

General Circular letter No 02 - 29 / 2011

My No: FHB/af/03/2007
Ministry of Health
"Suwasiripaya"
Baddegama Wimalawansa
Thero Mawatha
Colombo 10
07. 03.2011

To;
All Provincial Directors
All Regional Directors
All Heads of the Institutions
All Consultant Specialists
Medical officers of Health
District Medical Officers & Officers in Charge of Health
Director NIHS Kaluthara

Provision of Reproductive Health services to teenagers

Legal clarification has been obtained with regard to provision of Health services to pregnant mother under 16 years of age by the letter no CR2/02/2011 dated on 7th February 2011 issued by Attorney General to Inspector General of Police. By this letter following matters have been brought to the notice of Police Stations very early.

1. No Medical Officers or any member of the Health Sector should be arrested for failure to report a teenage pregnancy to the police as there is no such legal duty cast on them.
2. No member of the Health Sector should be arrested for providing medical advice to a teenager who is pregnant, as medical ethics make it imperative for them to give such advice.
3. No person should be arrested where it is disclosed that such person is the husband of teenage mother, if the parties are living together as husband and wife when this matter is disclosed at the time of delivery.

Therefore it is not mandate for Health personnel to inform Police when they provide Health services to teenagers.

This is also to bring to your kind notice that the letter no FHB/SH/2010-04 dated on 2010.12.28 issued by Director, Maternal and Child Health on informing Child Protection Authority by 1929 will be replaced by this circular letter.


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