

Module 4: Juvenile Justice Board

Session 1: Structure and Composition

Duration: 2:48 min

As we are clear about the composition of the JJB, let us now see what are the procedures followed in relation to the Board. These are guided by Section 7, JJ Act 2015

- The Board shall meet at such times and shall observe such rules in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings, as may be prescribed and shall ensure that all procedures are child-friendly and that the venue is not intimidating to the child and does not resemble regular courts.
- A CCL may be produced before an individual member of the Board, when the Board is not in sitting.
- A Board may act notwithstanding the absence of any member of the Board, and no order passed by the Board shall remain invalid by the reason only of the absence of any member during any stage of proceedings. Provided that there shall be at least two members including the Principal Magistrate present at the time of final disposal of the case or in making an order under sub-section (3) of Section 18

In the event of any difference of opinion among the members of the Board in the interim or final disposal, the opinion of the majority shall prevail. Where there is no such majority, the opinion of the Principal Magistrate shall prevail.

Let us now understand the sittings of the Board which are guided by Rule 6, JJ Central Model Rules, 2016

The Board shall

- Hold its sittings in the premises of an Observation Home or at a place in proximity to the Observation Home or, at a suitable premises in any CCI meant for CCL. In no circumstances shall it operate from within any court or jail premises.
- Ensure that no person(s) unconnected with the case remains present in the room when the case is in progress.
- Ensure that only those person(s), in the presence of whom the child feels comfortable are allowed to remain present during the sitting.
- Hold its sittings in a child-friendly premises which shall not look like a court room in any manner. The sitting arrangement should be such that it enables the Board to interact with the child face to face.
- Use child-friendly techniques and adopt child-friendly attitudes with regard to body language, facial expression, eye contact, intonation and volume of voice while addressing the child.

- Not sit on a raised platform and there shall be no barriers, such as witness boxes or bars between the Board and the child.