Safe Harbor in a Storm: MN Response for Youth Who Are Sexually Exploited

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Forms of Sexual Exploitation

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Abuse
- Assault

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Sex Trafficking

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Commercial Sexual Exploitation
Eligibility for Safe Harbor Services for Youth Ages 24 and younger

Anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or higher status in a gang or group)

- OR -

a promise of anything of value 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.

Youth at risk for sexual exploitation are eligible for Safe Harbor Regional Navigator and Specialized Community Services.

http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/safeharbor/
Minnesota Sex Trafficking Law

MN. Stat. § 609.321 subd. 7a (1) “receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual”

MN. Stat. § 609.321 subd. 7a (2) “receiving profit or anything of value, knowing or having reason to know it is derived from [sex trafficking].” Minn. Stat. § 609.321, subd. 7a.

Sex Trafficking/Exploitation Risk Factors

- Societal: Gender inequality and violence, weak assistance nets, poverty, misogyny, patriarchy, racial disparities/inequalities, tolerance of rape culture
- Community: High unemployment, poverty, inadequate victim services or supports, high crime levels, weak institutional policies, poor physical environments
- Relationship: Known individuals in the sex trade, no support network, conflicted family relationships, neglect, domestic violence/sexual violence, poverty
- Individual: Age, family income, family instability, education, disabilities, history of domestic violence/sexual violence, multiple trauma exposures, running away, substance abuse, mental health

Potential Signs of Sex Trafficking

- Person has an abrupt change in attire, behavior, or relationships
- The presence of an older “boyfriend” or older female friend
- Travel with an adult who is not a guardian; appears to have people keeping an eye on them
- Sudden presence of expensive material possessions
- Youth lacks control over his/her schedule, money, and/or proof of identification
Potential Signs of Sex Trafficking

- Lying about age, where they’ve been, who they’ve been with, information/stories change
- Youth have unexplained absences from school, or demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis
- Youth has a history of attending many different schools and/or has multiple recent transfers
- Signs of tattoos, physical trauma, including bruises, cuts, burns, and/or scars

Minnesota’s Response to Sex Trafficking - No Wrong Door

Safe Harbor Law

Sexually exploited youth 17 years old and under can no longer be criminalized for engaging in prostitution, instead should be referred to services.

Sexually exploited youth 18 years old and under deserve and are eligible for specialized, trauma-informed services to heal and recover.
Safe Harbor Statewide Services

- Regional Navigators and Specialized Community Services
- OVC Expansion Grant to include Labor Trafficking
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Youth Outreach Materials
- Wilder Evaluation Report
- Specialized Housing/Shelter
- Missing and Endangered Persons
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- 2 Regional Law Enforcement Task Forces
- 1 Statewide Task Force for Human Trafficking investigations
- Training/Consultation for Law Enforcement on Sex Trafficking investigations
- Protocol Guidelines
- Protocol Implementation

Safe Harbor Statewide Services

Best Practice Working with Sexually Exploited Youth

- Survivor informed, survivor involvement
- Culturally relevant and responsive
- Trauma-informed and Strength-Based
- Focus on Harm reduction
Minnesota’s Child Protection Response to Sex Trafficking

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Minnesota Adult Protection

Where do you report alleged maltreatment of a vulnerable adult (VA)?

**Vulnerable Adult Sex/Labor Trafficking**
- **Mandated Reporters** are required to report suspected maltreatment of VA to the MN Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC).
- Anyone can report suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable to MAARC.
- Sex Trafficking = Sexual Abuse 18-24 years of age
- Labor Trafficking = Financial Exploitation

**Collaborative Approach**
- Adult Protection Services and Safety Planning
- Required law enforcement coordination
- Adult Protection Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- DHS Partners and Providers:
  - https://mn.gov/dhs/partners
  - https://mn.gov/dhs/policies-procedures/adult-protection/
- MAARC: 1-844-880-1574
- Mandated Reporting Online: mn.gov/dhs/reportadultabuse

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Safe Harbor Relationship Map
SAFE HARBOR PRIMARY OUTREACH MATERIALS / 5 X 7 Outreach Card

Primary Safe Harbor Posters (2 versions)

Business card size outreach cards (2 versions)

Sticker that will fit on a variety of outreach materials.

Access Safe Harbor Youth Outreach Materials and Communications Toolkit

MDH Website

http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/healthimprovement/programs/initiatives/communities/safeharbor.html
Resources

- Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force
  www.mnhttf.org
- Voices of Safe Harbor: Survivor and Youth Input for Minnesota’s Model Protocol on Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Youth  mncasa.org
- Safe Harbor Website
  www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/safeharbor/
- StreetWorks Safe Harbor Training Videos
  http://www.streetworksmn.org/video-cats/sh-training-videos/

Questions?

Thank you!

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