



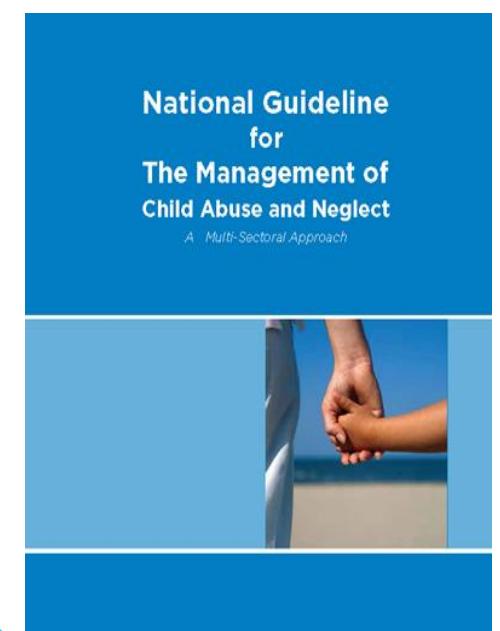
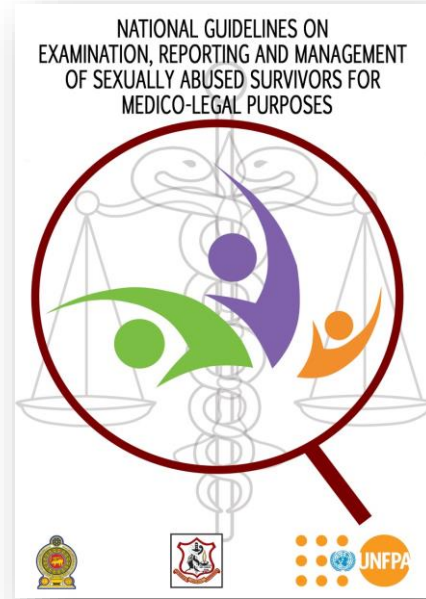
# ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE JUDICIAL MEDICAL OFFICER/ SPECIALIST IN FORENSIC MEDICINE ON CHILD PROTECTION

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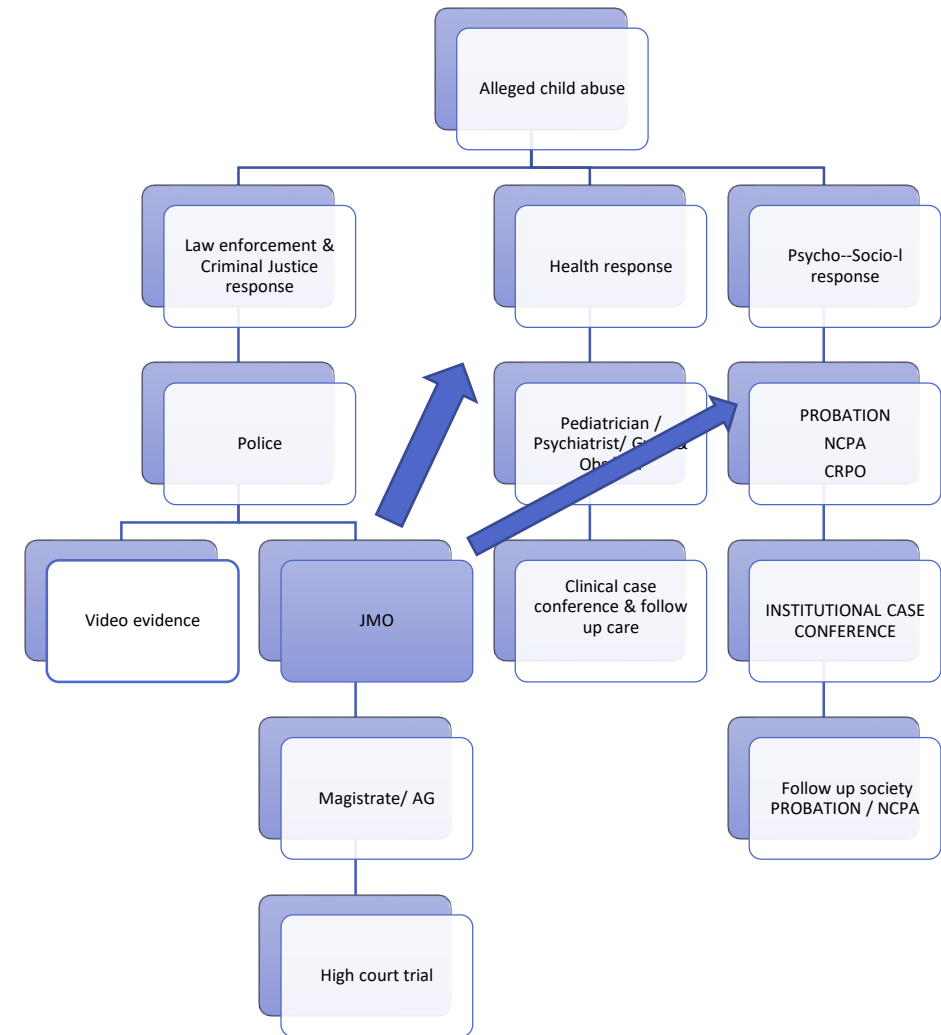


# Objectives

- Role and responsibilities of JMO/ Specialist in Forensic Medicine
- Medico-legal examination and evidence collection
- Medico –legal reporting and role of the expert witness in courts

# Duties of a Forensic Specialist/JMO

- History taking with consent (informed written consent)
- Examination and evidence collection
- Specialist forensic medicine examination and provision of preliminary opinion to the law enforcement
- Referrals to other specialties including paediatric, STI, and psychiatry and actively participate in the multi-disciplinary management of child abuse
- Participate in the CCC and Institutional case conference
- Collation of referrals and tracing evidence reports
- Provision of final report to the courts after analyzing the data obtained from injury interpretations, referrals, and trace evidence using scientific knowledge
- Giving evidence in courts



# Medico-Legal Examination Process



Consent and detailed history taking.

Evidence Collection / injury recording / Medico-legal examination.

MLEF to police/preliminary opinion/ Coordinate clinical case conference.

Participate as the Chairperson of clinical case conference

Participate at institutional case conference.

Finalize the Medico-Legal Report within three weeks and make arrangements to send to the Attorney General's Department directly or through the relevant Police officer.

Provide service as an expert witness in a court of law when requested.

# Ethical Considerations



Right to health care

Right to human dignity

Right to non-discrimination

Right to information

Right to self-determination

Right to privacy

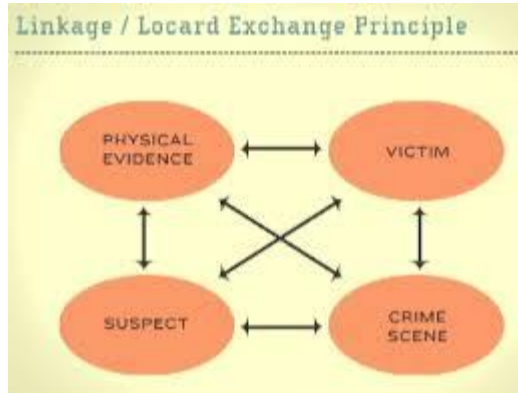
Right to confidentiality





Separate areas for undressing (e.g. behind a screen or curtain, or separate room).

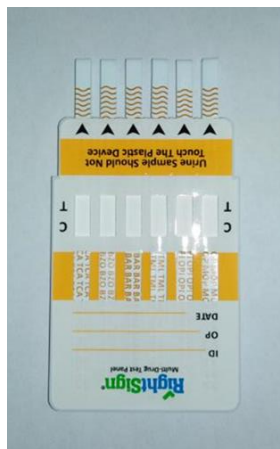
- Good light, warm, clean and private place.
- Provide both auditory and physical privacy.



International rape/ SAFE kits

Sri Lankan rape/ SAFE kits

In allegations of alcohol / toxins

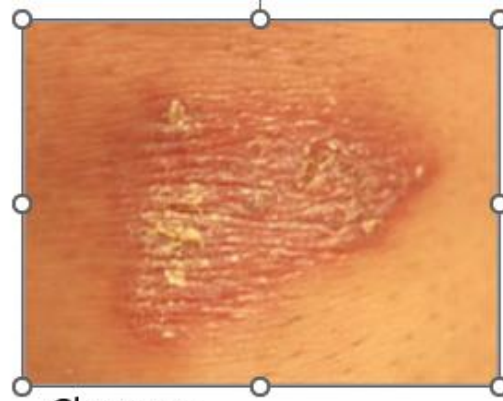


# Evidence Collection

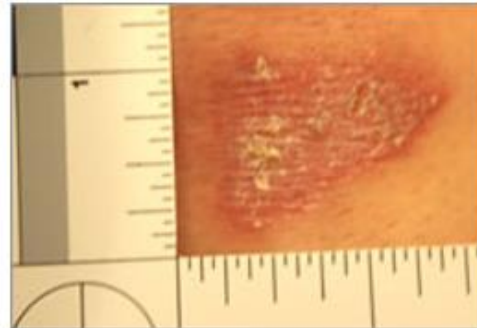
# Injury Examination and Documentation



Medium range photograph to show the injury



Close up



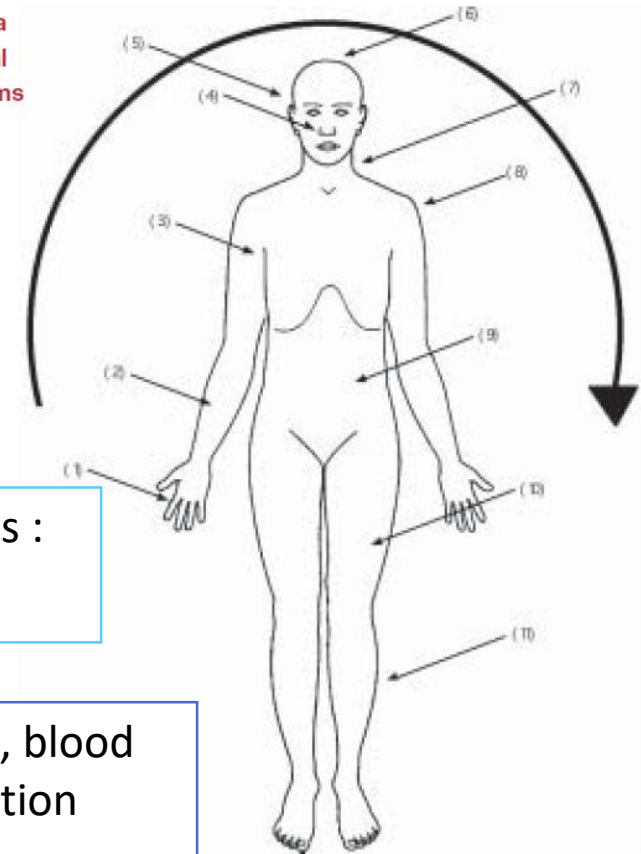
Close up with scale

Figure 1 Inspection sites for a "top-to-toe" physical examination of victims of sexual violence

observation of general appearance and demeanor

Starts with hands : reassure

Vital signs: pulse, blood pressure, respiration temperature.





**FIGURE 1**

**Examination of prepubertal girl with traction on buttocks**



**FIGURE 2**

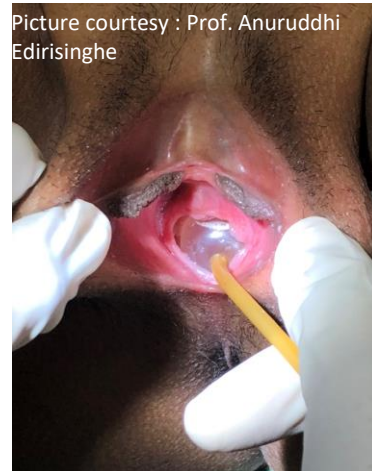
**Examination of prepubertal girl using labial traction**



Picture courtesy : Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe



Picture courtesy : Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe



Picture courtesy : Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe



Picture courtesy : Dr. Handun Wijewardena



Picture courtesy:  
A case of severe anal injury in an adolescent male due to bestial sexual experimentation  
Roger O. Blevins, RN MS  
*Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*





# Expert Witness



Out come of trial is never a concern

Expert in the courts

Professional representing medicine

Sufficient skill and knowledge

Armed with documents and literature

Punctual and communication

Pre-trial meeting / procedure in the court house

Be courteous to judge/State counsel/others

If you don't know the answer say you don't know

Obtain necessary documents and sign necessary document

# References

- Perera UCP.2007 Medical expert witness: persistent challenge unexplored ***Galle Medical Journal*** Sri Lanka
- Stark, M. (2020). *Clinical forensic medicine : a physician's guide*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.
- Legislative Enactments of Sri Lanka: Evidence Ordinance, 1895; No. 14 : 45

Thank You

