

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER No. 191

SUBJECT—Investigation of Juvenile Crimes and treatment of Juvenile Delinquents.

The growing problem of juvenile delinquency has of late attracted the attention of criminologists, social reformers and legislators throughout the country. The police in modern days has, therefore, to play an active role in tackling this problem with a view to protecting and weaning away the delinquent children from the danger.

The following instructions are, therefore, issued for the guidance of officers of all ranks and files.

(i) It may be remembered that in the arrest and custody of Juveniles, there should be no unnecessary indignity or restraint. During arrest, detention and escort, the Juveniles should never be kept with adult offenders. Provisions of P.M.R. 564 should be strictly followed. It is to be admitted that use of hand-cuffs, ropes or fire-arms while escorting a child is likely to traumatise the personality of the child. Such use may be made as sparingly as possible but each case should be judged from its circumstances. There should be no unnecessary detention of juveniles in police custody and such detention should be as short as may be required for the investigation or escorting them. Little time should be wasted for these production before courts where necessary after completion of the investigation.

(ii) Investigation of cases involving juveniles should be more expeditious and charge-sheets should be submitted with as little delay as possible. So also the prosecuting officers should see that the trial is not unnecessarily protected. Special steps should be taken for the appearance of witnesses in cases in which juveniles are involved before the trial court promptly, as otherwise the trial is bound to linger.

Discretion may be exercised liberally while prosecuting the juvenile offender for petty and trifling cognizable offences, keeping in view the provisions of section 157 (i) (b) Cr. P.C., 95 I.P.C. and P.M.R. 160 (b).

Where a warning to a juvenile may suffice, prosecuting him for petty non-cog. offences, may be refrained as far as possible in suitable instances.

(iii) Investigation of cases involving juveniles ordinarily may be made by an officer not below the rank of S.I. of Police. Utmost efforts should be made during the investigation towards finding out adult offenders who exploit children for personal ends. Where such incidents come to notice, steps should be taken to curb the activities of the adult criminals with a view to protecting the children from falling into their trap.

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| II. Lights | .. | 1. Torch |
| | | 2. Candle and Masala |
| | | 3. Dbris and Lamp |
| III. Signals | .. | 1. Clapping |
| | | 2. Whistling |
| IV. Entrance | .. | 1. Scaling over wall |
| | | 2. Pulling door frames |
| | | 3. Breaking open door |
| | | 4. Removing tiles of roof |
| | | 5. Removing tin from wall |
| | | 6. Digging floor |
| | | 7. Using ladder |
| V. Behaviours | .. | 1. Tying inmates with ropes, mosquito nets |
| | | 2. Curtain, quilt, etc. |
| | | 3. Putting cloth into mouth |
| | | 4. Rape |
| | | 5. Assault on women and children |
| | | 6. Throwing sands on face of inmates |
| VI. Articles removed | .. | 1. Document |
| | | 2. Ornaments |
| | | 3. Cash |
| | | 4. Paddy |
| | | 5. Box |
| VII. Dialect used | .. | 1. Oriya |
| | | 2. Hindi |
| | | 3. Bengali |
| | | 4. Urdu |
| | | 5. Telugu |
| | | 6. Laria |
| | | 7. Mixed Hindi and Oriya |
| VIII. Garments | .. | 1. Lungi |
| | | 2. Half pant and shirt |
| | | 3. Malkachha |
| | | 4. Lenguta |
| | | 5. Coat and Kurta |