

Bill No. 27 of 2025

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN) AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

BY

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI, M.P.

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BILL

*further to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children)
Act, 2015.*

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic
of India as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Juvenile Justice (Care and
Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2025.

Short title and
commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government
may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In Section 14 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (5), in clause (f), for the words, “sixteen years”, wherever they occur, the words, “fourteen years”, shall be substituted. Amendment of Section 14.
3. In section 15 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words "sixteen years" the words "fourteen years" shall be substituted. Amendment of Section 15.
4. In section 18 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words "sixteen years", wherever the occur, the words "fourteen years" shall be substituted. Amendment of Section 18.
5. In section 24 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), in the proviso, for the words “sixteen years”, the words “fourteen years” shall be substituted. Amendment of Section 24.
6. In section 49 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words “Sixteen years”, the words “fourteen years” shall be substituted. Amendment of Section 49.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, was enacted to provide a child friendly approach to the adjudication and disposition of matters involving children in conflict with the law. However, in recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the involvement of juveniles aged fourteen to sixteen years in serious and heinous crimes, including rape, murder, and other violent offences.

The existing provision of treating all children below the age of eighteen years as juveniles, regardless of the gravity of the offence, has led to concerns about the adequacy of the justice system in addressing such crimes. This amendment seeks to strike a balance between the principles of rehabilitation and accountability by reducing the age of criminal responsibility from sixteen to fourteen years for heinous offences, while ensuring that the rights and welfare of children are protected.

This amendment is necessary to ensure that the justice system is equipped to deal with the evolving nature of juvenile delinquency and to provide a deterrent effect while maintaining a focus on rehabilitation for younger children.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;

MANOJ TIWARI

February 14, 2025.

ANNEXURE

[EXTRACT FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN)
ACT, 2015]

(ACT NO. 2 OF 2016)

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
14. (1) *	*	*	*	*	*	Inquiry by Board
(2) *	*	*	*	*	*	regarding child in
(3) *	*	*	*	*	*	conflict with law.
(4) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(5) The Board shall take the following steps to ensure fair and speedy inquiry, namely:—						
(a) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(b) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(c) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(d) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(e) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(f) inquiry of heinous offences,—						
(i) for child below the age of sixteen years as on the date of commission of an offence shall be disposed of by the Board under clause (e);						
(ii) for child above the age of sixteen years as on the date of commission of an offence shall be dealt with in the manner prescribed under section 15						
15. (1) In case of a heinous offence alleged to have been committed by a child, who has completed or is above the age of sixteen years, the Board shall conduct a preliminary assessment with regard to his mental and physical capacity to commit such offence, ability to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which he allegedly committed the offence, and may pass an order in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 18.						
						Preliminary assessment into heinous offences by Board
18.—(1) Where a Board is satisfied on inquiry that a child irrespective of age has committed a petty offence, or a serious offence, or a child below the age of sixteen years has committed a heinous offence, or a child above the age of sixteen years has committed a heinous offence and the Board has, after preliminary assessment under Section 15, disposed of the matter then, notwithstanding anything contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force, and based on the nature of offence, specific need for supervision or intervention, circumstances as brought out in the social investigation report and past conduct of the child, the Board may, if it so thinks fit,—						
(a) *	*	*	*	*	*	Orders regarding child found to be in conflict with law.
(b) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(c) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(d) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(e) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(f) *	*	*	*	*	*	
(g) *	*	*	*	*	*	

24.(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, a child who has committed an offence and has been dealt with under the provisions of this Act shall not suffer disqualification, if any, attached to a conviction of an offence under such law: Removal of disqualification on the findings of an offence.

Provided that in case of a child who has completed or is above the age of sixteen years and is found to be in conflict with law by the Children's Court under clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 19, the provisions of sub-section (1) shall not apply.

49. (1) The State Government shall set up at least one place of safety in a State registered under section 41, so as to place a person above the age of eighteen years or child in conflict with law, who is between the age of sixteen to eighteen years and is accused of or convicted for committing a heinous offence. Place of safety.

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LOK SABHA

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BILL

further to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children)
Act, 2015.

(Shri Manoj Tiwari, M.P.)