

Human Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

What is Human Trafficking?

U.S. law defines human trafficking as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts or labor or services against his or her will. The one exception involves minors and commercial sex. Inducing a minor into commercial sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud or coercion.

What is CSEC?

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a form of modern-day slavery that exists both in the United States, and internationally. CSEC perpetrators use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to force women, men and children to engage in commercial sex against their will. Under federal law, any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking—regardless of whether or not the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion.

How do I Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking?

Indicators that school staff and administrators should be aware of concerning a potential victim:

- Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis and/or has unexplained absences
- Frequently runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, or fear
- Lacks control over his or her schedule and/or identification or travel documents
- Is hungry, malnourished, deprived of sleep, or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Has coached/rehearsed responses to questions

Additional signs that may indicate sex trafficking include:

- Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, personal hygiene, relationships, or material possessions
- Acts uncharacteristically promiscuous and/or makes references to sexual situations or terminology that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older
- Attempts to conceal recent scars

Additional signs that may indicate labor trafficking include:

- Expresses need to pay off a debt
- Expresses concern for family members’ safety if he or she shares too much information
- Works long hours and receives little or no payment
- Cares for children not from his or her own family

**National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline
Hours: 24-Hours Hotline 800-843-5678**

Suicide Prevention Awareness for Parents/Caregivers

Suicide is a serious public health problem that takes an enormous toll on families, friends, classmates, co-workers, and communities, as well as on our military personnel and veterans. Suicide prevention is the collective effort of all adults that support and work with students, including parents/caregivers, families, local community organizations, mental health practitioners, and related professionals. The aim is to reduce the incidence of suicide through education, awareness, and services.

What Should I Do If I Am Worried About My Child?

If you believe that your child is thinking about suicide, approach the situation by asking. Asking is the first step in saving a life and can let them know that you are here for them and will listen. Here are some examples of how you may ask: *Have you thought about suicide?* or *Sometimes when people feel sad the way you do, they think about suicide. Have you ever thought about it?*

EMERGENCY INFORMATION / After Hours Services

If you need IMMEDIATE help, call 911.

For a psychiatric emergency, contact the Department of Mental Health 24-hour ACCESS Center at (800) 854-7771.

Resources for Parents/Caregivers & Children/Adolescents

Community Hotlines

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

(800) 273-TALK (8255) (24-hour)

Trevor Lifeline (866) 488-7386 (24-hour) Teen Line (800) 852-8336 (6pm-10pm daily)

Text and Chat Resources

Crisis Text Line – Free, 24/7, confidential

Text LA to 741741

Crisis Chat (11am-11pm, daily)

<http://www.crisischat.org/chat>

Teen Line - text “TEEN” to 839863 (6pm-10pm)

Online Resources

<http://www.didihirsch.org/>

<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

<http://teenline.org/>

<http://www.afsp.org/understanding-suicide>