

PRERANA'S ANTI TRAFFICKING CENTER



SOCIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT



WHAT IS A SOCIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT?

A Social Investigation Report (SIR) also called the Home Investigation Report (HIR) also known as Home Study Report (HSR) is a report required to be submitted to the competent authorities to enable them to take informed decisions w.r.t. a child produced before them.



**SOCIAL
INVESTIGATION
REPORTS
CONTAIN**

Factual Information

Observations

Impressionistic Data

Analysis

Conclusions

**Recommendations to serve the best
interest of the child**



WHY CONDUCT A SOCIAL INVESTIGATION?

- To assess the immediate surroundings of the child – conducive or harmful to care and protection.
- To decide if the child needs to be kept in CCI for long term care and protection.
- As per Section 36 (Inquiry) of J.J.Act 2015, the SIR should be completed within 15 days so as to enable the committee to pass the final Order within four months of the first production of the child.



WHY CONDUCT A SOCIAL INVESTIGATION?

- It forms a part of the Probation Officer's mandatory/statutory report that must be submitted to the CWC or the JJB.
- It is an important document for the Court's consideration to take decisions in the best interest of the child e.g. if the claimants for the child file a petition in the appellate court seeking custody.
- It helps in evolving a individual care plan for the child/client.



WHO CAN ASK FOR AN SIR?

✓ Under the law, certain authorities are declared as the competent authorities :-

- CWC or JJB under Section 30 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
- Magistrate Courts

✓ PO, CSO, etc. can also ask for a SIR but under the directions of the competent authority.



THE LAW & SIR

Juvenile Justice Care & Protection Act, 2015

- Functions and Responsibilities of the CWC Section 30(iii): Directing a Child Welfare Officer, Probation Officer, DCPU or NGO to conduct SIR.
- Inquiry: Sect 36 (2): SIR should be completed within 15 days so as to enable the Committee to pass the final Order within four months of the first production of the child.

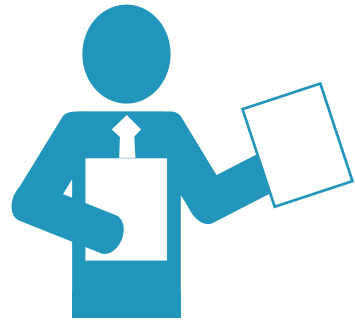


THE LAW & SIR

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Rules 2012

RULE 4: CARE & PROTECTION

‘Upon receipt of a report under sub-rule (3), the concerned CWC must proceed, in accordance with its powers under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, to make a determination within three days, either on its own or with the assistance of a social worker, as to whether the child needs to be taken out of the custody of his family or shared household and placed in a Children’s Home or a Shelter home.’



MUST HAVE'S BEFORE THE SIR

- A hard copy of the Order of the competent authority asking you to conduct the SIR.
- A checklist with points on which specific information is needed.
- A case history of the concerned child/client as narrated by the child/client.



BEFORE CONDUCTING THE SIR

- Good to speak with the child before the SIR to get as much information as possible.
- Additional information on the case be collected from the PO and/or the competent authority.



KEEP IN MIND

- Communicate to the CWC your willingness or unwillingness/inability to conduct the SI and submit the SIR.
- Conducting the SI may not be accomplished in one single visit. It might require more than one visit to more than one persons/sites.
- While submitting the Report, ensure that all these visits are captured.
- It is a good practice to submit an Interim Report if you are not able to submit the final Report in time.
- Keep the CWC updated about your progress on the SI especially if it is likely to get delayed and inform the CWC in writing about the delay.

**AVOID MAKING GENERALIZED
STATEMENTS CASUALLY IN THE SIR AS
THEY HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS**

SUCH AS.....

The girl has completely forgotten all about the incident and has adjusted well to her current situation.

The parents were unsure and vague when asked about the rehabilitation plan for their child.

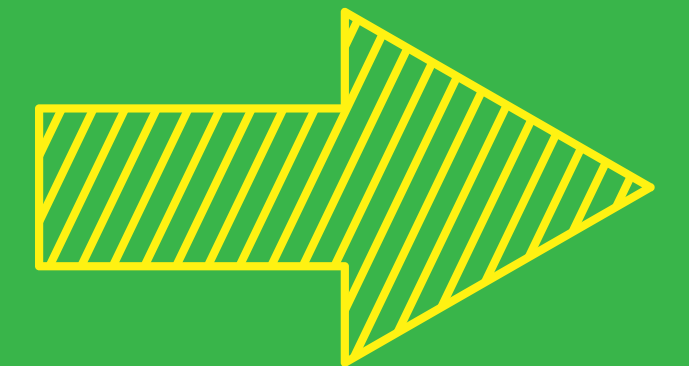
~~SIR~~

The community members readily showed us the house when we told them about the name of the girl and the case.

It looks like the girl and the boy had sex with each other many times before this incident took place.

~~SIR~~

DO'S & 'DO NOT'S
WHILE CONDUCTING A SOCIAL
INVESTIGATION



DO'S

- Study the case thoroughly before making a 'visit'.
- As far as possible take a prior appointment or inform the persons before making the 'visit'. Take a team member along if possible for the 'Home Visit'.
- Visit the child and the family preferably at their residence and in the community where the child/client lives.
- Introduce yourself smartly to the community members when required, without compromising on the confidentiality of the client and the facts of the case.

DO NOT'S

- Don't go to the client's house unprepared or with deficit knowledge of the case.
- Do not turn up unannounced at the client's doorstep, unless it is not possible otherwise. As far as possible do not conduct a Home Visit alone, take a team member along
- Do not call the client to your office or your field area for the sake of conducting an interview for the SI.
- Don't disclose the purpose of your visit or the case to community members.

DO'S

- Introduce yourself and the agency you are representing clearly and right at the beginning of the interview.
- Keep the interview precise and brief. Reorganize the interaction in the light of the fresh observations and assessment of the situation.
- Maintain confidentiality about the client and the case details throughout the visit.
- Explain to the client the purpose of your visit clearly. Give the client a prior idea about the approximate time that you will need for the interaction.

DO NOT'S

- Do not give false introduction or false identity.
- Do not get into unnecessary details of the case or make them repeat the incidence again.
- Do not disclose unnecessary information to the client or the community. Don't make false promises.
- Do not lie to them about the purpose of your visit. Do not keep them waiting.

DO'S

- Politely request them to turn off the radio or television or any other distraction, if it is coming in the way of the interaction.
- Make sure to keep the onlookers away.
- Ensure that each client is interviewed with due consideration to confidentiality and privacy.
- Maintain boundaries during the visit – use your discretion and take your supervisor's advice.

DO NOT'S

- Do not start your interaction if there is too much chaos or distraction in the house.
- Do not engage and interact with all the onlookers. Do not let them reply on behalf of the client.
- Do not allow undue interference of unrelated persons, other than the interviewee.
- Do not accept gifts, food or drinks from the client during the visit.

DO'S

- Take prior permission of the client before recording the interaction. Record the details as clearly as possible.
- Explain the relevance of photographs and click photographs only after seeking prior permission from the client.
- Observe the body language and surroundings of all the members present during the visit. Pay attention to and note down the amenities observed in the home and the neighbourhood.

DO NOT'S

- Do not record the interactions without the permission of the client. Don't rely too much on your memory, note down facts immediately after the interaction.
- Do not click pictures of the site or the persons without due permission.
- Do not rely only on what information was shared during the interview.

DO'S

- Document the observation and the interaction as soon as you can after the visit.
- Write all the facts clearly as received during the interaction and through supporting documents.
- Use neutral language and keep it simple.
- Mention your details and all the other relevant information on your organizational letterhead.
- Write a clear conclusion or the next steps with an achievable action plan.

DO NOT'S

- Do not prolong the documentation for more than a week as the details could get lost.
- Do not mention information that was not quoted or said during the interaction.
- Do not use jargons and judgmental words in the Report that might be detrimental to the case.
- Do not mention the details of the members who were not present or did not participate in the interaction during the visit.
- Do not finish the SIR with a vague or ambiguous conclusion with no proper action plan.



WHO TO INTERVIEW FOR THE SIR?

- Family – immediate & extended
- Child (only if needed engage in an informal discussion)
- Neighbours
- Friends of the client/family
- Community heads
- Local police/IOs
- Employers
- Co-workers
- Principal/teachers

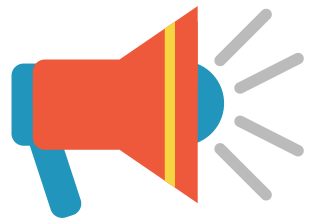
****Note: Maintain confidentiality about the case, at all times.***



WHAT DOCUMENTS TO LOOK FOR?

- Birth Certificate
- School Leaving Certificate
- Enrollment/Admission Certificate
- Health Records
- Ration Card & Aadhar Card
- Bank Passbook
- Voter Identity Card
- Passport
- Photographs
- Copy of Record of missing complaint

****Note: Do not take any original documents of the child.***



IMPORTANT POINTS!

- Do not forget to carry a written Order from the competent authority directing you to conduct the SI and submit the SIR.
- Only in cases where a child is in your CCI you can conduct the SIR without an Order.
- Do not delay in investigation and submission of the report.
- As far as possible ask open ended questions during the interview.
- Please be sensitive and maintain confidentiality.



THE SIR CHECKLIST

An SIR should....

- be on the letterhead of the organization.
- be coherent & clear.
- mention date & time of locations visited.
- be submitted along with copies of the documents gathered as annexures.
- include the name, designation, signature of the person/s conducting the SI and making the Report.
- include pictures for appropriate representation.



THE SIR CHECKLIST

Contents of the SIR

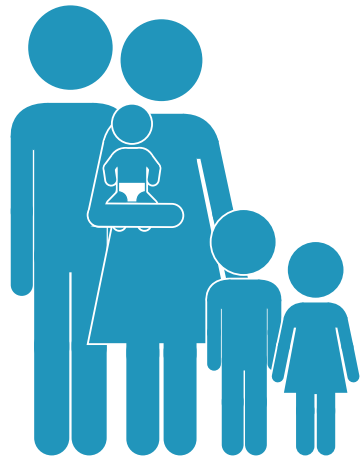
- Name of the authority directing SIR and purpose.
- Name of child/client, address, general details as from the case history.
- Date and time of visit along with the names of the members of the investigating team.
- SIR drafting and submission date.
- Descriptions - locality, neighbourhood, family & home.
- People present at the time of visit and their relation to the child/client.
- The SIR should be recorded in the language as requested by the competent authority.



THE SIR CHECKLIST

Contents of the SIR

- Different paragraphs for interactions with each person.
- Future plans for the child/client as per the family.
- Observations of the visitors – body language of people present, other non verbal behavior, dynamics, etc.
- Visible or likely sources of danger for the child/client.
- Support systems available for the child/client in the vicinity.
- Socio-economic analysis of the family.
- A clear and coherent conclusion.



INFORMATION ABOUT FAMILY

- Religion
- Caste, sub-Caste/tribe
- Size – Family constellation
- Economic situation
- Socio economic status vis-à-vis the community
- Visible assets
- Nature of relationship with child/client – e.g. biological child, adopted child, guardian, step father, half brother, etc.
- Living pattern of the family – stays together/apart/children in creche etc.
- Knowledge about current status of the child/client
- Family's perception about the child/client in general
- Connections with exploitative customers practices



INFORMATION ABOUT SIBLINGS

- Physical presence
- Ages
- Education status
- Occupational status (if working)
- Health/disability status
- Drug dependence
- History of abuse (physical/verbal/sexual)
- Involvement in trafficking/prostitution
- Neglect/deprivation



REFERENCES IN THE LAW

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 - Model Rules, 2016

- Form 22, Rule 19(8)

Format of Social Investigation Report

- Form 21, Rule 19(3)

Format of Order for Social Investigation Report

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 - State Rules, 2018

- Rule 19(7) of the Maharashtra J.J Rules, 2018

Format of Social Investigation Report

QUESTIONS



THANK YOU!



fighttraffickingindia@gmail.com



fighttrafficking.org
preranaantitrafficking.org



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