

## Zero FIR

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### Why in News?

*Zero FIR lodged by the West Bengal police in the killing of a migrant worker in Odisha.*

- **FIR** - FIR primarily stands for First Information Report, a crucial document in the Indian legal system that's the first written record of a cognizable offence, filed with the police, initiating a criminal investigation.

*Cognizable offence is a serious crime where police can arrest without a warrant*

- It's lodged by the victim or witness at the police station and details the crime, date, place, and involved parties, enabling the justice process to begin.
- The term First Information Report (FIR) is **not defined** in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, or in any other law.
- However, in **police regulations or rules**, information recorded under **Section 154 of the CrPC** is known as FIR.

*Section 154 CrPC requires police to record any cognizable offence. Zero FIR extends this by allowing immediate registration at any police station, even if it's outside jurisdiction.*

- **Zero FIR** - It is a type of FIR that can be **filed at any police station**, regardless of the jurisdiction where the crime occurred.
- **Purpose** - To ensure that victims can report crimes without facing delays due to jurisdictional issues, which can often hinder timely justice.
- **Introduced in** - 2013 on the **recommendation of the Justice Verma Committee** to make police more responsive in cases of sexual violence and other serious crimes.
- **Process of Filing a Zero FIR**
  - **Approach any police station** - The victim or informant can go to any police station to file a Zero FIR.
  - **Provide information** - The police officer will record the information provided by the victim regarding the incident. This can be done orally or in writing.
  - **Documentation** - The FIR will be documented in the prescribed format and marked as "Zero FIR."

- **Transfer to relevant Police Station** - After the Zero FIR is registered, the police will forward it to the police station that has jurisdiction over the case for further investigation.

### Difference between FIR and Zero FIR

Features	FIR	Zero FIR
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Filed only in the police station under whose area the crime occurred	Can be filed in any police station, irrespective of jurisdiction
<b>Numbering</b>	Assigned a unique FIR number by that police station	Initially numbered "0" until transferred to the correct jurisdiction
<b>Purpose</b>	Formal start of investigation into a cognizable offence	Quick registration in urgent/serious cases (rape, murder, etc.)
<b>Transfer</b>	Not transferred; investigation remains with the same station	Transferred to the police station with jurisdiction after filing
<b>Use Cases</b>	All cognizable offences (theft, assault, etc.)	Serious, urgent offences where delay could harm victims
<b>Legal Basis</b>	Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) provisions on FIR	Under Section 173 BNSS (Sec 154 of CrPC)

To know about e-Zero FIR, click [here](#)

### References

1. [The Hindu | Zero FIR lodged by West Bengal police](#)
2. [Lawctopus AI | Zero FIR](#)
3. [Pink Legal | Zero FIR](#)