WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?
A sexually exploited youth is someone under the age of 18 who may be subject to sexual exploitation because they engaged, agreed to engage, or were forced into sexual conduct in return for a fee, food, clothing or shelter. A youth also can be sexually exploited if he or she has engaged in exotic dancing, been filmed doing sexual acts, traded sex for drugs, or has been found guilty of engaging in prostitution or prostitution-related crimes.

Not only does sexual exploitation lead to immediate and long-term physical, mental, and emotional harm, but until recently Minnesota could charge and treat sexually exploited youth as criminals – juvenile delinquents engaging in acts of prostitution.

The average age that children enter into prostitution in the U.S. is 12-14 years old.

WHO IS AT RISK?
Though sexual exploitation occurs in every community regardless of age, race, socio-economic status, or other demographics, there are several factors that place certain communities at higher risk for sex trafficking:
• Poverty
• Communities of color
• A history of prior sexual abuse
• Vulnerable populations such as homeless and LGBTQ youth

SAFE HARBOR LAW
Under Minnesota Safe Harbor, Minnesota youth who engage in prostitution will no longer be seen as criminals, but instead as victims and survivors. The Safe Harbor Law treats these youth with dignity and respect, and directs them to appropriate supportive services, including shelter and housing.

1.6-2.8 million American kids run away from home every year.

STATISTICS
80% of runaway and homeless girls reported having been sexually or physically abused.

An estimated 30% of youth living in shelters and 70% of street youth report having been victimized through sexual exploitation.

Life expectancy after entering prostitution is seven years.

More adolescent girls are commercially sexually exploited in one month in Minnesota than girls who die by suicide, homicide, accidents, SIDS, AIDS and domestic violence combined in one year.

Within 36-48 HOURS of being on the run, runaways will be approached by a pimp, trafficker or perpetrator looking to sexually exploit them.

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THE MONEY
The Polaris Project conservatively estimates that a pimp with a “stable” of three girls or women often enforces an average nightly quota of $500-$1,500 a night. If these quotas are met consistently, the pimp can make as much as $547,000 (or more) in a year ($500 per girl = $1,500 a night x 365 nights a year = $547,500).  

References:
4.) Adolescent Girls in the United States Sex Trade: Tracking Studying Results for May 2010” by The Shapiro Group. Comparison data from the Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007
7.) Adolescent Girls in the United States Sex Trade: Tracking Studying Results for May 2010” by The Shapiro Group. Comparison data from the Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007
8.) Center for Missing and Exploited Children
9.) Innocence Lost National Initiative; Joint initiative with Department of Justice / Federal Bureau of Investigation Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
11.) Women’s Services and Resources https://wsr.byu.edu/pornographystats
13.) Brigham Young University Generation XXX: Pornography Acceptance and Use Among Emerging Adults
14.) S.B. SATTERFIELD. CLINICAL ASPECTS OF JUVENILE PROSTITUTION. M. SILBERT AND A.M. PINES. ENTRANCE INFO PROSTITUTION. L. LEE “THE PIMP AND HIS GAME.”

PORNOGRAPHY AND DEMAND

• The average age that porn is first viewed is 11.  
48% of men use porn regularly.  

• Consequences are often weak or nonexistent for predators who purchase sex with minors or view child pornography.

• 83% of buyers said jail time and 79% said a letter to their family would be a deterrent to purchasing sex with a minor.

COMMON EXPERIENCES OF VICTIMS

• Quota (certain amount of money required by the trafficker to be brought in each night)
• Violence- terroristic torture, beatings, threats to self or family
• Sleep/food deprivation
• Emotional/verbal/psychological abuse
• Rape & gang rape
• Violence, abuse and degradation from the buyers
• 90% have a pimp and few ever get to keep any of the money

WARNING SIGNS

• Presence of an older, dominating boyfriend
• Multiple sexually transmitted diseases
• Tattoos or other branding marks
• Signs of violence; bruises, cuts or burns
• Masking charges such as curfew violation, truancy and other status offences
• Homelessness
• Chronic runaway
• Previous sexual abuse
• Travel with an older male
• Unexplained money, jewelry, clothes, etc.

HELP FOR VICTIMS

• Contact 911 if the suspected victims is in immediate danger.

• Call the Day One hotline for shelter and supportive services in your area 1-866-223-1111.

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Nowadays, any 15-year old kid with internet access can learn how to be a pimp. From gorilla pimping to finesse pimping, and the “how to” of selling women is public domain. I came across the article on how to be a pimp using Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs at a conference I attended. It gives incredible insight into the tactics used to lure vulnerable women (and children) into sex work.

**How to Be a Pimp:**
*Using Maslow’s Hierarchy of Human Need to Make the Most Money*
Written by: Pimp RJ Martin Jr.

To really be successful pimping you have to understand Maslow’s Hierarchy of Human Need—players call it the “Pyramid.”

See, the pyramid is a triangle; you know what a triangle is, right? To categorize human need you divide the triangle into five different parts, each of which represents a basic need that all human beings have, including prostitutes. The largest area of the pyramid, the part at the bottom, shows the most pressing of human needs: food, air and water, called “physiological needs. Everyone needs these things to survive and everybody that is alive is getting them. You probably won’t be able to find a prostitute that is not getting her needs met in this respect, at least not in America. However, at every other level of the pyramid, there exists an opportunity for you to be a pimp. Because the pimp assesses prostitute need and then finds a way for the prostitute to get her needs met.

At the second level of the pyramid is the need for safety and security. You might be able to find a way in here. The prostitute may not feel safe. She plays a dangerous game. She is unsafe from crazy tricks, from unscrupulous police, and from intimidators masquerading as “pimps” (not like you), who might beat her or smear her make-up. To get in at this level you will say
something along the lines of, “I want to protect you,” but that is usually not enough. You need to combine this need with a need from one of the other levels of the pyramid.

At the third level of the pyramid are the human needs for Love and Belongingness, such as the love of family and friends. Usually, the prostitute is not getting these needs met. That’s why the easiest way to get started pimping is to fall in love with a woman who is turning tricks.

She probably has a need for love that is not getting met. The average guy on the street does not see her as a logical prospect for a love relationship and her family doesn’t love her—they probably sexually abused her when she was a little girl and then lied about it… Her only friends are other prostitutes, who by and large are dishonest, confused and needy themselves.

This is where a good pimp can make a living—if he’s got the right stuff to be a pimp. All of these women need love. A lot of them are good-looking, resourceful and funny. If you can find a way to “have feelings” for them you will be rewarded financially….

If you think you can do this, you are ready to become an elevated pimp…

Of course, if you have good theatrical skills and knowledge of the Pyramid, you might be able to provide an illusion of love—that is, to make her think that you love her. …

As you get near the top of the pyramid, the area of need is less, but it still exists and may provide a way for you to be a pimp. At the fourth level, right underneath the top, is the need for “Ego-self-esteem.” Everybody wants to feel good about themselves and that is a hard thing for prostitutes to do. They need to feel respected—it’s not as pressing a need as the need for food and water, warmth or love, but it is the kind of thing that can ruin a person’s life if they don’t get it. That is why so many working girls are addicted to drugs. They feel bad about themselves so they shoot heroin every day to forget about it. A lot of them were abused as children, most of them, in fact, and they have been feeling bad for a long time. You, as a pimp, will understand the pathway that brought her to be a prostitute and you’ll show some understanding and sympathy. …

At the top of the Pyramid is the need for self-actualization—the need to “be all that you can be.” It’s hard to find a way in at this level but it is possible if you provide a dream for the future—a way out. You explain that what she is doing now represents something temporary; that you know she is better than this so she is just doing it until you “get your insurance settlement,” inherit some money or make it as a rapper or a rock star.

If you meet the prostitute’s needs at different levels of the Pyramid, simultaneously, you will make money. You’ve got to meet needs at the third and second levels while you are trying to find a way in at the fifth level. Then you will have a devoted woman pulling for you. You will call her your “baby girl” or “hope-to-die- woman.” Once you have that, you will enjoy the benefits of being an elevated pimp and know that it is time to expand your empire. Your hope-to-die-woman will help you to recruit new women. She will think she is your business partner.
## Texting Apps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Kik   | - It’s free, fast and no text limits.  
      | - Doesn’t store to the phone  
      | - Loaded with ads  
      | - Promotes chats with strangers.  
      | - Linked with oink text and kikcommunity.  
      | - Shares username for others to contact you. |
| ooVoo | - Free video, messaging  
      | - Can have up to 12 people.  
      | - Only works with approved friends.  
      | - Friends must be on your contact list.  
      | - Used by predators to contact “minor” children |
| WhatsApp | - Send text, voice, video, audio, and photos.  
       | - Can send to 1 person or more at a time  
       | - Made for 16 and up. However, anyone can get the app.  
       | - Auto connects to your address book. |
| Facebook Messenger | - For ages 13 and up. Anyone can get the app.  
       | - Friends must be on friends list to chat.  
       | - There is a way around it. If you are on a sales site people can message you directly. They do not have to be on your friends list. |
| SMS | - Primary App that each phone has.  
     | - Connects all accounts to phone numbers  
     | - Easy for parents to monitor  
     | - Somewhat a safe app |
| Hangouts | - Hangouts  
      | - Anyone can get the app  
      | - Use photos, emoji, pictures and texts  
      | - Can video conference call  
      | - Connect with others on computers. android and apple devices. |
# Micro Blogging Apps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Instagram | • Snap edit and share photos.  
• Allows 15 sec. videos  
• Its public and private  
• Show’s popularity by amount of “likes”  
• Using # makes the pictures public unless you set it otherwise. |
| Allo | • Cross between blog and twitter  
• Scrapbook of text, photos, videos and audio clips  
• Seen by anyone online  
• Easy to find porn (Raunchiness)  
• 1st profile is always public, 2nd can be private. |
| Twitter | • Short blog, brief message called tweets.  
• Follow other users or they follow you.  
• They can private message you also.  
• Most blogs have a # |
| Vine | • Post and watch 6 second video  
• Full of inappropriate videos  
• It’s all public by default  
• Anyone online can see it. |
| Facebook | • Social media  
• Type in location/ how you feel/ what you are doing.  
• Can share videos/ pictures or news articles.  
• Can add friends you know and don’t know.  
• You can set your profile to private. Still can be googled though. |
| LinkedIn | • Professional network  
• Can be used when applying for college and future employers.  
• Business oriented  
• Is not private, anyone can view it. |
| YouNow | • YouNow  
• Rated for ages 13 and up. However, anyone can get it and use it  
• Broadcasting your own videos  
• Voted by thumbs up or thumbs down on if they should continue to post videos  
• Anyone can see and record videos on the app  
• Easy to bully others with their own videos  
• Is not private |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Pinterest  | - Find and save ideas  
- Great for crafts, baking, art, schools, gardening, study tips and DIY projects. 
- Is not private, anyone can view it. |
| YouTube     | - Is not private, anyone can view it, comment on it or share it.  
- Watch and upload videos  
- Lots of DIY videos  
- Lots of pornographic videos.  
- Loads of bad ideas. |
| Periscope   | - Periscope  
- Watch and load videos  
- Not all videos are good videos  
- Can find your kids if you know their twitter usernames  
- Is not private, everything is public. |
| Streetchat  | - Streetchat  
- Made for ages 14 and up. However, anyone can get it and use it.  
- Do not have to confirm I.D. when setting up or posting.  
- Can share your photos and others photos.  
- Can post mean posts which leads to cyberbullying.  
- You can PM other people.  
- Is not private |
| ask.fm      | - Not private  
- Approved for kids ages 13 and up. However, anyone can get it and use it.  
- Full of cyberbullying  
- Can ask questions and be anonymous  
- Kids put up to much personal information on this site which can be a huge problem. |
| WhatsGoodly | - WhatsGoodly  
- Rated for ages 17 and up. However, anyone can get it and use it  
- Anyone can access it.  
- Location based, designed for polling  
- Includes: Dating, relationships, alcohol, and smoking. |
|            |          |
## Self-destructive Apps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Burn Note*  | - Erase message after a set time frame.  
- Text message only  
- You run the mouse over the text to reveal a piece at a time.  
- Can send to anyone, they do not have to have the app to receive the text. |
| *Confessional App* | - Post what’s on your mind with a picture.  
- Often sexual in nature, lots of almost nude images  
- Exchange personal information in the meet up section  
- Common topics are: drugs, alcohol, depression, desire, insecurities |
| *Yik Yak*    | - Brief message  
- Nearest 500 app users can see it  
- Can find opinions, secrets, rumors, from a 1.5 miles radius  
- Reveals location unless you change it every time you log on to the app  
- A lot of the messages are drug and alcohol related  
- Has caused school lock downs and is toxic to high school environment |
| *Snapchat*   | - Time limit on pics and videos: mystery stays on for longer period  
- It’s a myth that they go away forever. It can be recovered.  
- The person you send it to can screenshot it and save the image or share it.  
- It makes sexting seem okay. |
| *Burn Book*  | - Burn Book  
- Set for ages 18 and up, however, anyone can get the app.  
- Can post photos, text and audio rumors messages.  
- Encourages bullying behavior |
| *Secret*     | - Hides your pictures behind an icon that looks like a calculator app.  
- Enter a code to open them.  
- Adds to risky behavior and nude pics.  
- Many different apps like this one! |
| *SnapFuck*   | - For ages 17 and up. However anyone can get the app.  
- Can post anonymously.  
- Can be shared with a circle of friends or with friends of friends or public.  
- Just because you post it anonymously doesn’t mean you cannot be traced. |
| *Need I say more?* | - Need I say more?  
- Accessible by anyone.  
- Videos, photos, sexting.  
- Not private |
## Chatting, Meeting, Dating Apps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MeetMe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Chat and meet new people
- Has a match feature
- Open network, whoever is online or local
- Ask for details: Name, first and last, age, zip code
- Uses location tracking
- Teen and adult dating site, is not private. |
| Omegle |  
- Chat site, puts strangers together/ Not intended for kids
- Uses text, chat, video chat rooms
- Filters through people by interest
- No registration required
- Filled with people looking for sexual chats |
| Skout |  
- Can be a safe choice if used appropriately
- Has a teen only section – moderated
- However – No age verification needed. Easy to lie about age |
| Tinder |  
- Photo and messaging dating App
- Popular with the 20's age group
- Browse pics of matches in your area
- If you “like their picture and they “like your picture it allows you to message each other.
- Has geolocation, which means it’s possible for teens to meet nearby people, doesn’t matter the age. |

## Internet Safety Tips For Parents & Kids

- Have fun online together, parents & kids.
- Never post your personal information
- Never meet in person someone you’ve only known online
- Check with your parents before you post pictures of yourself
- Never respond to mean or rude texts or emails - **delete them**
- Never share passwords with anyone except your parents
- If you wouldn’t say it to their face, don’t post it!
- Don’t download or install software before asking your parents
- Use all the privacy settings on the sites
- If anyone makes you feel uncomfortable – tell your parents – **TRUST YOUR GUT**
- **except in the case of bullying or harassing contact.**

http://www.missingkids.com/NetSmartz
### Street Terminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Life or The Game...</strong></td>
<td>The commercial sexual exploitation or the sex industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daddy...</strong></td>
<td>Your own pimp (evoking images of fatherhood)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P.I ....</strong></td>
<td>In reference to another pimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stable...</strong></td>
<td>A group of women/girls under pimp control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bottom Bitch/Bottom Girl...</strong></td>
<td>The head girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breaking...</strong></td>
<td>To give all your money to your pimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choosing...</strong></td>
<td>To choose another pimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Folks/Family...</strong></td>
<td>Your pimp or the person for whom you work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gorilla Pimping...</strong></td>
<td>A pimp who uses force to get a child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Track/Stroll...</strong></td>
<td>A street location for commercial sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turnout...</strong></td>
<td>Someone who recruits you into “the life”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wife-in-Law...</strong></td>
<td>A group of girls who work for the same pimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates/Johns/Tricks...</strong></td>
<td>Buyers of commercial sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In House...</strong></td>
<td>Someone who works from inside a house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Out of Pocket...</strong></td>
<td>To look at or talk to another pimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stay in Pocket...</strong></td>
<td>To play by the rules of “the game”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Renegade...</strong></td>
<td>To work for oneself or to not have a pimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pimps Up, Hos Down...</strong></td>
<td>A reference to power and status or a rule of standing in the street and not being allowed on the sidewalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pimp Circle...</strong></td>
<td>A group of pimps surrounding a girl for purposes of intimidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Square...</strong></td>
<td>Those who were never in “the life”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Squaring Up...</strong></td>
<td>To get out of the game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Squad...</strong></td>
<td>Cops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continuum of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is sexual abuse involving a child in exchange for something of value, or the promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons.

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.

For it to be trafficking a third party must be involved.

There are 4 major types of power and control- Knowing the type of control helps you know the questions to discretely ask. There may be several involved at one time.

1. **Pimp** (remember there does not need to be movement involved, but a third party is profiting from a minor being exploited)
   - 36% of pimps are immediate family, 27% are intimate partner: boyfriend/girlfriend), 14% are family friends, 14% are employers, 9% are strangers.
   - Boys/transgender victims: a pimp could be a female, typically called a “Madam”. Frequently this population utilizes chat lines, and is commonly groomed with the promise of a supply of hormones.

2. **Gang**

3. **Family**- a parent could be the child’s pimp, for example: a mom forcing child to have sex for her rent or drugs.

4. “John” or “Trick” – The exploiter or customer purchasing the sexual acts.

Examples of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

1. Street exploitation (ex. truck stops and specific street or location in town)
2. Massage parlors
3. Escort services
4. Internet aided exploitation (back page ads, craigslist, tinder, meetme)
   - In some cases, sexting leads to exploitation. For example, a boyfriend receives an explicit text message from his girlfriend and forwards it to several friends. The exchange being for higher social status with a specific group of friends.
5. Strip clubs w/ minor involvement
   - Small town bars with minor’s dancing/stripping, also occurs in fishing or hunting shacks
6. Pornography where minor is sold/rented/provided something of value to perform sex acts on tape
   - Minor being forced to watch pornography when staying with “John”, minor’s friend/boyfriend posting an explicit text message on Facebook.
7. Sexual tourism
   - Working tracks in different state. For example, a local track is starting in Wisconsin to Minnesota to North Dakota and returning to another state (Vegas, New York or Chicago are frequently discussed.)
• Sexual tourism is frequently connected to Casinos (stories from White Earth)
• Mail order bride

8. Exploiting a minor through survival sex or sex for drugs
   • Frequently only 2 parties involved: the victim and a perpetrator
   • High risk for homeless and runaway youth (promise of drugs, a ride, a place to stay, food, a cell phone, etc.)

9. Victim forced to send pictures, watch masturbation, having someone watch victim in the shower.

Remember: In order for it to be sexual exploitation, there needs to be a promise of or an actual exchange of some kind. But if you have any suspicion that sexual exploitation has occurred and it is not being identified by the youth (which happens frequently) please still get involved.
Red Flags of Sexually Exploited Youth

These are just Observations not something you say or ask youth/adults.

- Use of slang such as “The Life”, “Daddy”, “Trick”, “Johns”, “Stable”, etc.
- Expressed interest or is in a relationship with an older individual; has history of having relationships with people way older than they are.
- Evidence of being in a controlling, dominant relationship (repeating phone calls, preoccupation to displeasing partner).
- Explicit online profile; references to “Backpage.com” or other similar websites such as Craigslist, and dating websites like meetme.com.
- References to having/making lots of money or needing to make some fast money for them or someone else.
- Has no legal identification documents (license, state issued ID, passport, etc.)
- Tattoos that he/she/they will not explain (particularly on neck, inside of lip or hand, but can be in other locations such as behind the ear, chest, arms, or on lower back).
- Significant health problems, which he/she/they may downplay. This may include, but not limited to, multiple STDs, history of multiple or frequent pregnancies, cuts, bruising, branding or other marks on skin that could be indicators of abuse.
- Wears inappropriate or sexually provocative clothing; may only have a single outfit (it is worth noting that contrary to stereotype, not all commercially sexually exploited youth wear such clothing; provocative clothing is not a warning sign in itself).
- Has money, expensive clothes, mobile phones, or other big ticket belongings without plausible explanation or no established income (documented employment in the community) to account for these. Getting hair or nails done without financial means to do so independently is also a general red flag.
- Presence of fear, anxiety, hypervigilance; seems to be on “red alert” or “paranoid” at all times. May have fears associated with specific people or places. May demonstrate fear that information they give will lead to arrest, residential placement, return to family, or retribution from trafficker.
- May exhibit secrecy or vagueness of whereabouts; may keep late nights or unusual hours.
- Instances of running; 3 or more is a definite red flag as well as a sign of vulnerability to being recruited into The Life.

** Please note that the youth/adults we are often in contact with tend to exhibit additional, more general risk indicators including frequent truancy, chemical abuse, and self-injurious behaviors. These are indicators of sexual exploitation that should not be disregarded, however be aware that they are often accompanied by other red flags. Look at the big picture and if you are seeing these with the above characteristics to make the appropriate referrals according to the agency wide decision map.

Preventing Abuse

How to protect children:

- Helping children to understand their bodies and sex in a way that is appropriate for their age.
• Developing an open and trusting relationship, so they feel they can talk to you about anything.
• Explaining the difference between safe secrets (such as a surprise party) and unsafe secrets (things that make them unhappy or uncomfortable).
• Teaching children to respect family boundaries, such as privacy in sleeping, dressing and bathing.
• Teaching them self-respect and how to say “no”.
• Supervising Internet, mobile and television use.

**What to do if you suspect a child being sexually exploited:**

If you suspect that a child or young person has been or is being sexually exploited do not confront the alleged abuser. Confronting them may place the child in greater physical danger and may give the abuser time to confuse or threaten the victim into silence. Instead, seek professional advice. Discuss your concerns with your local police, child protection, sexual exploitation agency or sexual or domestic violence agency.

**If you know for certain that a child has been or is being sexually exploited, report directly to the police.**
Questions to ask when identifying Sexual Exploitation/ Trafficking

When initially coming into contact with a youth you think may be sexually exploited or sex trafficked focus on emotional abuse dynamics initially. A lot of the time these youth and/or adults will be unidentified or misidentified because they will not identify themselves as being exploited.

1. Do you feel safe?

Questions when working with runaway/homeless youth

- Have you ever left home without parent/guardian knowledge? Why?
- How long have you been away from home?
- What are some of the ways you take care of yourself well away from home?
- Do you need money when you are away from home? How do you make money? Do you ever feel like you have to do things that make you uncomfortable in order to get what you need?
- Who have you been staying with?
- How have you been getting access to food/transportation? Do you ever feel like you have to do things that makes you feel comfortable in order to get what you need?
- Do you drink or do drugs? If so, how are you getting access /paying for this?
- Has anyone hurt you or tried to hurt you while you have been away from home?
- Have you ever done any traveling since being away from home? Who were you with? Good parts? Bad parts?

Questions to ask about a possibly unsafe relationship

- Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend? Partner?
- What are some of the things that person does to show they care for you? Do they currently show that same affection for you?
- What are some things about the relationship you don’t like?
- How did you meet this person? (online big risk, mall ,park ,friend)
- How old is he/she?
- Does (your partner) let you “hang out” with your family or friends? Or are they constantly checking up on you when you’re not together?
- Has (your partner) ever hurt you physically or forced you to do something sexually that you didn’t want to do?
Direct questions should only be used when rapport is built, these questions should not be read verbatim. Document if any of this information is disclosed but do not ask directly early in the process.

- Is anyone forcing you to do something you don't want to do?
- Have you ever done sexual acts in exchange for a place to stay, food, diapers or other necessities?
- Have you ever done sexual acts in exchange for money, drugs, alcohol, jewelry or something else of value?
- Has anyone ever used threats, force, pressure, manipulation, a sad story, or other tricks to get you to perform some kind of sexual activity (including dancing, stripping, sexual contact, pornography etc.) so that they could get something they wanted or needed?
- Do you know anyone who has or may be at risk for exchanging sexual acts to meet basic needs? Do you exchange sexual favors to meet your needs?

Indicator youth are highly at risk; we will also be serving at risk youth, this definition is according to our discretion

- 3 or more incidents of running
- History of child sexual abuse
- Peer to peer relationships w/ other exploited youth, or family member
- Internet Safety

*There are several more ways youth can be at risk for being sexually exploited, it is our discretion as an agency to decide if ongoing case management services should be offered. This is something our team should continue to discuss as we get involved with youth cases. Other examples include gang affiliation, low self-esteem, or dating older men.

Identification/Risk Factors

- Evidence of controlling dominant relationship (repeated phone calls, always displeasing partner)
- Express Interest in Older men or in a relationship with older man
- Fear/Anxiety/Hyper Vigilance
- Not in control of their own money
- Use slang such as “the life” “daddy” “track” “johns” “square”
- Vagueness about whereabouts, working late nights, unusual hours
- Tattoo she won’t explain (on neck or hand)
- Explicit online profile
- Truancy, homeless, living in group home
- Changes in age or other identification factors when telling stories
Do’s and Don’ts of Appropriate Engagement with CSEC Victims

**DO** put into practice your knowledge of **risk factors**, **pathways to CSEC**, and techniques for **victim identification** when identifying and engaging with youth.

**DON’T** rely on **stereotypes** to identify or engage with sexually exploited children.

**DO** provide a **safe** place for engagement.

**DON’T** question or engage a sexually exploited child at a location where they feel **threatened** or **unsafe**.

**DO** be **nonjudgmental** when listening to a sexually exploited child.

**DON’T** react verbally or physically in a way that communicates **disgust** or **disdain**. Refrain from displaying a **shocked** face or talking about how “awful” the child’s experience was. This may shut the child down.

**DO** work to build **trust** with a sexually exploited child.

**DON’T** expect immediate **gratitude** for your efforts.

**DO** pay attention to your **body posture**. Face the child and make eye contact. Show interest, empathy, and understanding through verbalizations, nods, and facial expressions. Speak in a calm and even tone.

**DON’T** act or appear to be distracted, disinterested, or disapproving. Do not use **intimidation** tactics like interrogating the child or standing over the child.

**DO** keep **physical contact** to a minimum. When there is physical contact, let a child know exactly what you are doing and remind the child that you are not there to hurt them.

**DON’T** use physical contact where it is not appropriate. Physical contact as a comforting response should be initiated by the child.
DO be familiar with **street language** and slang that children and youth might use.
DON’T try to use street language and slang out of context when talking with children and youth.

DO use language and terms that are **appropriate** and **sensitive** to a child’s experience as a victim.
DON’T expect youth to always phrase their experiences in language that is appropriate or to **refer to themselves as victims**.
Do not use inappropriate language, derogatory terms, shame, or belittlement when discussing the child 's experiences.

DO recognize the various symptoms of **trauma** exhibited and **coping mechanisms** used by a CSEC victim that may not be those one typically associates with victims.
DON’T use strategies that switch intermittently between treating the child as an **offender**, then as a **victim**.

DO recognize the child as a victim and a survivor of severe **child abuse**.
DON’T treat the child as a **perpetrator** by prosecuting the child and not using statutory rape, sexual abuse, and trafficking laws to prosecute pimps, johns, traffickers, and recruiters.

DO help a child “slow down” and **debrief** if they seem overwhelmed or disconnected when telling their story.  Limit the amount of information you ask them to disclose.
DON’T expect or push every child to **disclose** all the details of their abuse.  Sometimes heavy information will need to be gathered in stages.

DO keep the child talking and make them feel comfortable.
DON’T dispute facts or comment on a child’s motivation.  This is likely to stop the flow of information.

DO take sexually exploited youth **seriously**.
DON’T diminish the seriousness of their experiences or concerns.
DO meet a sexually exploited child where they are and on their terms, and try to meet the needs they present. DON’T expect a child to recognize their situation as exploitative or to present themselves as a victim in need of immediate intervention or rescuing.

DO apply sensitivity and attention to a child’s cultural background. DON’T draw conclusions based on stereotypes of a child’s culture, race, ethnicity, class, gender, or sexual orientation. Do not impose actions that are culturally inappropriate or insensitive.

DO continually process your own experiences, feelings, and judgments concerning the issues surrounding sexual exploitation. DON’T ignore signs of vicarious re-traumatization or burnout fatigue.

DO improve a systemic response to CSEC by creating inter-agency relationships to comprehensively meet victims’ needs. DON’T assume sole responsibility for meeting the myriad and complex needs of a CSEC victim.

DO collaborate with local experts and survivors of sexual exploitation to engage with victims or to work for policy change. DON’T marginalize the experiences or voices of survivors in a community response to CSEC.
Tough Questions for Service Providers

Experienced service providers were asked to answer these questions and reflect on how they have addressed the many challenges of advocating for and serving victims of CSEC. Even veterans in the field continue to struggle with these issues. Hopefully these responses will give you some insight and examples in approach.

1. **How do you engage with a child who doesn’t want to engage?**
   
   “Stay where they are, set goals they are interested in. Have faith that the engagement will come. You can’t force engagement. It won’t happen."
   
   “You talk to her and let them know from your own experiences what you went through too. At one point you were her and you know that you didn’t want to hear anything, but later on you realized you needed help. You always knew, but you were afraid to trust.”
   
   “Most of these children try to push people away, but if you continue to show up, trust will be built and they will not have succeeded in staying alone. Roca uses a Transformational Relationship model which requires relentless outreach and motivational interviewing to engage those youth who are hardest to reach and engage.”

2. **How do you get CSEC victims to understand exploitation when they don’t think they are being exploited?**
   
   “It comes with the trust of the relationship. When there is trust between a client and a therapist you can say things that they might not necessarily want to hear. If they know you are not out to hurt them they might recognize that what you are saying might in fact be in their best interest.”
   
   “This is the one I have struggled with. I use a lot of open-ended questions which require youth to think about the different aspects of the relationship, talk about safety plans, talk about future goals – all of these types of conversations require youth to examine their situation and analyze whether they are in safe and healthy relationships. We also use circles to open up a safe space to confront the hard issues, accountability, and values in the context of peer perspectives, feelings, and lifestyles. We will use Houses of Healing, which is an emotional literacy curriculum used with trauma victims.”

3. **How do you deal with a child who you have been working with long term, who is making positive progress in his/her life, who understands the dynamics of exploitation, who goes back to the life?**
   
   “You go back to where the client is at. You don’t get angry, you don’t blame. You’re just there to talk when they are ready. Relapse is a part, and an important part, of any addiction.”
   
   “You just keep showing her love. And you yourself have to know that things like this happen. Because it’s like an abusive relationship. Fear, lack of love, low self-esteem, and a belief that you can’t function outside of the relationship makes people go back. It’s like an addiction.”
   
   “When they relapse, it is your responsibility to continue being there, and not take things personally like you have not done enough work, it is not your fault.”
4. How do you work with a girl who has a “daddy” and says she is in love with him?
“Honestly, this is really frustrating and you just want to make him disappear. Most of the time the men they’re with are older. You ask them questions about what they do together, what they have in common, and you get her to think about manipulation and control in the relationship.”

“It’s important not to invalidate her feelings. She’ll shut down if you tell her that he doesn’t really love her. Helping girls looks at the good parts vs. the hard parts of the relationship themselves, particularly by having them write it down can be far more empowering and supportive than simply telling her she’s being exploited.”

5. How do you engage with sexually exploited kids on the street?
“You tell them about the organization but you don’t push it. Start out with casual conversation. Ask them how they are doing, ask them their name, age, if they have any kids, if they are cold, hungry. I tell them a little about me, same stuff, just normal conversation. I just probably leave the card on a payphone or something. You don’t want them to be holding the card and their pimp sees it. I just let them know they are not alone and whenever they are ready they can call.”

“In a situation that may be dangerous, outreach workers will be assigned pairs where appropriate. Typically, we would start by simple introduction, being aware that a pimp may be watching and be suspicious we put the child in harm’s way. The initial street contact might be very brief, ask the girl if she needs anything, and letting her know there is help at our agency.”

6. How do you deal with a child who is actively recruiting other youth from your agency?
“Building that sense of trust can lead to having those tough conversations and explanations of why it is not okay to recruit. All youth receive a high level of intensive relationship building, as well as clear understanding of values, practices and peacemaking. We also would take every appropriate precaution and measure, as well as using restorative justice, with any individual youth who attempted to recruit other youth.”

“Girls should know ahead of time that we are concerned about their recovery process, but when something like recruitment occurs, it affects the recovery process of everyone else and compromises our ability to serve them. In those situations you have to think of the good of all the children you serve, not just the one child. We have a policy to discharge clients who recruit other clients. We ensure that the child can still receive services and support by meeting at a café or going to appointments off site with her counselor.”

7. When recruiters and pimps know the location of your agency what should you do?
“Obviously we would not allow them in our building, and we would shield the youth in our program from accessing them outside the building. If we know for a fact that they are actively pimping and recruiting we would notify law enforcement. We also would notify all staff to be vigilant and take any action appropriate to ensure the safety of the youth we serve.”
# Sexually Exploited Youth Risk Assessment

[Adapted from the Practice Guide for Intake and Investigative Response to Human Trafficking of Children, State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families]

Is the child a Confirmed Victim, at High Risk, or At Risk for commercial sexual exploitation or domestic minor sex trafficking?

**Confirmed Victim** - If yes to one or more of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Yes</strong></th>
<th><strong>No</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has the child reported being involved in sexual activity for the monetary benefit of another person?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has law enforcement or social services confirmed through an investigation that the child has been trafficked or engaged in any commercial, sexually-exploitive activity?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has the child reported involvement in a sexual act in exchange for shelter, transportation, drugs, alcohol, money, or other items of values?</td>
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**High Risk** – If yes to one or more of the following:

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<tr>
<th><strong>Yes</strong></th>
<th><strong>No</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have there been confirmed or reported uses of hotels for parties or sexual encounters?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Has there been unauthorized travel out of town?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the child have unaccounted for injuries or tattoos?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three or more of the below “at risk” factors are answered “Yes”</td>
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**At Risk** – If yes to fewer than three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Yes</strong></th>
<th><strong>No</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Has the child had more than 3 runs, out of home placements, or considered missing for more than 2 days in the past 12 months?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have there been reports or self-disclosures of multiple sex partners within a short period of time?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has the child been in possession of money, a cell phone or other items that cannot be explained or accounted for?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has the child used the internet to post sexually-explicit material?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the child in a sexual or romantic relationship with an older partner?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the child unwilling or unable to provide information about a girlfriend/boyfriend or sex partner?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the child have a history of multiple or chronic sexually transmitted disease?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has gang affiliation been disclosed, reported, or suspected?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has the child had recent concerns of skipping class regularly or excessive school absences?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does that child have known struggles with chemical dependency?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the child identify themselves as “making money” or the need to make fast money?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the child have a history of sexual abuse?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the child have known relationships with other victims of sexual exploitation or traffickers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**If the child is a confirmed victim or at risk:**

This is where you would need to enter your plan of who to contact in these areas. Please work with your Regional Navigator to help you create this policy for your agency.