

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE EXTRAORDINARY PART –I SECTION –I  
GAZETTE OF INDIA]

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi- 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Subject: Guidelines for evaluation and assessment of Autism and procedure for certification**

**No. 16-21/2013-DD-III-** Autism has been recognized as one of the disabilities under Section 2 of the National Trust Act, 1999 read with the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (PwD Act). The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 provides for the constitution of National Trust for the welfare of this class of persons with disabilities. Thus the guidelines for evaluation of various disabilities and procedure for certification notified by the Ministry on 1.06.2001 covers only the categories of disabilities identified in the PwD Act and do not cover certification of Autism. The State Governments on this reasonable ground are not issuing Disability Certificate to persons with autism.

2. In order to frame guidelines for evaluation and assessment of Autism and procedure for certification, as given in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's O.M. (F.No. Z-28020/106/2014-CH-RBSK) dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and to recommend appropriate modifications/alternations keeping in view Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India has developed Guidelines for Assessment of Autism for the purposes of issuance of disability certificate in consultation with Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

3. Definition: Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong neurological condition typically appearing in the first three years of life that is marked by pervasive impairments in the areas of social skills and communication; often associated with hyper-or-hypo-reactivity to sensory input; unusual interest of stereotypical rituals, or behaviours; and may or may not be accompanied by intellectual impairment.

4. For identification of Autism cases the INCLIN tools shall be used. INCLIN Tools for identification of autism cases is at **Annexure A**.

5. The Indian Scale of Assessment of Autism has been developed which provides the detailed assessment procedure and tools for assessing the extent of disability for persons with autism beyond 6 years of age. The Indian scale for assessment of autism is at **Annexure B**. Certification of disability for persons with autism may be carried out by a Autism Certification Medical Board, duly constituted by the Central Government or the State Government, comprising of members from the following fields:

1. Clinical Psychologist/Rehabilitation Psychologist
2. A Psychiatrist
3. A Paediatrician or General Physician as the case may be

The State Governments are, therefore, requested to constitute the Autism Certification Medical Board immediately.

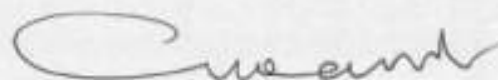
6. Based on the identification of cases of Autism in terms of INCLIN tools, certification of Autism on the basis of ISAA tools shall be issued. The Proforma for issuance of Certificate of Disability of Persons with Autism shall be as per **Annexure C**. The certificate would be valid for a period of 5 years for those whose disability is temporary and are below the age 18 years. For those who acquire permanent disability, the validity can be shown as "Permanent" in the certificate.

7. The Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare shall be the final authority, should there arise any controversy/doubt regarding the interpretation of the definition/classification/evaluation test etc.

Details of the Annexures appended to the guidelines are as under:

**List of Annexure**

Annexure A	INCLIN diagnostic tools
Annexure B	Indian Scale of Assessment of Autism
Annexure C	Proforma for issuance of Certificate of Disability of Persons with Autism



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File No. 16-21/2013-DD -III