

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEFENCE



From

To

Tmt. Jayashree Raghunandan, I.A.S.,  
Commissioner of Social Defence,  
300, Purasawalkam High Road,  
Chennai. 600 010.

The Director General of Police,  
P.B.No.601, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai,  
Mylapore,  
Chennai. 600 004.

Letter No.19097/D1/2008, dated.23.1.2009.

Sir,

Sub:- Missing children – Social Defence to work in close coordination  
with Police Department – Reg.

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The issue of Missing Children concerns both the Police and the Department of Social Defence. While Police receives the complaint from the parents/guardians, we receive the children, ironically brought in by another wing of the Police, the State Juvenile Police Unit.

In our department, the Officers take efforts to trace the parents. In Police, the efforts are taken to find the children. Yet we have not worked together. Our working together would be mutually beneficial, and above all benefit the anxious parents and child.

This department does not have any facilities of internet or digital camera to take pictures of the children, we have received and put on the web for a search by others including Police of other stations. Nor can we search for their picture on Police website as our persons are not trained.

We have been operating a separate page on our website 'Missing Children Bureau' which receives complaints/letters from Public and puts it on. The hard copy of the same is circulated to the Reception Units to see if any children match the complaint. This method is not supported by staff, or proper feedback or follow up, or technology.

In addition to Reception Unit, children are brought by the regular Police Stations for having come in conflict with law, and are remanded to the Observation Home. These may have been reported as missing or runaway from their house at that Police Station. But that Police Station has no access to the children in Observation Home, neither do we put their name or photo on the web. They too often give false addresses and seek to escape for reasons of perceived parental rejection.

In order to work out the **coordinated way to address this issue of missing children**, we had a discussion with the SCRB and the following way forward was worked out:

- There should be a single website of missing children for Tamil Nadu, which would be managed by the Police.

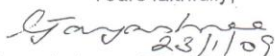
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- The Department of Social Defence and DCRB would work in close coordination with each other in the districts.
- Data of children In Reception Units would be brought and entered with the help of DCRB
- Tracing of parents of children in the Reception Unit would be linked to complaints received by Police of Missing Children, thereby solving both the issues.
- Data of children in Observations Homes would also be brought to the DCRB and entered, but not put on the web. It would only be used for solving cases of missing children by the Police.
- Police is to support to contact the parents at the complaint receiving Police Station or their residential address.
- Police escort to be provided wherever required to take the children to other districts or other State as per Child Welfare Committee order.
- Training is to be given to the officers and staff of Department of Social Defence handling Reception Units and Observation Homes including NGO staff for places where Reception Units, Observation Homes is handled by NGO.
- After internet connectivity is provided to the Reception Units and Observation Homes, training to operate the search from the Reception Unit and Observation Home itself is to be given by the police.

It is requested to **kindly give necessary instructions to the SCR, and district Superintendents of Police** in this regard. This would help in dealing with the cases and increase the number of solved cases for the Police.

The **ADGP, CB-CID** who is the nodal officer for crimes against women and children may **be kindly asked to review the progress** with the Superintendents of Police and the SCR **on a continuing basis**.

Yours faithfully,

  
23/1/09  
Commissioner of Social Defence.

Copy to:-

1. ADGP, CB-CID – with a request to kindly take up this issue.
2. IG, SCR – with reference to the discussion on the subject