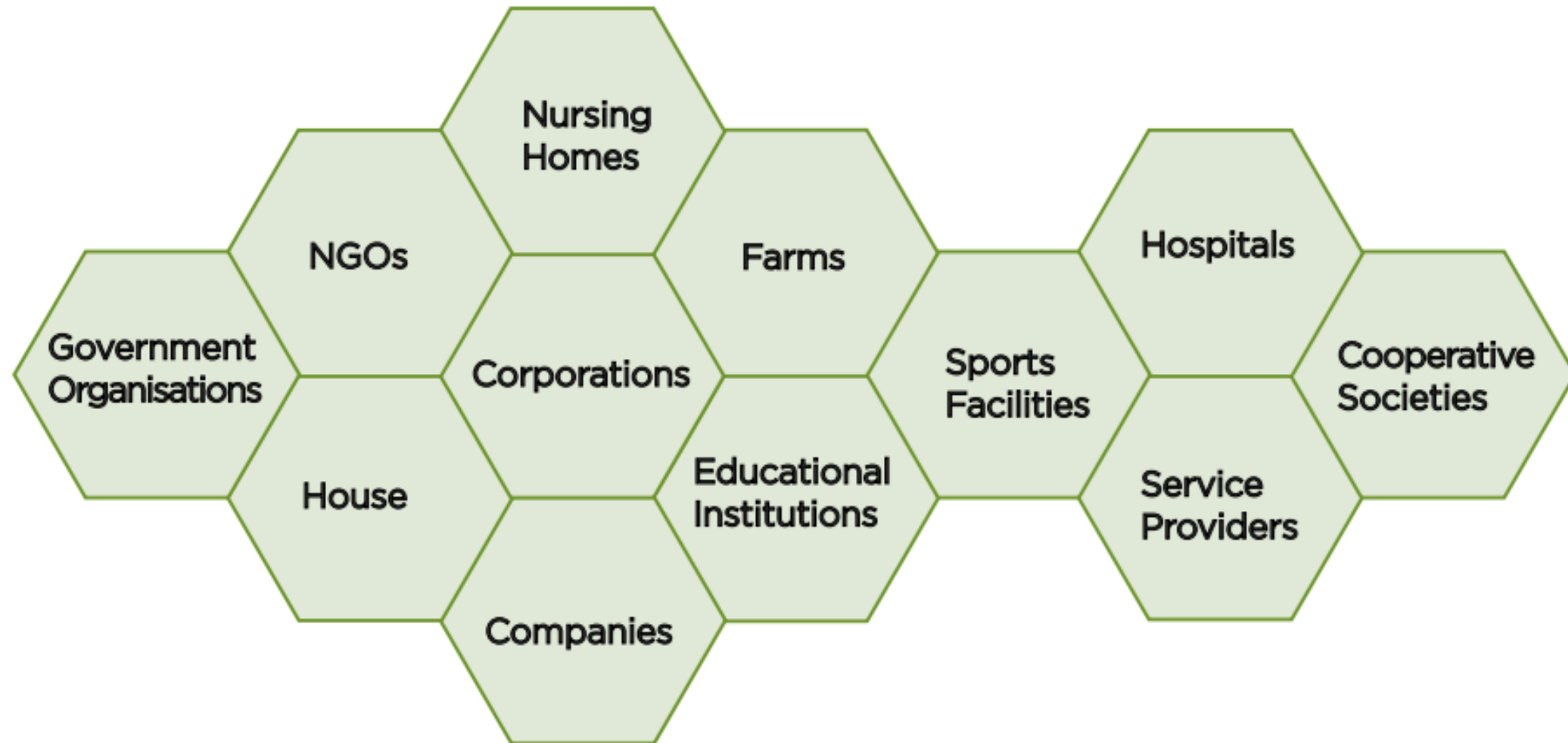
“Aggrieved Woman” means—

- in relation to a workplace, a woman, of any age whether employed or not, who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment by the respondent;
- in relation to dwelling place or house, a woman of any age who is employed in such a dwelling place or house



What is a Workplace?

Any place where working relationship and/or employer-employee relationship between the company and the person or between two individuals exists.



Committees

Redressal of complaints

Internal Complaints Committee

Every employer is required to constitute an '**Internal Complaints Committee**' at all offices with staff strength of 10 or more employees.

- Members of the committee shall include
- a senior woman employee,
- two or more employees and
- one member from an NGO committed to the cause of women.
- A member of this Committee may not engage in any paid employment outside the duties of the office.

Local Committee

A '**Local Committee**' is required to be constituted in every district.

- An additional 'Local Complaints Committee' shall also be constituted at the block level
- to address complaints in situations where the complainant does not have recourse to an Internal Complaints Committee or
- where the complaint is against the employer himself.

📌 **Penalty:** Fine up to ₹50,000 for non-compliance

Duties of the employer

The Act assigns certain duties to each employer.

- a) providing a safe working environment;
- b) Constitute an Internal Complaints Committee and conspicuously displaying the order constituting the Committee;
- c) undertaking workshops and training programmes at regular intervals for sensitizing employees;
- d) providing assistance during an inquiry within 90 days; and
- e) within 60 days of submission of report initiating action against the perpetrator

Procedure for filing complaints and initiating inquiry

- Govt has developed Sexual Harassment electronic Box (**SHe-Box**) portal i.e. <https://shebox.wcd.gov.in>.
- To provide a single window access to every woman, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.
- An aggrieved woman may complain to the Internal Committee.
- In the absence of such a committee, she may file a complaint with the Local Committee.
- The complainant may also pursue other remedies, including filing a criminal complaint.
- The Committee shall provide for conciliation if requested by the complainant. Otherwise, the Committee shall initiate an inquiry.

SHe-Box

The Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (SHe-Box) is an effort of GoI to provide a single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organized or unorganized, private or public sector, to facilitate the registration of complaint related to sexual harassment.

- In Telangana 33 Local Committee has been constituted and uploaded in the SHe-Box portal.
- At State level 20 Departmental ICs have been established.
- At District level 1505 District offices ICs and 1220 Sub offices ICs have been formed.
- 1767 Private offices have formed ICs.
- District wise trainings initiated on posh act, for awareness



NIRBHAYA Act, 2013

Provides stricter punishment for sexual offences.

Life Imprisonment

For rape

Death Penalty

For repeat offenders or extreme cases

Expanded Definition

Expands definition of rape to include different forms of penetration

New Offences Recognized

Stalking and voyeurism

Nirbhaya Act — Offences & Punishments

Offence	Section	Punishment
Acid Attack	Sec 326A (Sec 124 BNS)	10 years to life imprisonment
Sexual Harassment	Sec 354A (Sec 75 BNS)	Up to 3 years
Stalking	Sec 354D (Sec 78 BNS)	1–3 years
Rape	Sec 376 (Sec 64 BNS)	Minimum 7 years
Gang Rape	Sec 376D (Sec 70 BNS)	Minimum 20 years

❏ Also punishes **police or hospital authorities** for failure to act.



MATERNITY BENEFIT Act

Maternity Benefits for Working Women

Provides maternity benefits to working women.

26

Weeks Paid Leave

Paid maternity leave for working mothers

12

Weeks for Adoptive Mothers

Leave for adoptive and commissioning mothers

4

Crèche Visits/Day

Crèche facility with 4 visits per day allowed

Work from Home

Option for work from home available

Crèche Facility

With 4 visits per day

Maternity Benefit Act — Additional Benefits & Penalties

Additional Benefits

- **6 weeks leave** for miscarriage
- **2 weeks leave** for tubectomy operation
- **No dismissal** during pregnancy

Penalty for Employer

- 3 months to 1 year imprisonment
- Fine ₹2000 to ₹5000

Every working woman deserves the protection and support guaranteed by law.
Know your rights — and exercise them.

Creche & WWHs

- PALNA (**Anganwadi-cum-Crèche Centres**) provide a safe place for children (6 months to 6 years) of working mothers.
- 1033 PALNA centres have been sanctioned.
- 595 posts for crèche workers and helpers have been sanctioned, and recruitment will be completed soon.
- Sakhi Niwas (**Working Women Hostels**): 48
- They provide safe accommodation for working women and women pursuing higher education or training.