



# INTERSTATE CASE REFERRAL PRACTICES



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*In some cases, Prerana receives a referral from the Child Welfare Committee to follow-up on a case where the child, though rescued in Maharashtra, may not be a native of the state. In such a situation, it becomes necessary for the team to make contact with partners in the native state to effectively plan for the child's rehabilitation. Assessing the child's situation at home through a Social Investigation (under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015) is imperative to deciding the pathway of rehabilitation suitable for the child. Through this document, we intend to share our best practices when working on an inter-state referral.*



**Interaction with the Child:** When the team receives a referral of a case, where the child is not a native of Maharashtra, locating the native place of origin of the child becomes essential in planning for the rehabilitation. After the referral of the case, the team gathers information from the CCI staff where the child is placed. They interact with the child to gain a better understanding of the location.

**Identifying organisations in native state:** Once this information is gathered from the child, the team then begins to identify organizations (either state-run or voluntary) in the child's home-state to conduct a Social Investigation. During this process, the team preferably contacts local District Child Protection Units and Child Welfare Committees. However, this is subject to the availability of child protection systems in the native areas. In some cases, they may not be able to respond quickly due to their existing workload as they manage entire districts. In such situations, the team coordinates with Anti Trafficking organisations/ local organisations working on child rights issues or the Childline closest to the district that the child might be from.



**Using existing knowledge resources:** The team then attempts to locate the village with the help of search engines and tools such as Google Maps to identify the locations. This is done by following the information gathered from the child. The process of identifying the location and finding an agency to conduct the Social Investigation becomes extremely crucial in cases of sex trafficking to help the child protection authorities in Mumbai facilitate the victim's rehabilitative processes.

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*The process of locating the victim's home state becomes even more challenging in situations where she might not be able to provide an accurate address and instead share a rough route to her house, a vague landmark, or just the name of her village. The information provided entirely depends on the victim's memory and her knowledge of her surroundings. This in turn is affected by how long ago she was trafficked and brought to the new location.*

**Facilitating a Social Investigation:** Once an estimated location is identified, the social workers contact government agencies (civic, law enforcement, and child protection) and authorities through online resource directories and established networks to identify a child protection agency to conduct the Social Investigation and submit the Report. During this process, to protect the identity of the victim, the social workers ensure that no details of the case are shared until the exact location has been determined. Subsequently, only an appointed agency receives the details. The social workers also ensure that the visiting team is provided with all relevant details and has been thoroughly briefed about the case in order to receive accurate information. After the visit is conducted, the social workers from Prerana (if required) also conduct discussions with the team who conducted the visit to provide assistance to the team in documenting their findings.



*Apart from referrals where the social workers are required to establish inter-state linkages, the social workers also engage with a number of service providers. **It is through a cumulation of such micro, meso, and macro-level linkages that effective victim assistance services are provided to ensure optimum rehabilitation.***