

Rehabilitation and Reintegration Service

Rehabilitation of child survivors of sexual abuse is essential in order to help the family cope with the trauma and normalize their life. The rehabilitation team from Enfold has been engaging with and guiding these families through the system, and offering psycho-socio-legal support since 2011. We have supported over 60 families so far.

Enfold Trust has set up a Rehabilitation Fund to help children who report sexual abuse. The donations received are used to support the child and the family as and when the need arises, free of cost. The support may be with medical care - surgery, investigations and tests, mental health interventions, trial related expenses and/ or admission into a new school. Some of the funds have been utilized to help families relocate to a new home, when continuing to live in the same environment where abuse occurred was impossible.

Several members of the Enfold Team are designated Support Persons by the Child Welfare Committee under the POCSO Act. They assist children and the families in the complex process of:

- Interacting with the police to file a complaint and ensure a thorough investigation
- Accompanying them for the medical examination
- Engaging with the Public Prosecutor before and during the trial.
- Accessing care and protection from Child Welfare Committees
- Accessing compensation under different government schemes
- Providing extended mental health care for the child and family

Part of the Fund is also used to remunerate the Support Person, to support the child and family during from the time of reporting till completion of trial and assist in their psycho-social rehabilitation.

The Value:

The Support Person assisting the family and child are able to interpret and understand the POCSO law, as well as guide the family with psycho-socio-legal support. Most importantly they are empathetic, non-judgemental and committed to the case, thereby reducing the trauma the child and family face.

Testimonial from Mother of 15 year old child who is mentally challenged and who is supported under this initiative—*“The presence of Support Person from Enfold has made a lot of difference after the case was registered. I feel the support people are God sent, helping us through this tough journey. Now all we need to do is go and come from court while the Support Person helps us with everything. We don't have to worry about any details. They inform us about court proceedings and other requirements. The needs of the survivor, in the court, such as- having an interpreter or mental expert from NIMHANS to assist my child during the case, were provided by the Support Person. We don't feel so burdened by these requirements now. We feel free to call the Support Person and discuss case related issues or ask questions. On our own we could not have done much. Now we will not turn hostile since we are interested in seeking justice and will go through the whole process based on the support we are receiving. We will continue with the case no matter what it takes and how much ever trouble it is. We don't want the accused to do this to another child ever.”*

