

Trading Sex

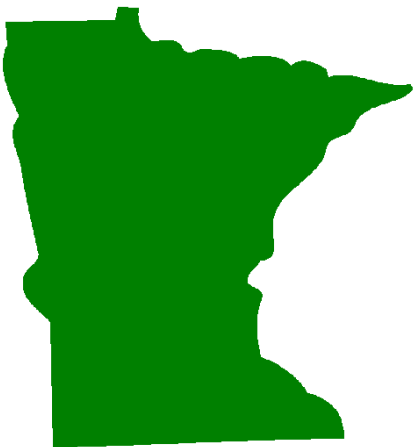
What is CSET? (Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Any sexual activity that is traded or exchanged for something of value (or the promise of something of value), often for survival

- Sexual activity also includes survival sex/prostitution, sexting (sending nude or sexual pictures), pornography, stripping, exotic dancing, escorting, erotic massage, sugar daddy arrangements, webcamming, internet and street exploitation
- Something of value includes, but is not limited to, money, a place to stay, food, clothes, rent, transportation, drugs, alcohol, medication, protection, diapers, a job, or survival

Exploitation occurs when a more powerful person benefits/profits from the unfair or abusive treatment of another

Trafficking: Any commercial sexual activity where there is a third-party involved (driver, partner, date, friend, “daddy,” pimp, trafficker, manager, recruiter, etc.) that profits, facilitates, or aids in the commercial sexual exploitation of another individual



Minnesota Safe Harbor Law

Under the Safe Harbor Law, any Minnesota youth age 17 and younger who engage in (regardless of whether they agree to it or are forced) the exchange of sexual activity for money or “something of value,” are considered crime victims. Under the law, minors 17 and younger are decriminalized and will not face prostitution-related charges. Youth age 24 and younger are eligible for safe housing, advocacy, counseling, and supportive services.

People of all ages and gender identities can be commercially sexually-exploited and trafficked.

Grooming

A person may be “grooming” you for sexual exploitation/The Life/sex industry if they/he/she/ze...

- Is a gang member, deals drugs, or is in The Life themselves
- Has multiple girlfriends or “wives”
- Tries to get you to have sex with other people
- Promises you money, protection, a job and/or a better life if you are with them or work for them
- Tells you they have a job, yet doesn't tell you explicitly what or where it is
- Is very generous and often gives gifts
- Pressures you to get a tattoo to remind you of them
- Is secretive and doesn't want you looking at their phone
- Pressures you to keep secrets about them and what you do together
- Invites you to parties/hangouts with drugs, alcohol, and older men
- Controls who you hang out with, what you wear, what you do etc.
- Makes you feel very special, and plays a partner or parental role
- Tells you how attractive you are and says you should model
- Often has new, nice things
- Has a lot of cash on-hand
- Asks for nude or sexual pictures and videos
- Is preoccupied with your sexual history



Anyone can be a trafficker!

Grooming:

the process of “preparing” someone to be abused/exploited

Sometimes grooming can take place over a long period of time and be very subtle

- or asks you very personal questions soon after meeting you
- Pressures you to do sex acts that make you feel uncomfortable
- Invites you to travel with them
- Takes you shopping, offers you money, or buys you things after you have sex with them/others
- Has you lie about your age to other people
- Lives in a motel/hotel
- Lives with many women
- Gets serious too quickly and speaks of marriage early on in the relationship
- Tells you to call them “Daddy” or “Mama”
- Another person offers you to have sex with their partner
- Watches porn with you
- You feel used
- Makes you walk behind them

How do I know if I am being pimped/exploited/trafficked?

A trafficker can be someone you know, trust, and love (a date, intimate partner, family member, male or female friend) or a stranger!

- Arranges “clients,” dates, or people with whom you are asked to do sexual things with



- Gives gifts, promises to take you shopping, or buys you things after you do what they say (sexually) with them or other people
- Takes all or some of the money you earn
- Takes nude or sexual pictures and videos of you and shares them with other people or puts them up on the Internet and/or porn sites
- Makes you hustle drugs or steal for them
- Coaches you on what to say or tells you to lie about your age, address, or other personal information
- Has you work at places where you are legally required to be 18 years old

Do you know the signs of an abuser?

- Is possessive and jealous
- Discourages you and makes you feel bad about yourself
- Expects you to take care of them, yet gets bothered or annoyed when you express your own needs or have expectations of them
- Tries to damage your relationships, school work, job performance, etc.
- You often feel confused, anxious, and/or afraid
- Tells you that you are “too sensitive,” or that you overreact
- Denies or justifies hurtful things
- Often makes jokes about women, degrades women, or makes sexist comments
- Wants to spend all their time with you and controls who you get to hang out with
- Manipulates you, blames you, and twists your words to make you feel like everything is your fault
- Tells you they are the only person who will ever love you
- Tries to make you feel crazy or irrational
- Accuses you of being unfaithful or untrustworthy

Abusers desire **power** and **control** over you.

They often feel entitled to your time, your body, and your constant attention and affirmation.

- Guilts you or makes you feel like you are a burden/inconvenience
- Says they'll self-destruct (drink, use drugs, commit suicide) if you leave
- Punishes you (i.e., withholds affection, money, or care, if you don't do what is asked of you)
- Acts like the victim and talks about how everyone has wronged them
- Intimidates you when they're angry
- Holds double standards- a different set of rules for your behavior versus their own behavior



I think someone I know is being sexually exploited. What do I do?

Call CMSAC to speak with an advocate. We serve all survivors of sexual violence (all ages, genders, and forms of sexual violence) in Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, and Wright counties.

Whether you've been sexually assaulted, abused, harassed, had pornography made of you, or had to trade sex to survive, we are here to help and assist you in getting the services you need and addressing safety concerns.

We offer free, non-judgmental, and confidential services. We can meet you at our center, your school, shelter, treatment center, church, group home, or another public location of your choice!

Phone

Crisis Line: 320-251-4357 (available 24/7)

Text-only line: 320-297-4357

Office

15 Riverside Drive NE

Saint Cloud, MN 56304

Open M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

W.O.W. is a weekly 10-session educational group for adult women who are, or who have been commercially sexually exploited in any form. Topics covered include: healthy relationships, self-esteem, shame, abuse, and recovery. Call us to learn more!

WOW
W O M E N O F W O R T H

Central MN Sexual Assault Center

Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking Services (CSET)

For those who currently are, or who have engaged in the sex/erotic industry, survival sex (sexual activity to meet basic needs or in exchange for something of value), escorting, erotic massage, exotic dancing, stripping, pornography, or The Life/Game

SERVICES

Youth and adults of all gender identities

Free and confidential

Serving Stearns, Benton, Sherburne and
Wright County

CONTACT

Rebecca Kotz

Trafficking Services Coordinator

Email: rkotz@cmsac.org

Phone: 320-251-4357

- **24/7 crisis line:** # 320-251-4357
- **Individual support counseling and psycho-education**
- **Women of Worth: 10-session psycho-educational group for commercially sexually exploited/trafficked adults** (*Shorter groups also available for high-risk youth and adults*)
- **Supportive service & housing referrals**
- **Advocacy & accompaniment to the hospital, court, and reporting to law enforcement**
- **Safety planning and assistance with applying for protective/harassment orders**
- **Victim assistance funds**
- **CSET training for first responders, law enforcement, service providers, therapists, professionals, and anyone who works with survivors:** *This training will address the definition of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, explain the Safe Harbor-No Wrong Door Act, explain risk-factors, methods of recruitment, grooming into the industry, pimp tactics, the impact of trauma and Stockholm Syndrome, victim identification, influence of the internet and pornography, terminology used by victims, interviewing and/or counseling techniques, best practices, and how to support and empower victim/survivors (2.5 hours recommended)*
- **Community presentations on healthy relationships, abuse, sexual violence, trafficking, harms of pornography, sexting, technology safety, media literacy and rape culture**
- **Technical assistance, protocol development, and case consultation for professionals working with CSET survivors**
- **Men Accountable for Sexual Exploitation (MASE) education/accountability program for men convicted of soliciting commercial sex**

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING

Identification & Red Flags

PHYSICAL:

- Signs of torture/abuse (cigarette burns, bruises, bite marks, head injuries, broken bones, missing teeth, bald spots in hair, rectal trauma)
- Tattoos or branding (can be anything, especially names, symbols, initials, gang signs, money-related symbols, phrases such as *M.O.B. "Money Over Bitches"*)
- Chemical dependency
- Female medical issues (multiple abortions, pregnancies, miscarriages, genital mutilation, pelvic pain, anal prolapse, recurring urinary difficulties)
- Frequently changes appearance
- STIs, HIV, or AIDS
- Malnourishment and poor dental health
- Untreated chronic health conditions

MENTAL:

- Fear and distrust (especially of authority figures, "system" professionals, and law enforcement)
- Dissociation or does not seem "present"
- Extreme behavior (i.e. very defiant/hostile or submissive and few/no boundaries)
- Anxiety and depression
- Post-traumatic stress symptoms, hypervigilance, easily triggered, easily distracted, flashbacks
- Trauma-related disorders such as DID, BPD, C-PTSD and attachment disorders

SOCIAL/RELATIONAL:

- Looks at floor/afraid to make eye contact
- Secrecy, vagueness concerning whereabouts
- Family dysfunction: neglectful or absent parents, abuse, addictions
- Family member who is incarcerated or involved in organized or survival crimes
- In a relationship with a significantly older man
- Calling another male "Daddy" who is not their father
- Individual knows or has a relationship with someone involved in The Life
- Evidence of controlling or domineering relationships (repeated calls, individual has an

excessive concern about displeasing partner, partner answers questions for individual, looks to partner for approval, must respond to partner immediately, walks behind partner)

- Excessive frequenting of internet chat rooms, dating apps or sites, anonymous apps, sex industry sites, porn, or classified sites like Backpage.com or Craigslist.com

MATERIAL:

- Wearing clothing not appropriate for the weather (no coat or no warm clothes in the winter)
- Possession of new/expensive things with no financial means to purchase independently
- Only pays in cash and/or is not in control of their own money
- Has nothing on them, no material possessions or belongings, especially no ID/passport
- Frequently changes phone number and has multiple cell-phones (especially burner phones) and prepaid phone cards
- In possession of multiple motel/hotel cards & keys
- Carries condoms, lubricant, and sex paraphernalia

OTHER IDENTIFIERS:

- Is homeless or has run away from home
- Has lived in foster, group, or residential homes
- Has participated in treatment for behavioral or chemical concerns
- Prior arrest for prostitution, drug possession, theft, fraud, delinquency cases etc.
- Partner has a criminal background, involved with drugs, gangs, or domestic violence
- Youth who is often skipping class and/or truant from school
- Lives in a motel/hotel
- Uses "street" language commonly associated with The Life
- Does not know, changes, or tells inaccurate personal information about themselves such as their name, age, DOB, address
- Does not know what city they are in or does not have a permanent address

Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Questions

If an individual has disclosed running away from home/homeless:

- How many times & for how long?
- How did you take care of yourself/survive while away from home?
- Did you ever have someone watch over you while you were away from home?
- Did you ever travel while away from home?
 - ✓ Where have you gone?
 - ✓ How did you get there?
 - ✓ Who were you with?
 - ✓ What did you do while you were there?
- Did someone ever approach you or offer a place for you to stay?
- Did you ever feel “used” while on the streets/away from home?
- Did anyone ever hurt or threaten to hurt you?
- Did anyone give you tips on how to survive on the streets?
- How did you make money?
 - ✓ Did you keep all of the money you made or did you share your money?
 - ✓ Are you in control of all your money or has someone offered to manage it for you?
- Have you ever felt compelled or pressured to do something you didn’t want to do to survive or make money?

If you suspect the individual is engaged in an exploitative relationship:

- How did you two meet?
- What do you two do when you are together?
- How does your partner show you they care?
 - How does your partner encourage/build up/support your goals?
 - How does your partner show you your opinions and goals are equally valued and respected as his?
 - Does your partner always respect your sexual consent? Every time? (Please define consent to individual)

CSET Screening-focused questions:

- Does your partner ever offer you money/things before or after sex?
- Does your partner “reward” you when you do what he says? If so, how?
- Does your partner encourage you to have sex with other people?
- Does your partner arrange clients/dates for you?
- Have you ever needed to trade sex to meet basic needs (shelter, food, transportation, money, alcohol, drugs, etc.)?

Asking about signs of abuse in their relationship:

(Keep in mind all abuse begins as verbal/emotional/mental)

- Does your partner do anything that makes you uncomfortable?
- Do you ever feel afraid of your partner or how they’ll react?
- Have you ever felt obligated or like you “owed” your partner something for being kind, buying you things, providing for you?
- Do you feel free to leave the relationship?

- Has your partner threatened to leave, withhold something from you, or guilted you if you didn't do what he asked?
 - ✓ "If you *loved* me you would ____."
- Have you ever felt someone/thing close to you would be harmed if you left? (You, family, friend, pet, etc.)

If individual is contemplating *entering* "The Life":

- What are you hoping you will get out of being involved in The Life?
- What are the pros and cons of being involved in The Life?
- Suppose you did decide to get involved in The Industry. How would your life be different?
- Has someone made you feel that being involved in The Life is your only option?
- Many survivors find once they get involved in The Industry, it is very hard to get out. Have you thought about safety concerns, STDs, criminal concerns, gang involvement, addiction, people not allowing you to leave, harm to yourself and others, etc.?
- How can your needs be met outside of The Life?
- What would make your life easier or less stressful? How can we help you?
- We have people to connect you with that would be happy to help, would you be interested in that?

If individual is contemplating *leaving* "The Life":

- What are the pro/cons, benefits/disadvantages of the life? (Make a list with clients!)
- Do you feel safe in your current situation?
- Do you feel you have the ability to leave?
- What steps would you like to take?
- How ready/confident do you feel to make this change?
- What would prevent you from leaving The Life?
- What will you need to stay out of The Life?
- What services are you looking for?
 - I.e. housing, job, education, child care, safety, counseling, legal advocacy, treatment for addiction issues etc.
- Are you interested in reporting to law enforcement?
 - If so, we can arrange an advocate from the Central MN Sexual Assault Center to come with you to make the report. Would you be interested in that?

Safety Planning:

How will you leave safely?

- What is your plan?
- What will you need to bring with you? (IDs, important documents, records, medication, passport, address book, keys, chargers, etc.)
- Where can you stay so you will be safe?
- Do you think he would come after you if you left?
- Do you think he is capable of killing you?
- How can you block contact from others in The Life? (Change phone number, change name, delete social media profiles, turn off GPS tracker)
- What numbers should you memorize /write down in a safe place in case your phone gets stolen?
- Are you able to keep/hide an extra stash of cash to save up?
- Can we set you up with an advocate to help you file an OFP/HRO?
- Who are supportive people in your life (not in The Life) that you can contact/check in with?

Sex Trafficking and Safe Harbors

LEGAL DEFINITIONS OF SEX TRAFFICKING



INTERNATIONAL LAW

PALERMO PROTOCOL

Article 3 (a) "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

(c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;

d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

ACTION

Recruited, transported, transferred, harbored, or received

MEANS

Over 18: Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or giving or receiving of payments or benefits.

Under 18: (just that it happened = by any means)

PURPOSE

Exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation



FEDERAL LAW

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT

"The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age." - 22 USC § 7102(10); 8 CFR § 214.11(a)

ACTION

Recruited, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained

MEANS

Over 18: Force, Fraud, or Coercion

Under 18: (just that it happened = by any means)

PURPOSE

Commercial sex act



MINNESOTA LAW

MINNESOTA SEX TRAFFICKING LAW

Receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual or receiving profit or anything of value, knowing or having reason to know it is derived from sex trafficking. - Minn.Stat. § 609.321, subd. 7a

ACTION

Received, recruited, enticed, harbored, provided, or obtained

MEANS

BY ANY MEANS (Regardless of victim's age)

PURPOSE

To aid in the prostitution of the individual

A Professional's Guide to Safe Harbor

SAFE HARBOR AND THE NO WRONG DOOR RESPONSE MODEL

In 2011, Minnesota became the fifth state in the nation to pass Safe Harbor legislation decriminalizing prostitution charges for youth under the age of 18. Through a statewide multidisciplinary collaborative process, Minnesota developed one of the most comprehensive models for responding to commercial sexual exploitation: No Wrong Door. Minnesota's No Wrong Door Response Model creates a statewide infrastructure for service delivery, specialized housing and shelter, training for systems professionals, and the development of community-specific protocols across the state.

WORKING DEFINITION OF MINOR COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES):

Minor Commercial Sexual Exploitation occurs when someone under the age of 18 engages in commercial sexual activity. A commercial sexual activity occurs when anything of value or a promise of anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or higher status in a gang or group) is given to a person by any means in exchange for any type of sexual activity. A third party may or may not be involved.

SAFE HARBOR LAW

Safe Harbor is structured under the MN Department of Health which offers a public health and public safety focus. A public health focus encourages victim-centered and harm reduction services, and allows for prevention efforts. This view shifts the criminal justice focus to the perpetrators, such as the buyers and the traffickers, instead of the exploited youth.

NO WRONG DOOR RESPONSE MODEL

- No Wrong Door Response Model has a multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional approach. This ensures that no matter where a youth is identified, whether through schools, advocacy groups, clinics, child protection, law enforcement, or other avenues, every professional will be able to identify exploitation and will know where to refer the youth for services.
- Values and philosophies of No Wrong Door Response Model
 - Those who come into contact with youth should be trained to identify exploitation
 - Youth who are sexually exploited are victims of a crime
 - Victims should not feel afraid, isolated or trapped
 - Sexual exploitation is traumatic. Victim-centered services should be based in trauma-informed care
 - Services should be responsive to needs of youth (gender-responsive, culturally competent, age appropriate, and supportive for LGBTQ youth).
 - Services should be offered statewide
 - Youth have a right to privacy and self-determination
 - Services should be based in positive youth development
 - Sexual exploitation can be prevented
- Regional Navigators stationed throughout the state can help professionals with technical assistance, connect youth with services, provide professional and community trainings and assist with protocol development.

BASIC TIPS

Ground Rules

- Non-judgmental and kind
- Address emergency and basic needs first
- Open body-language—awareness of non-verbal communication
- Personal physical boundaries—touching may seem very invasive
 - Meet youth where they are at—harm reduction may be all you can do in the present moment—create a short-term safety plan
- Patience! Even if the story is changing show patience. They may be checking to see if you can handle the real situation. It can be very difficult to admit or disclose that they are being exploited. Lying doesn't mean there is no story, it just means they need to trust you before they are able to share the true story.
- Authentic and honest
 - Don't promise anything you cannot deliver
 - You do not need to have all the answers
- Separate person from others when doing assessment, intake, or interviews
- Refer to Regional Navigator, social worker or another trained advocacy group who understands sexual exploitation

Remember that even if they are in a safe place now, processing these issues can take a very long time. It is normal to back track emotionally and behaviorally.

Asking Questions or Responding to Disclosure: Victim-Centered Approach

- Stay calm and *listen!*
- “What has happened to you?” rather than “Why are you doing this?”
- “How do you take care of yourself when you are on the run?”
- “Is there anyone who looks out for you?”
- “It sounds like you have been trying to manage a lot of things on your own.”
- Do not immediately ask questions about the pimp or trafficker. They have been taught to be very protective of that person and this will shut down communication.
- **Before giving advice**, acknowledge what is motivating them right now. Before you encourage them to change their situation or behavior, fully understand the repercussions of what changing those things might do to their safety and overall health.
- **They don't need to tell you their whole story!** Unless you are a trained advocate or counselor, it may be best to see what services they will agree to engage in, rather than to make them indulge all of their personal information. The goal is to not re-traumatize them.
- Familiarize yourself with mandated reporting requirements in your county. If you do need to make a report, let the youth know what is required for underage sex trafficking cases, what will happen next, and if possible, allow them to be with you when you make the call.
- Acknowledge their strengths and their survival skills. **Always build confidence!**

RED-FLAGS OR WARNING SIGNS

General Indicators

- Lying about age (lying in general)
- Personal information might change or might be contradictory
- Has no personal identification
- Not in control of their own money
- Chronic runaway
- Has new or expensive things with no means to buy them
- Frequent relocation (avoid detection)
- Difficulty making eye contact
- Social indicators in boys and girls
- Older boyfriend/girlfriend or traveling with older person
- Presents from non-guardian or unrelated adults
- Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships
- Fearful attachment to cell phone or odd cell phone behaviors
- Truancy/Frequent recent school transfers
- Friends or acquaintances who are in “the life”
- Something just doesn't feel right!
- References suspicious or odd job offers or situations

Physical Indicators

- Tattoos or Branding
- Signs of physical trauma
- Injuries in various stages of healing
- History of strangulation
- Scarring from other unattended injuries
- Malnutrition
- Drug and chemical dependency

Behavioral/Mental/Emotional Indicators

- Exhibit hyper-vigilance or paranoid behavior
- Fear, anxiety, depression, submission, nervousness, or anger
- Uses language used in “the life”
- Abrupt changes in mood or behavior
- Explicit sexual online social media
- Dissociation

SAFE HARBOR

For Minnesota's Sexually Exploited Youth

Safe Harbor provides a statewide network of victim-centered, trauma-informed services and safe housing, as well as Regional Navigators who are responsible for connecting youth with services and serving as experts for their communities. To find services statewide, call the Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111.

REGIONAL NAVIGATORS



NORTHEAST

PROGRAM TO AID VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT Duluth
218-726-1442 pavsa.org

NORTHWEST

SUPPORT WITHIN REACH Bemidji
218-444-9524 Crisis Line: 1-800-708-2727 supportwithinreach.org

EAST METRO

MIDWEST CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER (CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL) St. Paul
651-220-6750 www.childrensmn.org

WEST METRO

THE LINK Minneapolis
612-232-5428 thelinkmn.org

CENTRAL

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES Brainerd
218-824-3770 www.lssmn.org

WEST CENTRAL

SOMEPLACE SAFE Fergus Falls
218-739-3359 www.someplacesafe.info

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CRISIS CENTER Worthington
507-376-4311 www.mnswcc.org

SOUTHEAST

DODGE, FILLMORE, AND OLMSTED COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES Rochester
507-289-0636 www.co.olmsted.mn.us/cs/victimservices

For a full list of resources on housing and services, please see reference guide on opposite side.

SAFE HARBOR For Minnesota's Sexually Exploited Youth

HOUSING

NORTHEAST

- **LIFE HOUSE** Duluth
218-722-7431 www.lifehouseduluth.org

NORTHWEST

- **EVERGREEN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES** Bemidji
218-751-8223 www.evergreenyfs.org
- **NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES** Bemidji
1-888-430-3055 www.northhomesinc.org

EAST METRO

- **180 DEGREES/BRITTANY'S PLACE** St Paul
651-332-5539 www.180degrees.org/brittanys-place.html
- **TUBMAN** St. Paul
612-825-3333 www.tubman.org

WEST METRO

- **THE LINK** Prior Lake
612-232-5428 thelinkmn.org

CENTRAL

- **TEREBINTH REFUGE** St. Cloud
320-828-7721 www.terebinthrefuge.org
- **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES** Brainerd
218-824-3770 www.lssmn.org

WEST CENTRAL

- **HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH** Benson
320-843-4815 heartlandgirlsranh.org

SERVICES

NORTHEAST

- **PROGRAM TO AID VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT** Duluth 218-726-1442 pavsa.org
- **LIFE HOUSE** Duluth 218-722-7431 www.lifehouseduluth.org

NORTHWEST

- **EVERGREEN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES** Bemidji 218-751-8223 www.evergreenyfs.org
- **NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES** Bemidji, Grand Rapids, and Duluth
218-327-3000 www.northhomesinc.org

EAST METRO

- **HMONG AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP** St. Paul 651-495-1557 www.hmong.org
- **MIDWEST CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER** St. Paul 651-220-6750 www.childrensmn.org

WEST METRO

- **CORNERSTONE** Bloomington 952-884-0376 www.cornerstonemn.org
- **THE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP** Minneapolis 612-729-0340 www.thefamilypartnership.org
- **THE LINK** Minneapolis 612-232-5428 thelinkmn.org
- **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES STREETWORKS** Minneapolis 612-354-3345 www.streetworksmn.org
- **MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL AID** Minneapolis 612-332-1441 mylegalaid.org
- **YMCA** Minneapolis 612-492-1713 www.ycamn.org/Intervention

CENTRAL

- **CENTRAL MN SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER** St. Cloud 320-251-4357 www.cmsac.org

WEST CENTRAL

- **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MN WILLMAR** 320-444-0974 www.lssmn.org
- **RAPE AND ABUSE CRISIS CENTER** Fargo/Moorhead 701-293-7273 www.raccfm.com
- **SOMEPLACE SAFE** Fergus Falls 218-739-3359 www.someplacesafe.info

SOUTHWEST

- **SOUTHWEST CRISIS CENTER** Worthington 507-376-4311 www.mnswcc.org
- **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MN** Mankato 507-381-6670 www.lssmn.org

SOUTHEAST

- **DODGE, FILLMORE AND OLMSTED COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES** Rochester
507-289-0636 www.co.olmsted.mn.us/cs/victimservices



TERMINOLOGY & DYNAMICS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking is the recruitment or selling of individuals for sex. Victims of sex trafficking can be any age, race, nationality, gender, or sexuality. Sex trafficking (also called commercial sexual exploitation and/or prostitution) is not limited to cases with crossed borders, international victims, or physical abuse and restraint.

Cases of sex trafficking can be challenging to identify. It is critical to understand the real dynamics of trafficking and how you may hear it presented to you. You may hear from victims, traffickers, commercial sex abusers, or bystanders in incidents that do not immediately sound like sexual exploitation. By learning to recognize terminology used in sex trafficking, you can accurately identify what's happening and appropriately intervene.

WHO IS DOING THE TRAFFICKING?

The real dynamics:

Traffickers are called “pimps” in popular culture and use a variety of means to manipulate, control, and sell women and children for sex.

How you will hear it:

- **Pimp, Papi, Man, Boo:** Slang for trafficker. **Gorilla pimp:** A very violent pimp who savagely beats victims. **Casanova/Romeo pimp:** A pimp who woos women romantically, then convinces them to prostitute as a condition for his love. Pimps commonly woo women in the grooming stage and then turn to violence to gain compliance.
- **Daddy, boyfriend, husband, business manager:** Terms a victim may use to refer to her trafficker. Victims are manipulated into believing their trafficker loves them and often use what seem like terms of endearment to describe their trafficker or to cover up for him. These terms acknowledge the trafficker's control over the victim's life.
- **Bottom bitch, bitch, ho, home girl, girlfriend:** Refers to a woman used by a trafficker with multiple victims to help supervise the others. May involve setting up calls and enforcing/inflicting punishment.

WHO IS BEING TRAFFICKED?

The real dynamics:

Women and children under the control of traffickers are victims, not offenders, who typically have one or more layers of vulnerability that traffickers exploit for personal gain (e.g. unstable home, personal insecurities, mental/emotional disabilities, drug use, or history of physical/sexual abuse).

How you will hear it:

- **Prostitute, whore, ho, street walker, stroll ho, worker, call girl, escort, dancer, entertainer, companion:** Terms used to objectify trafficked women. Never use them to refer to victims.
- **Fresh meat, crash-test dummy, wet behind the ears, vic in training:** Refers to a new recruit.
- **Stable, family:** A group of women and girls under the control of the same trafficker.
- **Wifey, Wife-in-law:** Relationship between two women who are controlled by the same trafficker.

WHO SUPPORTS THE TRAFFICKING INDUSTRY?

The real dynamics:

There would be no trafficking without demand. Commercial sex abusers provide money, shelter, food, and drugs to women in exchange for sex. They perpetuate the brutal behavior of traffickers and the victimization of women and girls.

How you will hear it:

- **John, buyer, purchaser, patron, client, trick, vic:** An individual who buys sex.
- **Regular, friend, sugar daddy, money man, financial broker, financier:** A frequent and seasoned purchaser of sex.

HOW DOES TRAFFICKING TAKE PLACE?

The real dynamics:

Traffickers exert extensive control over victims' lives. They recognize vulnerability and have honed their abilities to recruit and retain victims. A trafficker controls all the arrangements for women and children to make money for him.

How you will hear it:

- **Grooming, recruiting, breaking in, training:** The process a trafficker uses to manipulate a victim into prostituting for him, commonly includes romantic gestures and promises. (See Casanova/Romeo above)
- **Call, date, job, trick, lick, working:** An event involving consideration (money, food, shelter, drugs) for sex. These are usually arranged by the trafficker on the internet, by phone, or in-person.
- **Incall:** When a buyer comes to a residence/hotel room for sex.
- **Outcall:** When the victim goes to the residence/hotel room of a buyer for sex.
- **Hitting licks, hitting a lick:** Going on a call and tricking the buyer by taking his/her money and leaving without performing any sex acts.
- **Backpage.com:** A classified ad website frequently used by traffickers to post advertisements for sex. Backpage has replaced Craigslist as the dominant online venue for trafficking. A Backpage ad costs only around \$7 and can be used to generate dozens of responses almost immediately.
- **Special:** An arranged deal for sex, usually seen online. Example: "\$80 special," "2 girl special."
- **Seasoned, vet:** An experienced victim.
- **Turned out:** An underage victim who has been trafficked recently and for the first time.
- **Choosing up:** A trafficker claiming a new victim as his own among other traffickers.
- **The life, the game, the lifestyle, the business:** The subculture of trafficking/prostitution.
- **Quota:** Amount of money a victim is supposed to make in a night. If s/he does not, there are consequences from the trafficker.
- **Out of pocket:** Violating a trafficker's rules. May involve communicating with another trafficker, staying longer than usual on a call, or keeping more money than allowed.
- **Reckless eyeballing:** A victim making contact with another trafficker, which is strictly prohibited.
- **Breaking bad, burned up:** When a victim is so strung out, s/he can't go on a date.
- **Work the red carpet:** Refers to being trafficked in hotels, considered too good for the streets.

SOURCES: Breaking Free's Sisters of Survival, <http://www.breakingfree.net/>, Denver Westword. "Glossary of Prostitution Terms." <http://blogs.westword.com/latest-word/2007/11/terms.php>, Polaris Project. "Domestic Sex Trafficking: The Criminal Operations of the American Pimp." http://www.dcs.virginia.gov/victims/humantrafficking/vs/documents/Domestic_Sex_Trafficking_Guide.pdf, Shared Hope International. "Glossary of Sex Trafficking Terms." <http://sharedhope.org/learn/traffickingterms/>, Washington City Paper. "The Secret Prostitution Code, and What it Says About Johns." <http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/sexist/2009/10/27/the-secret-prostitution-code-of-johns/>.

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Sex Trafficking and Safe Harbors

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

The goal of Safe Harbors and any anti-trafficking effort is to be victim-centered. This involves understanding the dynamics of sex trafficking so you can better understand victim behavior and meet them where they are in the process. If we can understand why victims may act a certain way, we can better meet their needs and engage them in the process of achieving justice. The following are some tips to keep in mind when working with victims/survivors:

- Victims may not look like a typical “victim.”
- Look closely: victims will be both adults and children.
- Learning that a woman has been in prostitution should create a presumption that she is a trafficking victim.
- You may encounter victims in contexts other than prostitution or sex trafficking.
- Victims have learned not to trust, so know that even when you try to help, trust is neither automatic nor immediate.
- Victims may lie to you. This is a survival tool, but it should not deter you from helping them.
- Victims will not usually self-identify:
 - They do not understand that they are victims of sex trafficking.
 - They are unwilling to disclose that they are victims of sex trafficking.
 - They may not use the same language you use to describe their situation.

LISTEN TO VICTIMS/SURVIVORS

We can achieve a more victim-centered response by listening to victims and learning about victim-needs from the victims themselves. The following information was shared by women working with Breaking Free in response to the question:

What would you like system professionals and service providers to know?

- Think about things from our point of view. Never ever say you “understand,” because you haven’t been there. But still, try to put yourself in our shoes.
- Language counts. The words you use make a difference. Calling us “prostitutes” hurts us.
- Kindness and empathy go a long way. Even if we appear high, angry, homeless, or dressed a certain way – don’t make assumptions; showing you care lets us know we can come to you for help.
- We might/will probably screw up again. There are lots of things that push us back into the life. Give us many chances. At some point, we will hit rock bottom, and we will need your help.
- We are good at reading people. We have to be. So we can tell if you really want to help us because you care, or if you’re just saying you want to help us so we can help your case.
- We know things. Sometimes we might want to tell you. A lot of times we won’t, at least not right away.
- We know more than you do about this life.
- We don’t want to be out there doing what we’re doing. You have to understand that. We’re just doing this for survival; we’re homeless or we just need some way to keep going.
- We may act “hard,” but we have to have that “wall” up for survival. Deep down we know we need help.
- Most of us didn’t get rescued as little girls. That doesn’t mean we don’t need your help now as adults.
- We need more housing.
- We need more information about your services, and we need it to be in places where we can see it (public restrooms, bus stops, shelters, clinics, etc.)
- We have experienced more fear than you can ever imagine. Putting our pimp away doesn’t always get rid of that fear.
- We are good mothers. Give us multiple chances, give us the tools, give us time to get our lives together. Sometimes the only thing worth fighting for is our kids – they’re the reason we get out. When you take away our kids, you take away our reason to fight.
- Listen to us. You may be “educated” and “professionals,” but even with your good intentions, you don’t know how things work in reality.
- Don’t just ask us for our “stories” – we are not on display! You need our input and feedback, so give us ways to be involved and have a voice before you start passing laws.