

**Question 5.a.**

**Defilement of persons under sixteen (16) years of age.**

203.(1) Whosoever, by lewd acts, defiles a person who has not completed the age of sixteen years, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term from four to eight years:

(3) Provided that where the injured party withdraws his complaint, the Court may decide and direct the continuation of proceedings against the alleged perpetrator, giving particular consideration to the best interests of the complainant, any person under the age of sixteen (16) involved, and any other relevant third parties, and shall cause such request and decision to be registered in the records of the case: **Provided further that proceedings shall be instituted *ex officio* when the act is committed with abuse of parental authority or of tutorship.**