

Rules for checking the personal lockers of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP)

Every CNCP residing at the CCI is given a personal locker. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 expects every CCI to undertake appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of every child living in such institutions.

The Model Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children), Rules, 2016 in Rule 61 (3) and Rule 68 (Rule 70 of the Maharashtra JJ Rules, 2018) broadly covers this:

In compliance with the above rules, CCIs should have the policy of checking children's lockers once every three months. The following rules must be followed while examining the lockers.



Upon admission into the CCI, the child shall be informed about the rules, the frequency and the procedure to be followed regarding checking of lockers. This is done during the induction-orientation process. It is important to make the child understand that this process of checking of the lockers is followed as per the law and is done to ensure his/her safety.



The outputs related to locker checking will be discussed during the general meetings, which should be a minimum of three a year. Suggestions sought from the children in the CCI should also be discussed. In any case, the discussions around this issue should not be conducted anywhere beyond the general meetings.



While checking the locker of the child, it is essential to remember that every individual is very sensitive about their belongings and would not like intrusions in their personal space. For girls, their lockers are their personal space. Therefore, the entire process should be done with utmost sensitivity with due regard to the privacy and dignity of the children.



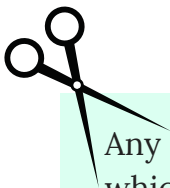
The objective of checking the locker is to ensure the safety of the child. The process and subsequent discussions should not be conducted with the intention of being punitive towards the child.



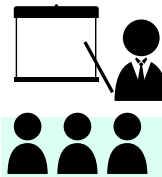
If a child requests staff other than the one deputed to check the lockers on that particular day/turn, this request should be considered. The superintendent should hear the request and take an appropriate decision to depute another staff to carry out this task.



If an unexpected argument breaks out during this process, the staff needs to report the same to the superintendent and not get into any counter argument with the child.



Any article found during the check which is unlikely to harm the child directly or indirectly need not be confiscated. e.g. photographs of movie stars, singers etc. However, harmful items like blades, knives, scissors, broken mirrors, money, medicines, mobile phones, pen drives, pornographic material, etc., that may pose a threat to the safety of any child residing at the institution should be reported and confiscated.



After the process of checking the lockers, the Home staff should conduct a meeting with the girls whose items have been confiscated in the presence of the superintendent. It is essential to discuss and educate them as to why they are not supposed to keep such items with the hope that such a situation will not arise in the future.



Locker checking should be done with the consent of the child and only in her/his presence. To carefully secure the observations, the process should ideally be conducted in the presence of two or more staff members. The timing of the locker checking should not clash with the child's eating time, counseling session time, study time or sleeping time.



If a child is unwell during locker checking, then another date will be fixed to check the locker of that child.



While moving items from the locker during the check, the staff should spread a mat on the floor and keep all the items from the locker on the floor with care and respect.

If the team members think that any serious issue has arisen during this process, which the team deputed to carry out the locker checking task is unable to handle, then they should report the matter to the superintendent or superiors. Subsequently, if there is a need, then the same may be reported to the competent authority.

A document by



Contact us:



+91 8928978193



fighttraffickingindia@gmail.com



preranaantitrafficking.org
fighttrafficking.org



facebook.com/preranaantitrafficking/



@PreranaATC



@preranaantihumantrafficking