

Know Your Rights

A Child's Guide to the laws in Nepal



A project by karubooks

All illustrations are Bhawana Tulachan's Original Work

FUN FACT

The law treats children and adults differently



Adults

VS



Children

Children appear in juvenile courts



Juvenile courts are designed to protect the best interest of the child. It focuses on rehabilitation over punishment.



Rehabilitation in this context, is the process of providing a child with the help, skills and support to grow from a mistake.

Let's reflect

You may be aware that children uphold a special set of rights known as "Child Rights". Similarly, you may also know that with rights come responsibilities.

However, do you know how these rights protect you in times of legal crises?

Are you aware of the consequences that entail any crime you may intentionally, or unintentionally commit?

If your answer to these questions is a no, then keep reading.

If your answer is a yes, then still keep reading. You will only benefit from refreshing your knowledge.

The following
section will cover
some of the rights
you may practice
during a legal crisis

All information is retrieved from The Act
Relating to Children 2018 and consultation
with two lawyers working in the specific
field

Protection rights



Right to be treated as a child

You have the right to be treated differently from adults in the legal system—your age matters! The process should protect your needs and focus on guidance, not punishment.

Right against physical or mental abuse

No one can hurt or mistreat you—physically or emotionally—while you're in custody or at court. This right keeps you safe from abuse at all times.

Right to separation from adults



If you are taken into custody, you must be kept apart from adult offenders. This ensures you're not influenced or harmed by adults during your time in the system.

Legal rights



Right to Be Heard

You have a voice! In any decision affecting you, you have the right to say what you think and have your opinion taken seriously by adults in the system.

Right to legal representation

You can ask for a lawyer to represent you at any time. Having legal help ensures your voice is heard and that your rights are protected every step of the way.

Right to confidential proceedings

Your case should stay private. Court hearings involving children are usually closed so your story is not shared publicly—this protects you from unnecessary attention.



Support right



Right to inform parents/guardians

You have the right to let your parents or guardians know where you are if you're detained or questioned. Authorities must help contact them so you're not left alone in scary situations



Right to diversion (not an automatic right)

If your offense is minor, you might be given a 'diversion'—a chance to make things right without going to court. This focuses on learning, not just punishment. Remember, serious offences are not diverted.

Right to Education & Rehabilitation

Even if you get into trouble, you still deserve education and rehabilitation. The system should make sure you can keep learning and get support to make better choices.

Your rights are not limited to
what's on this booklet



to “investigate” further you can go through:



The Convention on the Rights of the
Child
(CRC)



Act relating to
Children 2018

REMEMBER



Consequences for children
differ based on age and the
type of crime committed.

BASED ON AGE

For children under 10

Cannot be Held Criminally liable

For ages 10-14

If the offence is punishable by fine--the child is
counseled and released

If the offence is punishable with
imprisonment-- may be given imprisonment
up to 6 months or may be kept in a juvenile
correction home for up to 1 year

For ages 14-16

Half the adult sentence

For ages 16-18

Two-thirds of the adult
punishment

BASED ON TYPE OF CRIME

Minor Crime

Petty Offences

Examples

Underage drinking

Smoking

Petty theft

Consequences

Community

service or

probation

Major Crime

Serious Offences

Examples

Rape

Murder

Robbery

Drug offenses

Consequences

Rehabilitation

center/Juvenile

Correction Home

What are some of the
most frequently
committed crimes by
Nepalese children ?

Rape

Theft, Burglary and Robbery

Substance and Drug Abuse

Cybercrimes and Online Misconduct

Physical Assault and Brawling

Common crimes Nepalese children commit, unknowing that it is a crime?

Digital Misconduct & Media Offences

Sharing Intimate Photos, Creating Fake Profiles,
Cyberbullying, Recording Without Consent

Carrying Packages for Others

Possession and transportation of illegal
substances carries strict consequences.

Online Betting & Financial App Scams

Online Gambling, Renting/Sharing Mobile
Banking Accounts

Where do children go if
they commit a major
offenses?



A juvenile correction home

Nepal has 9 juvenile correction homes
(बाल सुधार गृह)

If you ever get into
legal trouble when you
aren't guilty of a
crime

As hard as it sounds, stay calm

Ask for a lawyer

Contact an adult

Know that you have rights

Remember, knowing your
rights doesn't just make you
knowledgeable.

It empowers you to make
better choices to stand up
for yourself, and for
others.

But despite it, remember to try
your best to stay out of
trouble.



Sometimes we may break laws
we don't know about, so let's
educate ourselves, and those
around us.