COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC) RESOURCE GUIDE

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Office of Education
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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. This guide will provide the information needed to understand CSEC, recognize the signs and know the steps to take if you suspect a child is being trafficked. These resources will help you continue to educate yourself and protect youth.

Understanding CSEC

ALL children, girls, boys and transgender from any background can be targeted. The average age a victim enters trafficking is 12-14 years old. Exploiters intentionally seek out vulnerable victims. They can be anyone, including boyfriends, family members or other trusted adults. Here are some high-risk populations:

- Youth with a history of sexually abuse
- Youth in the child welfare system
- Juvenile Justice involved youth
- Youth with developmental disabilities
- Bullied youth
- LGBTQ youth
- ALL youth seeking attention and relationships

Possible Indicators

A combination of the following may indicate sexual exploitation:

- Many school absences
- Unexplained bruises, injuries, STI's, reproductive or other health issues
- Relationships with older teens or adults
- Significant concerns regarding safety and danger
- Extreme attire that may not be appropriate for weather conditions
- Texting all hours with unknown persons
- Regular use of prepaid cell phones/prepaid cash cards
- May leave home for significant periods of time or runs away from home frequently
- Carries false identification
- Exploiters often tattoo or brand victims. Youth are commonly branded with their exploiter's name tattooed on their neck, chest, or arms
- Using alcohol, drugs or prescription pills
- Possessing unexplained expensive clothing, shoes, technology, etc.
- Possessing multiple cell phones or switching phone numbers frequently
- 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 signs 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 use social media as a recruiting tool because there is little to no responsible adult supervision.

3. Report suspicious incidents to School Administration and Children and Family Services (1-877-881-1116). 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).

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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

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

MISSSEY, 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