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**भारत सरकार**  
**महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
**शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 001, दिनांक**  
**Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001, Dated**

**D.O.No. CW-II-30/8/2021-CW-II**

**Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021**

*Dear Madam/Sir,*

It has come to the notice of Ministry that several children are facing serious distress in the event of parents getting infected or hospitalised due to COVID. Some of them have lost their parents to pandemic. COVID being an infectious disease, community support is often restrained, making children extremely vulnerable. In these situations, it is imperative to provide immediate support and rehabilitation to these children under juvenile justice set up. In this regard, a letter dated 30.04.21 has been written by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child development, to the Chief Secretary of your State, requesting to ensure immediate action for rehabilitation of COVID orphaned children, in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act and leveraging the facilities under Child protection services.

2. A meeting with all the States/UTs was also held under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development on 30th April 2021, to assess the situation and needs of women and children during the COVID pandemic presently. It was learnt that some of the States (Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh) have designated one Child Care Institution (CCI) or Fit facility in each district, to provide temporary shelter for few days to the children whose parents are affected with COVID and have been hospitalized. It is a good initiative, useful for children whose parents are unable to take care of them temporarily. Hence it is requested that at least one CCI in each district may be identified to support children for the interim period, when their parents are indisposed due to COVID.

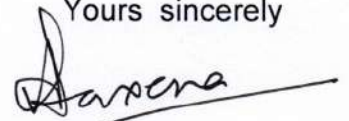
3. All the hospitals and COVID care facilities in the District may be informed regarding the arrangement. Contact details of Child Welfare Committee members, designated Child care Institutions (to support children during parents' illness), and Childline number (1098) may be prominently displayed at the reception of the hospital or COVID care facility. The hospital reception can guide the parents to send the children to such Child care Institutions. They may also inform Child welfare committee or Childline, in case children of any patient are found facing difficulty. District administration may be asked to ensure display of 1098 and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) numbers at other public places also.

4. You may also consider issuing a public notice in the local language, to guide public regarding lawful course of action to be taken in case of children who have lost their parents to COVID and have no one to take care of them.

5. Your personal intervention and supervision in this matter will be greatly helpful in ensuring best interest of children during the COVID pandemic.

*With regards*

Yours sincerely



(Aastha S. Khatwani)

**Addl. CS/ Pr. Secretaries/ Secretaries  
Department of WCD/Department of SJE  
of States/UTs**