

COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC) RESOURCE GUIDE



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children affects communities at worldwide, national and local levels. CSEC is a form of human trafficking and is defined as sexual abuse of a minor for economic gain. It involves physical abuse, pornography, prostitution and the smuggling of children for unlawful purposes. Children, youth, and young adults engaged in the child welfare system have an increased risk for having been exposed to and being survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. These youth may be coerced into sex work by friends or family members or utilize sex as a means to survive. This guide will provide the information needed to recognize CSEC signs and red flags, steps to take if you suspect a child is being trafficked resources for educating yourself and protecting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Victims and Predators

ALL children, girls, boys, transgender youth from any background can be targeted and exploited. Average age victims enter trafficking is 12-14 years old. Here are a few risk factors for those in danger of being victims:

- Youth with a history of sexually abuse
- Youth living in groups homes, involved with Children and Family Services (CFS) or Juvenile Justice Involved
- Children with developmental disabilities
- Bullied youth
- LGBTQ youth
- ALL teens seeking attention and relationships

Predators intentionally seek out vulnerable victims. They can be anyone, including family members, boyfriends or other trusted adults. Although exploiters often target children outside of their family, a family member may also traffic a child.

Signs and Red Flags

A combination of the following risk factors may indicate sexual exploitation:

- Many school absences
- Unexplained bruises, injuries, STI's, reproductive or other health issues
- Relationships with older teens or adults
- Runs away from home, including group homes and foster care
- Self-destructive behaviors
- Significant concerns regarding safety and danger
- Extreme attire that may not be appropriate for weather conditions
- Texting all hours of day with unknown persons
- Regular use of prepaid cell phones/Prepaid cash cards
- Exploiters often tattoo or brand children and youth. Youth are commonly branded with their exploiter's name tattooed on their neck, chest, or arms
- Using alcohol, drugs, prescription pills
- Has two cell phones
- Initiates discussion of sexual topics and explicit sexual talk beyond normal teen vocabulary

How Can I Help?

1. Educate yourself and your children, learn the red flags that may indicate trafficking and ask follow-up questions to help identify a potential victim.
2. Monitor your children's online activity, online friends and outings. Exploiters lurk online and places where there is little to no responsible adult supervision.

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3. Report suspicious incidents to School Administration and Children and Family Services. Call 2-1-1 or the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1888-373-7888) or go online to <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking> to report a tip (you can do so anonymously).

Resources

Local Services:

Call: 2-1-1
www.211database.org

Catholic Charities of the East Bay
Richmond: 510-234-5110
Concord: 925-825-3099
<http://www.cceb.org>

Community Violence Solutions (CVS)
Crisis line: 1-800-670-7273
West County: 510-237-0113
East County: 925-706-4290

Contra Costa Children and Family Services
Pleasant Hill: 925-602-9300
Antioch: 925-522-7400
Richmond: 510-231-8100

Contra Costa County Family Justice Center
Concord: 925-521-6366
Richmond: 510-974-2200
Antioch: 925-281-0970

La Clinica de la Raza
Concord: 925-363-2005
Pittsburg: 925-431-1251

MISSEY, INC.
Oakland: 510-251-2070

Videos:

[ABC News Hidden America: Chilling New Look at Sex Trafficking in the US](#)

[UC Davis CSEC Survivors Speak Out](#)

[Global Girl Teen Sex-work in Oakland](#)

National Services:

Federal Bureau of Investigation Victim Assistance Program:
415-553-7400

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:
1-800-THE-LOST <http://www.cybertipline.com/>

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-373-7888
<http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/>

The Polaris Project www.polarisproject.org.

Carissa Phelps CSEC Survivor and Attorney
www.carissaphelps.com

Emergency Shelters:

STAND! For Families Free of Violence
1-888-215-5555

Calli House (Ages 18-24)
1-800-610-9400

GRIP
510-233-2141

Bay Area Rescue Mission
510-215-4555

Other Resources:

[CSEC Training Module](#)

[Human Trafficking A Local Problem](#)

[Human Trafficking in Contra Costa: Issues and Impacts](#)

[H.E.A.T. Watch Toolkit](#)

[Screening to Identify Commercially Sexually Exploited Children](#)

[Understanding and Responding to the Needs of Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth](#)