

CRC Webinar Series on Protecting Children

Series #5 |
The Sweetheart Defence27 Nov 2020 (Friday) | 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
This webinar carries 1 CPD point.

Statutory rape laws in Malaysia are based on the premise that a girl under 16 years of age is legally incapable of consenting to sexual intercourse.

[Register online here](#)

Unlike several states in the United States of America, where the "Romeo and Juliet Law" may be applicable, Malaysia has yet to include the so-called "Sweetheart Defence" clause as a provision of the Penal Code.

This webinar aims to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of including the "Sweetheart Defence" into the Malaysian Penal Code.

The webinar will cover the following aspects:

1. The definition of a child;
2. The definition of statutory rape;
3. The international perspectives on the Romeo and Juliet Law and the Sweetheart Defence;
4. The comparison of consensual sexual relationships among youths as opposed to sexual crimes against children by adult sexual predators / paedophiles;
5. The discussion on whether teenagers under 16 who engage in consensual sex should be spared from prosecution and/or criminalised under the Penal Code;
6. The question of whether a Sweetheart Defence clause should be inserted into the Penal Code to decriminalise consensual sexual relationships between youths of similar ages;
7. The consideration whether these teenage lovers should be subjected to the same punishment under the Penal Code, which aims to protect children from sexual predators / paedophiles; and
8. The extension of the Sweetheart Defence to cover other sexual offences under the Penal Code and Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017 ("SOACA").

Speakers

Baizura Kamal is the Head of the Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence Unit in the Prosecution Division of the Attorney General's Chambers ("AGC") and a Deputy Public Prosecutor. Upon graduating with her LLB (Honours) degree from the University of Malaya in 1992, she began her legal career in prosecution from 1993 to 1997. Prior to her current position in the AGC, she was an Assistant State Legal Adviser (1997–2000), served in the Legal Aid Bureau (2000–2003), and in the International Affairs Division of the AGC (2008–2015). She graduated with an LLM from University College London in 2006.



Baizura Kamal
Head of Unit, Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence Unit, Prosecution Division, Attorney General's Chambers

DSP Saroja Egamparam hails from Penang and has been serving in the Royal Malaysia Police (Polis Diraja Malaysia, "PDRM") since 1987. With 33 years of experience in the police force, DSP Saroja also previously served in the Special Branch Division from 1993 to 2000, and was attached to the Serious Crime Division (D9) at the Negeri Sembilan Contingent Police Headquarters from 2012 to 2015.



DSP Saroja Egamparam
Head of Child Investigation Unit, Royal Malaysia Police

She is currently the Head of the Child Investigation Unit with the Sexual, Women and Child Abuse Investigation Division (D11) of the Criminal Investigation Department at the PDRM headquarters in Bukit Aman, Kuala Lumpur. She possesses a Master's degree in Law from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia ("UKM").

Raymund N C Jagan is a registered counsellor and a board member with the Malaysian Board of Counsellors (2018–2023). He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree in Psychology and a Diploma in Counselling Psychology, both from UKM.



Raymund N C Jagan
Board Member, Malaysian Board of Counsellors

He retired from Government service after serving in the Social Welfare Department (Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat) for 30 years. He worked as a Psychology Officer and Counsellor in various services in the department.

Raymund is a trainer in social work and counselling. His interests include matters pertaining to domestic violence, mental health and child protection, including the influence of mass media and social media on child development. He is also a lecturer in the Diploma in Social Work Programme at Methodist College Kuala Lumpur.

Raymund is a member of the Public Media Agency, a communications non-governmental agency that promotes media literacy and media education in dealing with social problems. He is also a volunteer counsellor at Selayang Hospital's Mentari Centre, which provides mental health services for the public.

Zenathnara Narayanasamy is a practising lawyer and a member of the Bar Council Child Rights Committee.



Zenathnara Narayanasamy
Advocate and Solicitor, Zenath Law Office; member, Bar Council Child Rights Committee

Come and join this webinar from the comfort of your own home!

This webinar is free of charge, but **advance registration is required**.

Upon successful registration, a link to the webinar will be emailed to registered participants only. Registration will close on **25 Nov 2020 (Wednesday), 2:00 pm**.

Please note that **no** additional registration will be accepted once the closing date has passed, or if the webinar is full (whichever comes first).

We may not permit future registration if you fail to attend the webinar after registering, unless you provide an acceptable and valid reason(s).

A Step-By-Step Guide to Join a Webinar via Zoom

Webinar via Zoom is an initiative by the Bar Council during the Movement Control Order.

Continue learning even while at home. We're here to inspire you, connect with you and learn with you. This guide will show you how to join a webinar smoothly.

01

For seamless streaming, download the Zoom app.



You will be given a webinar ID and a password to join the webinar once your registration has been confirmed.

02

Log in to Zoom, and provide your username.

For Members of the Bar or pupils in chambers, use the format below for identification purposes when prompted: **Full name (as per NRIC) | Bar Council membership number or petition number**.

For non-Members, provide your full name only.

03

Set up your space.



Find a spot which is comfortable and free from background noises. You may use an earpiece with microphone for clarity. Having a strong internet connection is equally important.

04

Please raise your questions only during the Question-and-Answer session.

Please take note that no speaking is allowed when the webinar is taking place.

If you wish to raise a question, please type in the Q&A box and the speaker will respond accordingly.

05

Please do not do these



Sharing screen recording and webinar ID and password links, and reproducing the content of the webinar on any platform.

Any unregistered person may be removed without prior notice and no CPD point will be awarded. Failure to adhere to this may result in disciplinary action by the Bar Council.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact:

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