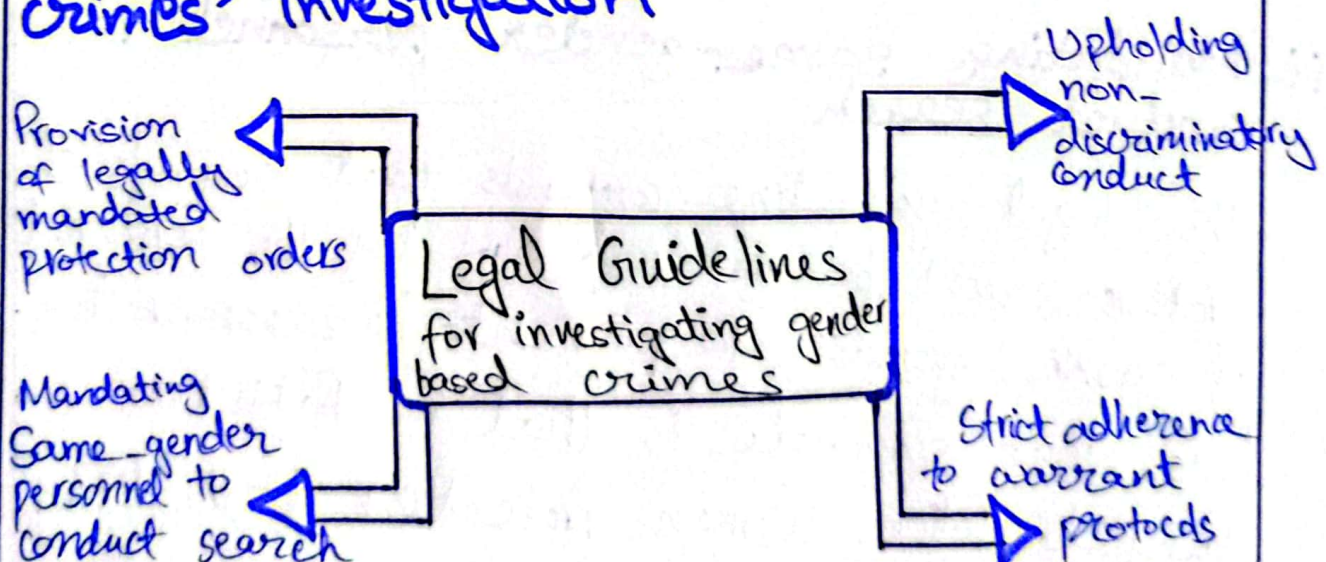


Q: Explain in detail the legal and ethical guidelines for gender-based crimes investigation.

Investigation of Gender-based Crimes

Investigation of gender-based crimes refers to systematic examination of offences committed against individuals primarily because of their gender, reflecting unequal power relations and social norms that perpetuate discrimination and violence. Gender based crimes include rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, honour killing, transphobic and homophobic assault. legal and ethical guidelines for investigating gender-based crimes include provision of legally mandated protection orders; upholding non-discriminatory conduct; using victim-centred approach etc.

Legal Guidelines for Gender-based crimes' investigation



i- Provision of legally mandated Protection Orders

This legal guideline requires investigators to ensure that victims receive timely legal safeguards against perpetrator during investigation. Its clear example is US where in domestic violence and stalking cases, investigators are obligated to ensure that victims receive timely legal safeguards against perpetrator (New York Times, Legal Guidelines in gender based crimes, Dec 2024).

ii. Upholding non-discriminatory Conduct

Investigators must avoid any sort of biasness and prejudice with victim and suspect based on their ^{gender,} ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status. Its magnificent example is UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) guidelines which ensure non-discriminatory conduct of investigators with victims (The Guardian, UK's CPS guidelines, Sept 2025).

iii- Mandating same-gender personnel to conduct search

This legal guideline contends that search of victims must be carried out by the personnel of same gender to prevent harassment. Its clear example is that in Pakistan Punjab Police Women Protection Units deploy

female officers to conduct body search of females for preventing harassment (Tribune, legal guidelines for conducting search in gender based crimes, March 2025).

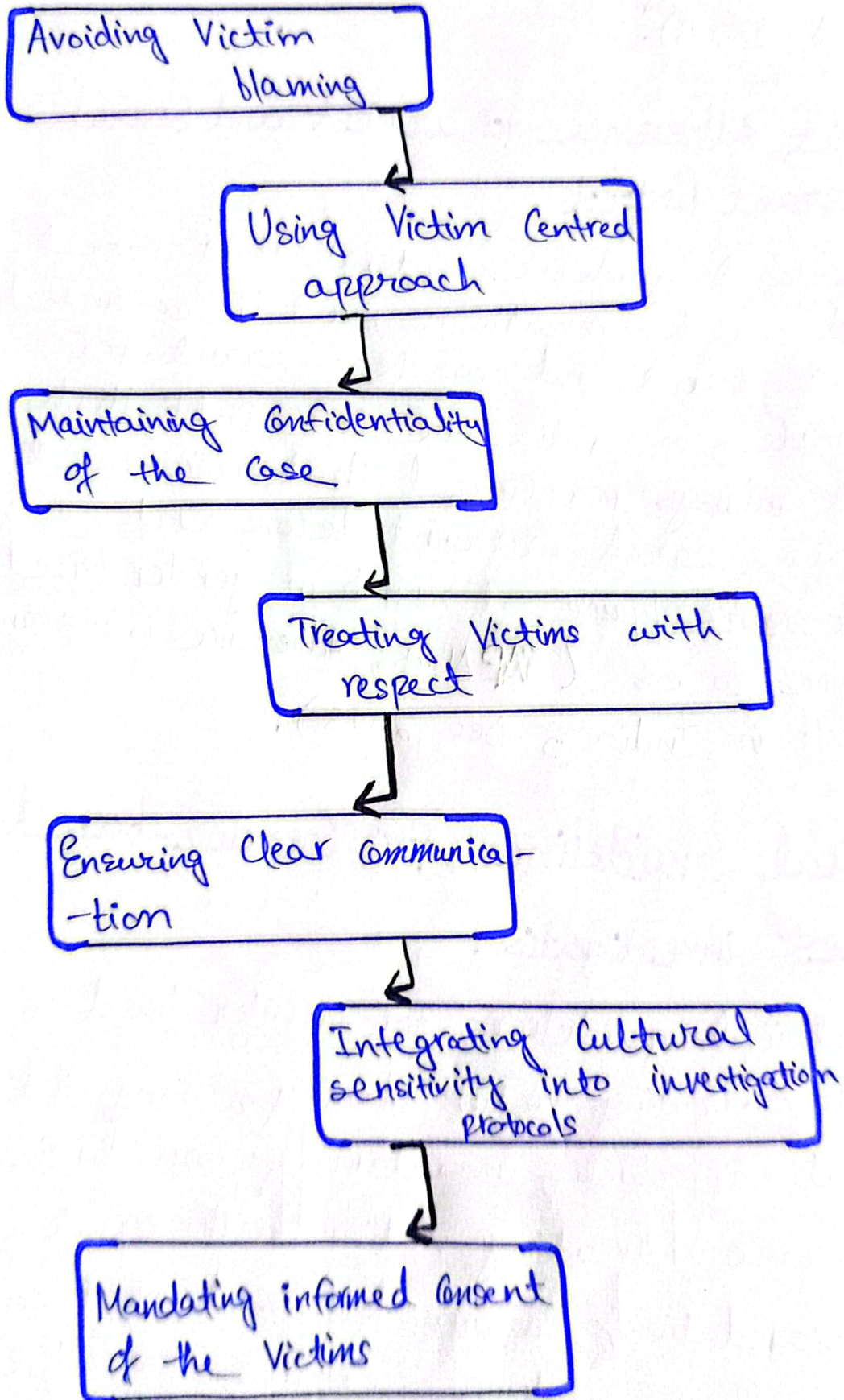
1. Strict Adherence to arrest and Search Warrant Protocols

This legal guideline contends that arrest and search operations must be conducted using arrest and search warrant. For example, in India the 2023 Delhi High Court rulings reaffirmed that police must obtain search warrant before entering a woman's house at night in gender based violence cases (AP News, Adherence to warrant protocols in India, Dec 2023).

Ethical Guidelines for Gender-based Crimes' investigation

The ethical guidelines for gender-based crimes include avoiding victim-blaming, using victim centred approach, maintaining confidentiality of the case, treating victims with respect, and mandating informed consent of the victims. These guidelines ensure that the entire investigation process ^{protects} upholds human rights.

Fig: Ethical Guidelines for Investigating Gender based Crimes



i- Avoiding Victim blaming

This ethical guideline contends that investigators treat victims without suggesting that their behavior contributed to their victimization.

ii- Using victim centred approach

Investigation must prioritize dignity, safety and emotional well-being of the victims for preventing their re-traumatization.

iii- Maintaining Confidentiality of the Case

This guideline contends that information of victims and suspects; and forensic evidence obtained during the case must be kept private to protect the victim from social stigma and retraumatization.

iv- Ensuring Clear Communication

Investigators must use clear, ethical, respectful, jargon-free and sensitive communication with the victims. It also requires investigators to provide victims with understandable information about their rights, legal process and case updates for preventing their secondary victimization.

V- Integrating Cultural Sensitivity into investigation protocols

This ethical guideline emphasizes on integrating cultural sensitivity into investigation protocols to avoid biasness, ensure cooperation, and protect the victim from social stigmatization and re-traumatization.

vi- Treating Victims with respect

Investigators must treat victims with dignity, sensitivity and without prejudice throughout the investigation.

vii- Mandating informed Consent of the Victims

This guideline ensures that victims fully understands and voluntarily agrees to every step of legal, medical and investigative process before it proceeds.

Concluding Thoughts

Ethical and legal guidelines for gender based crimes' investigation are integral for conducting a successful criminal investigation of gender based crimes. These guidelines play a key role in ethically and legally conducting investigation of rape, domestic violence,

transphobic or homophobic assault cases. These guidelines ensure that human rights are protected throughout the investigation.