



Support to End Exploitation Now

A Multi-Disciplinary Response to
Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Youth

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)?

CSEC is a form of violence against children, including:

- Sexual abuse and remuneration in money, goods, or services, or the promise of money, goods, or services;
- Defined by an element of organization and/or intent, and/or the context of the commercial sex industry;
- The child is treated as a commercial and sexual object;

Common Instances of CSEC

- Street prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Erotic/nude massage
- Escort services
- Phone sex lines
- Private parties
- Gang-based prostitution
- Interfamilial pimping
- Forms of Internet-based exploitation

Indicators of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC)

General Indicators

- Multiple reports of running away with no explanation as to whereabouts or running out of state;
- Unexplained absences from school for a period of time;
- New clothes or accessories with no explanation;
- Large amounts of money with no explanation as to how obtained;
- Receiving phone calls from older males;
- Sexual activity;
- History of sexually transmitted diseases;
- Police reports of child located in areas known for prostitution;
- Journals of child documenting exploitative activity;
- Sudden changes in behavior; and
- Excessive Internet activity.

Physical Indicators

- Injuries from beatings or weapons;
- Brands or scarring indicating ownership (such as tattoos);
- Indications of drug or alcohol use; and
- Emotional instability.

How to spot signs of CSEC: Red Flags

- Visible signs of abuse;
- A change in physical appearance;
- Tattoos without explanation;
- Exhaustion;
- Unexplainable absences from home or residential program;
- Multiple pagers and/or cell phones;
- Using language from "the Life";
- Involvement with a male who is older, controlling, has a street name, gives her cash;
- A history of multiple sexually transmitted infections and/or pregnancies;
- Frequent truancy from school;
- Interest in pornography or other parts of the sex industry;
- New friends;
- Disconnection from her family or other caregivers; and
- Loss of interest in age appropriate activities.

Information adapted from Girls Education and Mentoring Services (G.E.M.S) and the My Life My Choice Project of Justice Resource Institute (JRI)