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अंडमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
समाज कल्याण निदेशालय
DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

th.
Sri Vijaya Puram, dated the 14 July, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

The Directorate of Social Welfare, A&N Administration invites suggestion and comments from stakeholders and the general public on the draft Andaman & Nicobar Foster Care Guidelines for children 2025 and Andaman & Nicobar Islands After Care Guidelines 2025, which are placed in the public domain for a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication.

Foster Care is a family-based alternative care arrangement under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Mission Vatsalya, where a child below 18 years in need of care and protection is placed with a fit and willing foster family for a temporary or long-term period, as determined by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Foster Care ensures that every child grows up in a safe, nurturing and family-like environment while protecting the child's rights and best interests.

The After Care draft Rules have been framed with the objective of providing a structured framework for the care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of young adults leaving Child Care Institutions, after attaining the age of 18yrs in accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Mission Vatsalya Guidelines. The both draft A&N Islands Foster Care and After Care, shall be available in the "**WHAT'S NEW**" section of the departmental website for reference by stakeholders and the general public. The draft Rules can be accessed through the departmental website at <https://andssw1.and.nic.in/socialwelfare/>.

All stakeholders, institutions, organizations and members of the general public are invited to submit their suggestions/comments, if any, on the draft Rules within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication. The suggestions/comments may be submitted to the Directorate of Social Welfare, Goal Ghar, Sri Vijaya Puram, or through email at sara4andaman@gmail.com.

All suggestions/comments received within the stipulated period shall be duly examined and considered, wherever found appropriate before finalization of both Draft Rules, 2026.

Director (Social Welfare)

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Editor, The Daily Telegram, Sri Vijaya Puram with the request to publish the news item in the Daily Telegram.
2. The News Editor, Akashvani, Sri Vijaya Puram with the request to broadcast the news item in Pradeshik Samachar.
3. The Station Director, Doordarshan, Sri Vijaya Puram, with the request to telecast the news in Doordarshan.
4. The Computer Analyst (SW) is directed to upload the press release in the website of A&N Administration for wide publicity.

Director (Social Welfare)

AFTER CARE GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN, 2025
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

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Guideline under Section 46 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Rule 25 of the UT of The A&N Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2023.

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Sl. No.	Term Used	Abbreviation
1.	CCI	Child Care Institution
2.	DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
3.	PO (NIC)	Protection Officer (Non- Institutional Care)
4.	PO (IC)	Protection officer (Institutional Care)
5.	CWC	Child Welfare Committee
6.	SFCAC	Sponsorship Foster Care and Child Approval Committee
7.	ICP	Individual Child Care Plan
8.	CCL	Child with Conflict and Law
9.	CNCP	Child in Need of Care and Protection
10.	SAA	Specialized Adoption Agency
11.	JJB	Juvenile Justice Board
12.	DCPO	District Child Protection Officer
13.	UT	Union Territory
14.	NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
15.	ACAC	After Care Approval Committee
16.	ITI	Industrial Training Institute
17.	CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
18.	SHG	Self Help Group
19.	NIOS	National Institute of Open Schooling

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Short title and commencement:

1. These Guidelines may be called the A & N Islands After Care Guidelines for Children, 2025.
2. They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

1. PREAMBLE

These guidelines are based on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and Mission Vatsalya erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme 2022, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands guideline has been formulated by the Directorate of Social Welfare keeping in view the major contents of the guidelines framed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

In all Aftercare procedures, the best interest of the child shall be of the paramount consideration. It is important that the highest possible standards of practice are followed, within accepted principles. These guidelines, which incorporate the best of practice and principles, can be helpful in achieving this. The child has the right to be consulted and to have his/her opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting him/her.

2. WHAT IS AFTERCARE?

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, provides for After Care of Children living under the Institutional care vide Section 2(5) and section 46 which mandates that “Any child leaving a child care institution on completion of eighteen years of age may be provided with financial support in order to facilitate child’s re-integration into the mainstream of the society in the manner as may be prescribed”.

After Care is meant for all young persons, who during their childhood have grown up in any form of Alternative Care such as children’s Homes, Observation Homes, etc., or fit facilities and had to leave them upon attaining 18 years of age. This transition for a young person leaving the childcare setting and moving to independent living throws up various challenges as well as offers opportunities as they go through these situational and emotional changes. This

transition period is a delicate period because if young persons' remain unsupported during this time, opportunities available to them may be lost.

The UT of A&N Administration shall prepare a programme for children who have to leave Child Care Institutions on attaining eighteen years of age by providing for their education, giving them employable skills and placement, industry apprenticeship, loan support for starting business as well as providing them places for stay to facilitate their re-integration into the mainstream of society. Such plan may be preferably made when the child attains 16 years of age and implemented once she/he becomes 18 years of age.

2.1 After Care of Children Leaving Institutional Care-

- (1) The UT Administration through the District Magistrate shall prepare a programme for children who have to leave Child Care Institutions on attaining eighteen years of age by providing for their education, giving them employable skills and placement as well as providing them places for stay to facilitate their re-integration into the mainstream of society.
- (2) Any Child who leaves a Child Care Institution may be provided after care till the age of twenty –one years on the order of the Committee or the Board or the Children's Court, as the case may be as per Form 37 and in exceptional circumstances, for two more years on completing twenty-one years of age.
 - (2.A) The District Magistrate may facilitate scholarship for higher education; loan for education or starting small business for children leaving the Child Care Institutions and convergence with the Government schemes or private entrepreneurs may be explored for the purpose.
 - (2.B) The District Magistrate may facilitate campus placements and apprenticeship assignments in collaboration with the local businesses and industry, subject to the condition that such business or industry or agency is found suitable for engaging with the children and prescribes to the Child Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Rules, 2020.
 - (2.C) The District Magistrate may maintain oversight on such arrangements with the help of the Police and other stake holders to ensure that the interest of children are not compromised in any manner.
- (3) The District Child Protection Unit shall prepare and maintain a list of organizations, institutions and individuals interested in providing after care as per their area of interest such as education, medical support,

nutrition, vocational training etc. and the same shall be forwarded to the Board or the committee and all Child Care Institutions for their record.

- (4) The Probation Officer or the Child Welfare Officer or Case worker or Social Worker, shall prepare a post release plan and submit the same to the Board or the Committee, two months before the child is due to leave the child Care Institution, recommending after care for such child, as per the needs of the child.
- (5) The Board or the committee or the Children's Court , While monitoring the post release plan will also examine the effectiveness of the aftercare programme, particularly whether it is being utilized for the purpose for which it has been granted and the progress made by the child as a result of such after –care programme.
- (6) Children, who are placed in after-care programme, shall be provided funds by the UT of A&N Administration for their essential expenses, such funds shall be transferred directly to their bank accounts.
- (7) The services provided under the aftercare programme may include:
 - (i) Community group housing on a temporary basis for groups of six to eight persons;
 - (ii) Provision of stipend during the course of vocational training or scholarships for higher education and support till the person gets employment.
 - (iii) Arrangements for skill training and placement in commercial establishments through coordination with National Skill Development Programme, Indian Institute for skill training and other such Central or UT of A&N Administration programmes and corporates, etc.
 - (iv) Provision of a Counselor to stay in regular contact with such persons to discuss their rehabilitation plans;
 - (v) Provision of creative outlets for channelizing their energy and to tide over the crisis periods in their lives;
 - (vi) Arrangement of loans for subsidies for persons in after-care, aspiring to set up entrepreneurial activities; and
 - (vii) Encouragement to sustain themselves without State or institutional support.”

3. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULTS:

Each young person who has turned 18 years of age and who has been cared and protected in any formal or informal form of alternative care as a child (i.e. under the age of 18); such care being either child in need of care and protection as well as of children in conflict with law and is in further need of close support shall be provided with close and continued long term After Care services and facilities in the manner laid down in these guidelines.

4. DURATION OF AFTERCARE

After Care support shall be provided to young person after completion of 18 years onwards for a maximum of three years (till 21 years of age) and may be extended till 23 years of age (in exceptional cases) or till the young person is mainstreamed into the society, whichever is earlier.

5. FINANCIAL NORMS

Financial support of Rs. 4,000/- per month per child shall be provided to Child Care Institutions/Organizations/individuals interested in providing After Care to fully implement the Individual After Care Plan (IAP) for meeting the basic needs including food, clothing, health care and shelter; age appropriate and need based education and vocational training, stipend, and any other requirements of the young person. Any child leaving a child care institution on completion of eighteen years of age will provided with financial support of Rs. 4000/- per month per child in order to facilitate child's re-integration into the mainstream of the society in the manner as prescribed. The main focus of After Care shall be to help the young persons' gain skills for increasing their employability and enable them to adapt to life in the society.

The UT of A&N Administration may provide additional financial support to such young persons in addition to the central support through convergence of various schemes for the youth. Some of the relevant ministries/departments are those pertaining to housing, higher education, skills development, sports, youth affairs, social justice, tribal development, department of financial services, department of industries etc.

6. IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF AFTER CARE ORGANISATIONS:

- i) The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) shall identify suitable voluntary organizations (Child Care Institutions) that will run such After Care programs. These organizations shall formulate an Aftercare

program for these children for a period of three years in accordance with the provision laid down under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act 2015 and its rules developed by Central and UT of A&N Administration. Based on the case to case basis, a Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee (JJB/CWC) can order placement of a Juvenile/ child in the After Care program. The Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee (JJB/CWC) shall mark a copy of the order to the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) for arranging After Care for the Juvenile/child as per the provisions laid down under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act 2015.

ii) Criteria for selection of After Care - Organizations:

- Preferably run by the State Government/Union Territory (UT) but also by reputed Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs)
- The organization shall be registered under the JJ Act.
- Five years of experience in management of Child Care Institutions.
- Minimum three years of experience in assisting children with vocational training
- Minimum three years of experience in placement of children in jobs, apprenticeships etc.
- A well-established Counseling programme.

**CHAPTER II
PROCEDURE RELATED TO PLACEMENT IN AFTER CARE**

7. PRE PLACEMENTS SERVICES:

i) Identification and recommendation for After Care by Child Care Institution(CCI):

When any child in the Child Care Institutions (CCI) completes 18 years of age, the CCI would assess whether he/she would be able to adjust to an independent life in the society once he/she leaves the institution. In case it is felt that a young adult would find it difficult to live without support, such a young adult would be considered for After Care services.

The CCI will prepare a list of such young adults every quarter and send a request to the DCPU for arranging support under the After Care component to the Protection Officer, Non- Institutional care (PO-NIC)/Probation Officer.

ii) Preparation of young adult by Child Care Institution (CCI):

The CCI shall, through counseling support and other programmes, prepare the young adults for life outside the institution and for the After Care programme. The process of transition from institutional care to After Care should take into consideration the gender, maturity and particular circumstances of the child. Young adults leaving institutional care should be encouraged to take part in the planning of their own After Care. Aptitude test/career guidance should be done by the counselor of CCI/DCPU with the help of a technically qualified person/agency before placing the young adult into appropriate After Care programmes.

iii) Release of Young Adults who are unwilling to join After Care:

Cases of Young Adults who have completed 18 years of age and are unwilling to join After Care will be disposed of by the concerned Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and they will then be released by the Child Care Institution (CCI).

The case history of the child will be prepared by the social worker/case worker in the CCI.

iv) Scrutiny of Documents by District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and Finalization for After Care Placement:

Protection Officer (Non Institutional Care) /Probation officer will scrutinize the documents for eligible of children, recommended by the CCI. The list of children would then be placed before the After Care Approval Committee, to be formed in every district, to implement and monitor the After Care programme and would consist of the following members:

- District Magistrate and Chairperson, DCPU - Chairman
- Chairperson or representative of CWC - Member
- Chairperson or representative of JJB - Member
- PO (IC) - Member
- PO (NIC) - Member
- Superintendent or his/her Representative of the concerned CCI (where the young adult is staying at the time of approval) - Member

- One technical expert in the field of vocational training, preferably from a government department /undertaking, to be nominated by Chairman, DCPU

The After Care Approval Committee (ACAC) will hold its meeting in every quarter or as and when required to review each recommendation and approve After Care placements of the cases found deserving by it. Duration of After Care services shall be reviewed by ACAC on a case to case basis depending on the young adults need for such care, but not exceeding three years.

v) Placement order by CWC/JJB

After approval from ACAC, the list of young adults will be sent to the CWC/JJB through PO (NIC). The CWC/JJB may examine each case submitted by PO (NIC) regarding the suitability of placement into After Care. The CWC may interview the young adults to take his/her consent. Based on the individual requirement, CWC/JJB will make an order in prescribed format given in A&N Juvenile Justice(Care and Protection of children) Rules, 2023 **[Form 37]** for placing the child reaching 18 years of age under the After Care programme. A copy of this order shall be sent to the DCPU, which shall facilitate the actual placement, release of funds and monitoring the well-being of the young adult.

- vi) Placement of Young Adult:** DCPU will coordinate with CCI and the After Care organization for placement of the young adults within 30 days of their reaching the age of 18 years. The CCI shall prepare a case history of the child being transferred to After Care and hand it over to the After Care Organization.

8. POST PLACEMENT SERVICES:

- i) Release of Grant:** Once the CWC/JJB has approved the case, the DCPU will release the grant on a quarterly basis to the After Care Organization for each child, and maintain records of the same.
- ii) Preparation of care plan for the child by the After Care Organization.** The main focus of After Care should be to help the young adults gain skills for increasing their employability and enable them to adapt to life in the society. The After Care organization should provide bridging services for transition of the child from institutional care to an independent/self-sufficient life.

The organization will draw an individual care plan for each young adult based on the case history given by the CCI and will update the same, if the care plan for child has already been made. The type and duration of support would vary according to the needs and circumstances that he/she may have been through in the past. These circumstances would include the length of stay in an institutional environment, the kind of treatment he/she may have received there.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW:

- i) **Tracking progress of child:** The After Care organization will maintain individual case files for each young adult placed in After Care. PO (NIC)/Probation Officer will make quarterly visits or as and when required to the After Care facilities and assess the social, vocational and educational progress of the young adult to determine whether necessary and appropriate services are being provided. The PO would also meet the young adult and discuss the progress with him/her. During the visit, the PO will also note the general wellbeing and health of the young adult and the general environment and upkeep of the place where he/she is living. All records of these visits will be maintained and updated after each review and assessment is completed.

Quarterly review of the young adult in After Care will also be conducted by the CWC/JJB and the same will be placed before ACAC meeting. The ACAC will monitor and assess the progress of the young adults and may include one representative each from the Department of Industrial, Health and a reputed NGO.

- ii) **Monitoring of After Care Organization:** The After Care organization will be required to submit a statement of accounts to the DCPU every six months and an annual audited statement. They will also send a quarterly progress report for each child with the following information:
- Educational status (if child is studying)
 - Health status (Specify in case of any health problems)
 - Vocational Training (Specify the training and level)
 - Employment status
 - Trainings attended(Life skills etc.)
 - Mention the general progress of the young adult and his/her psycho-social development.

The Organization will also inform the DCPU if they have established any linkages with the corporate sector, NGOs and any civil society organizations for placement of the young adult.

iii) Records to be maintained by DCPU: The PO(NIC) of the DCPU will maintain:

(1) Master register of young adults covered under the Aftercare program. This register should provide a disaggregated picture of the whole process including:

- a. Date of placement
- b. Gender
- c. Age with date of birth at the time of placement
- d. Parental status-
- e. Date of completion of aftercare.

(2) Individual file of every young adult placed in aftercare. This should have the following details and documents:

- a. Individual care plan envisaged at time of placement
- b. The placement order of the CWC/JJB
- c. Number of visits by Social Workers of CCI's,PO(IC), Probation Officer to assess the child and young adult's educational level, vocational level and significant details of each visit.
- d. Observations made at the time of each review of the placement in terms of extend and quality of compliance with care plans.
- e. Date and reason for completion of aftercare.

Submission of Annual Report to the DCPU & SCPS: The PO (NIC)/ Probation Officer of the DCPU will prepare a consolidated annual report which will be placed before the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and State Child Protection Unit (SCPS) for review in order to ascertain the young adult's progress and the Aftercare organization's efforts at meeting their physical and psychological needs.

10. TERMINATION OF AFTERCARE:

In the circumstances enumerated here under, the Aftercare organization shall propose termination of Aftercare services, of identified young adults, to the DCPU and after verification of the details submitted, the DCPO shall

recommend the case to ACAC for approval and thereafter the PO (NIC) will refer the case to CWC/JJB for final termination orders.

- ❖ If the young adult has found suitable employment and a place to live before attaining 21 years of age.
- ❖ When the young adult has completed 21 years of age, regardless of whether he/she has got employment or not.
- ❖ In case it is found by the functionaries of the Aftercare organization or DCPU that the young adult despite receiving counseling/assistance is
 - Displaying lack of interest in vocational training/education etc.
 - Regularly breaking discipline
 - Picking fights with other residents, neighbors, staff etc.
 - Spoiling the atmosphere of the home by his/her behavior
 - Becoming a negative influence on other residents due to his/her habits such as drinking, drug abuse etc.
- ❖ In case of girls, if it found that there is no family support or fails to get a suitable employment, she may be referred to Short Stay Home/ Swadhar Homes or such other home considered suitable by the DCPU for shelter and continuation of vocational training.
- ❖ Incase girl/boy gets married
- ❖ If the young adult is absent for more than 15 days without permission
- ❖ In case of Child with special needs, he/she may be referred to the Office of the Commissioner of Disability for suitable training and employment.

CHAPTER III

SERVICES AND MODELS OF AFTER CARE

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE AFTERCARE ORGANISATION

The Aftercare organization shall essentially provide for every child:

- Shelter facility, for a maximum period of three years as per institutional model.
- Professional emotional and psychological counseling on a weekly basis.
- Health care through tie ups with nearby medical center/doctors.
- Vocational training facilities through tie ups with educational institutions through CSR(training and absorption) teaching certified skill development courses under "National Skill Development Programme" implemented by the Department of Technical Education, Backward Classes Welfare, Minority Affairs etc., whenever possible and other recognized vocational training institutes.
- The aim is that the child is prepared for employment through a certificate course and can be gainfully employed thereafter on this basis.

- Assistance in opening bank accounts and for getting identification such as Adhaar number, ration cards, voting cards etc.

In addition to above, assistance would be provided for the following:

- If the child is interested in education, in addition to the vocational training, he/she may be encouraged/assisted to pursue the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) programme.
- Training, apprenticeship and placement in collaboration with professional agencies and corporates. This may include convergence with Labour Department and other agencies for skill development.
- Arranging loans for entrepreneurial activities along with professional advice and training.
- Peer counseling.
- Legal services may be required by the child through DCPU or linkages with other organizations.
- Computers, recreational material and other facilities at the place of stay.
- Specialized counseling services in polyclinics may be provided to those children who have disciplinary issues, problems of substance abuse, frequent absenteeism etc. so that they can be mainstreamed into society.

MODELS FOR AFTERCARE:

- i) **Option I:** The DCPU will identify an existing Children's Home which is run by the Government/NGO, where a portion will be earmarked for After Care having separate building with other facilities to avoid interaction with the children in Children's Home.

Living Arrangements:

There will be a common kitchen for all the children. The institution may have a maximum of 25 children. Here, the home is run by the Aftercare organization including housekeeping, kitchen etc. However day to day management could be done by children's committees. The organization will ensure that all meals and daily needs are provided for the children and that the children are following the plan prepared for them. Children could be encouraged to participate in cooking, cleaning, gardening etc.

- ii) **Option II:** Dedicated institutions for After Care with maximum capacity of 100 children can be considered in case it is available in strategic locations as decided by the Directorate of Social welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

Living Arrangements: The children will stay in larger accommodation, with dormitory style arrangements. There will be a common kitchen for all the children. The institution may have a maximum of 100 children. Here the home is run by the After Care organization including housekeeping, kitchen etc. However day to day management could be done by children's committees. The organization will ensure that all meals and daily needs are provided for the children and that the children are following the plan prepared for them. Children could be encouraged to participate in cooking, cleaning, gardening etc.

FACILITIES:

The following facilities must be provided for the young adults irrespective of the model adopted.

- i) **Counseling:** Individual and group counseling will be provided on a regular basis to ensure that the children are able to adjust to their new surroundings and peers. As the children would have been in institutions for long periods of time, counseling is essential for emotional and social development. This is to help in building their self-esteem, build relationships and for their reintegration into society. Counseling is also required to assist the children in adjustment to jobs and work environment.
- ii) **Savings:** The children would be encouraged to save their earnings which can be used later. The organization will help all children to open an individual bank account which they can operate independently.
- iii) **Vocational Training:** All children will be facilitated to join a suitable vocation, enroll in certified skill development courses under "National Skill Development Programme"/Industrial Training Institute (ITI), whenever possible or assisted in getting job placements through CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) whichever is suitable for them. This is to help them become financially independent. Appropriate vocational training facilities should also be made available for children with special needs depending upon their capabilities.

- iv) **Linkages with Corporate sector and Civil Society Groups:** The Aftercare organization must establish and build network with companies, NGOs, SHGs where the youth can be placed or trained as apprentices.
- v) **Identify:** As children who have been in institutions do not have any proof of identity, it is essential for the Aftercare organization to help in getting a voter card, Adhaar number or any other relevant documents which they will require for their future life.
- vi) **Health:** The Aftercare organizations must hold regular health checkup camps and awareness camps for all youth at the programme. The Aftercare organization should have linkages with a nearby doctor/hospital which the child can access on his/her own in case of illness.
- vii) **Volunteers:** Volunteers can play a major role in the Aftercare system. A volunteer programme is recommended for all aftercare organizations to help the youth in their education programmes, language and social skill development, placements, recreation etc. Peer volunteers can also be involved in the programme. Volunteers should also be involved in programmes for children with special needs.
- viii) **Life Skill Programmes:** Regular camps and programmes are required to be organized for the youth at the aftercare organizations to help in their adjustment to society. This will include sessions on decision making, problem solving, sex education, coping with stress, etc. Information on social, legal and health services available should be given.
- ix) **Monitoring and follow up:** The organization will ensure regular visits by the social worker/outreach worker of DCPU to aftercare organizations to make certain that the children are adjusting to their home and that the organizations are functioning well. Weekly sessions will be held with all children in aftercare at a common place so that the children get an opportunity to meet with their peers and those who are now living independently. This networking will help the children to get placements and find living arrangements once they are out of the Aftercare system.
