



# Don't reveal identity of rape victims

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## **Don't reveal identity of rape victims: SC- 'Even a deceased victim's name should not be disclosed'**

- The Supreme Court prohibited the media from publishing or airing the names or any material which may even remotely reveal the identity of victims of sexual crimes.
- The court held that the bar on disclosure under Section 228A(2) of the IPC was not confined to just the name of the victim but actually meant that the "identity of the victim should not be discernible from any matter published in the media."
- Intention of the law makers was that the victim of such offences should not be identifiable so that they do not face any hostile discrimination or harassment in the future.

### **Special case**

- The court further held that the name and identity of a victim who was either dead or of unsound mind should also not be disclosed even under the authorisation of the next of kin.
- Any exception to this rule should be decided by the competent authority, the sessions judge.
- It barred the police from putting in public domain FIRs under Sections 376 to 376E (the range of sexual offences under IPC) and those under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.
- The judgment came on a writ petition by advocate Nipun Saxena highlighting the need to protect the identity of adult and child victims of rape and sexual abuse so that they are don't face "ridicule, ostracisation and harassment."

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