



# POCSO ACT AND CONSENSUAL ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP:

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SC flags misuse of POCSO Act to punish adolescent relations.

## About POCSO Act:

- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012
- Enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.
- Aims to address offences of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.
- The Act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.

## Features:

Gender-Neutral Nature: recognises that both girls and boys can be victims of sexual abuse .

Confidentiality of Victim's Identity: Section 23 of the POCSO Act, 2012 mandates that the identity of child victims must be kept confidential.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Cases: Sections 19 to 22 compel individuals who have knowledge or reasonable suspicion of such offenses to report them to concerned authorities.