



**Legal Awareness
Watch Pakistan**

Juvenile Justice **NEWSLETTER**



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An initiative by Legal Awareness Watch Pakistan (LAW)

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NEWS FROM RECENT PAST:

- A seven-year-old boy was arrested in *Burewala* district of the province Punjab¹ in response of First Information Report (FIR) lodged with **Fateh-e-Shah** police station. The court had summoned the **Station Head Officer** (SHO) and took report on why the FIR/criminal case was lodged against the minor in violation of sections 82 and 83 of the CRPC 1898.²
- Despite five years of promulgation of **JJSA 2018**³ **Rules of Business** under **section 24** until the time of this edition have not been introduced to the point of Punjab as well as rest of parts of Pakistan to bring it in complete implementation to safeguard the welfare of the minors in conflict with the law. Due to absence of rules the juvenile justice committee (s) that to be established under section **10**⁴ have not been getting operational to resolve cases of minor and major violations of law involving children through *Diversion*⁵ i.e., reprimands, community service, etc., from penal sanctions.
- To make the Home Department of Punjab alerted on their failure to introduce rules under **JJSA 2018 LAW** had instituted a complaint in **January 2023** under **The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013** to the Punjab Information Commission against the Home Department of Punjab. In response the Home Department submitted a reply dated **18.01.2023** that the government level committee was constituted for the introduction of **Punjab Juvenile Justice Rules, 2021** and its meeting was held on **22.12.2022** in the Chamber of Special Secretary (Home), Government of Punjab.
- In addition, the reply further provided **nine** prisons (six central and three district prisons) out of total **41** prisons of Punjab declared as Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers under **section 20 of JJSA 2018** for reintegration of child offenders. Pursuant of letter/information available before **LAW** following prisons are hereby declared as Rehabilitation Centers i.e., Women Jail, Multan, Central Jail, Multan Central Jail, Rawalpindi, Central Jail, Faisalabad, Central Jail, Gujranwala, Central Jail, D.G. Khan, Central Jail, Sahiwal, District Jail, Muzaffargarh, District Jail, Lahore.

¹ <https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/349387>

² The criminal age of liability in Pakistan was increased from seven years to ten years through the criminal law amendment of 2016.

³ Juvenile Justice System Act 2018.

⁴ For bare reading of the Act 2018 visit: www.legalawarenesswatch.com

⁵ *Diversion* from penal sanctions is possible under JJSA 2018 under section 9 of the same.

- Director of **LAW** has been declared “**Chairman**” of the “**Juvenile Justice and Child Rights Committee**” for the third consecutive time (2021-2024). The Committee was initially constituted in **May 2021** and therefrom it has been getting reconstituted every year.⁶



(Sarmad Ali)

Advocate High Court

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Chairman Juvenile Justice and Child Rights Committee

Lahore Bar Association

126-Lawyers Chambers District Court Lahore.

Dated: 31st January 2023.

Note: *This newsletter has not been professionally edited.*

⁶ The President (s) of bar associations may constitute committees having advocates as their members. The Presidents of bar associations may constitute committees as many as they want to. The members and Chairmans of those committees are selected by the Presidents considering their activism and interest in the issue/topic upon which committees are constituted.