

emergency phone outreach service (managed by the Women and Child Development department's nodal agency, the Childline India Foundation; which operates round the day and on all days across the country.

2. After taking note of the whereabouts of the child, the helpline reaches out immediately and takes charge of the child.
3. These Childline units are nothing but **civil society organisations duly approved by the government.**
4. The second option is to intimate the **district protection officer** concerned whose contact details can be found on the **National Tracking System for Missing and Vulnerable Children portal** maintained by the Women and Child Development department of the Government of India.
5. The third alternative is to approach the nearest police station or its child welfare police officer who is specially trained **to exclusively deal with children either as victims or juvenile delinquents.**
6. Nonetheless, one can always dial the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a **pan-India single number (112)** based emergency response system for citizens in emergencies and seek the necessary help.
7. The non-reporting of such children is also a **punishable offence** under the JJA or the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Court directives to police:

1. The Supreme Court in **Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs Union of India** directed all Directors General of Police, in May 2013, to register a first information report as a case of trafficking or abduction in every case of a missing child.
2. At least one police officer not below the rank of assistant sub-inspector in each police station is mandatorily required to undergo training to deal with children in conflict with the law and in need of care and protection. They are not required to wear a uniform and **need to be child-friendly.**
3. Similarly, each district is supposed to have its special juvenile police unit, headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police.
4. It is quite often said that **ignorance of the law is not an excuse.**
5. Therefore, if an orphan child is kept by someone without lawful authority, he or she may land themselves in trouble.