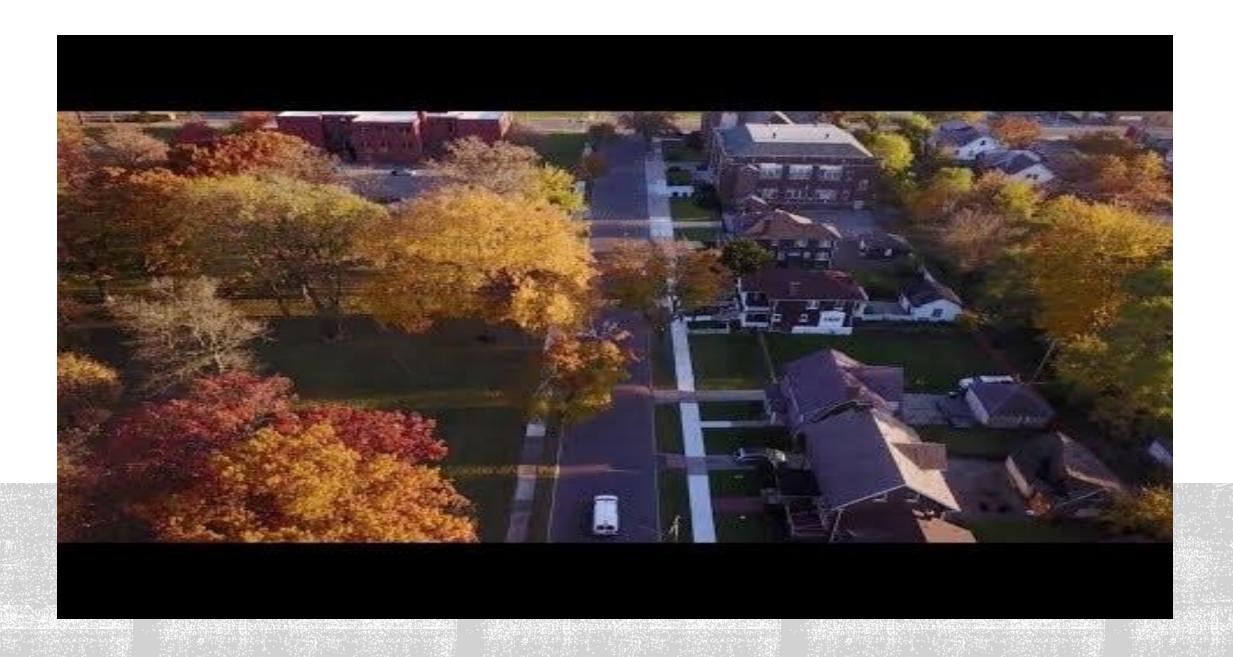
# COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CHILDREN (CSEC) & CASA ADVOCACY

CASA OF LOS ANGELES





 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

 Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons.

• The child is treated as a commercial and sexual object.

• CSEC is a form violence against children.

National Human Trafficking Hotline. *Child Trafficking Part 1: Recognizing the Risks and Signs*. Retrieved February 25, 2019, from http://www.casaforchildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9928cf18-ede9-4aeb-9b1b-3faa416a6c7b%7D/021219%20NETWORK%20WEBINAR%20-%20CHILD%20TRAFFICKING%20PART%201.PDF

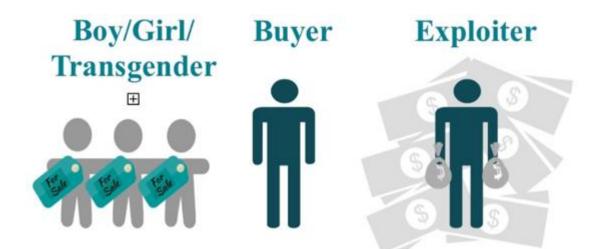


- Sex trafficking
- Child pornography
- Child sex tourism
- Trading sex to meet basic needs often referred to as "survival sex."
- Street/Gang-based sex work
- Escort services
- Phone sex lines
- Private parties
- Interfamilial pimping
- Internet-based exploitation.

Walker, K. (2013). California Child Welfare Council, Ending The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children: A Call For Multi-System Collaboration In California. Retrieved from http://youthlaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Ending-CSEC-A-Callfor-Multi-System\_Collaboration-in-CA.pdf.

<sup>3</sup> Throughout this report, we use the term trafficker to refer to individuals who financially or otherwise benefit from victims of commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking. Other terms often used for traffickers are exploiters, pimps, purchasers, buyers, and johns.

# WHO DOES CSEC INVOLVE?





# WHAT WE KNOW: CHILDREN INVOLVED IN FOSTER CARE HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF BECOMING VICTIMS.



In 2013, 60% of child victims the FBI recovered were from foster care.

In 2017, 14% of children reported missing were likely victims of sex trafficking, and 88% of those had been in child welfare.

More than 300,000 young people in the US are considered "at risk" of sexual exploitation.

Most human trafficking cases have been reported in California, Texas, and Florida. But every state in the US has reports of human trafficking.

# THE STATS

 $https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/human-trafficking-in-the-us-facts-statistics-2019-7-1028361786?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery\#it-is-estimated-that-between-18-000-and-20-000-victims-are-trafficked-into-the-united-states-every-year-6$ 



# RISK FACTORS FOR CSEC CAN INCLUDE





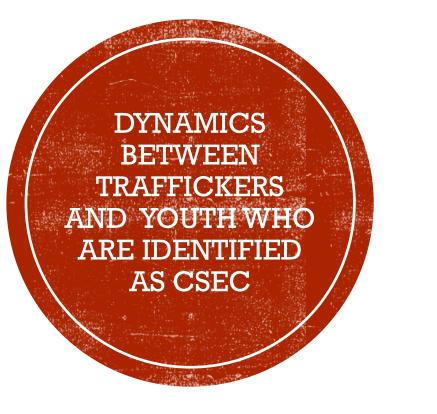


- Seduction or coercion
- Violence and force (kidnapping)
- Gang related
- Peer recruitment
- Self-exploited (survival sex or "renegades")
- False advertising for "modeling", "acting", "dancing"
- Internet enticement through chat rooms or profile sharing sites
- Parents/family





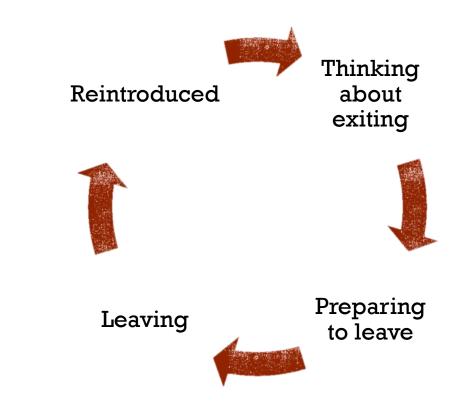
- Create an illusion of family structure
- Often initiate as intimate partners and involve behaviors similar to intimate partner violence, controlling, degrading, threatening
- Becomes role model/parent figure
- Occasionally provide indulgences
- May use drug/alcohol to further manipulate youth



• Targeted

- Tricked
- Traumatized







#### **MYTH OR TRUTH?**

People who buy sex with minors or engage in the sale of sex with minors are caught and punished for these crimes.

#### MYTH

Despite laws in every state that enable the prosecution of these individuals and despite the hard work of prosecutors and law enforcement in many jurisdictions, those who sexually exploit children and adolescents have largely escaped accountability.



#### **MYTH OR TRUTH?**

Help is readily available for victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

#### MYTH

There are too few services to meet current needs. The services that do exist are unevenly distributed geographically, lack adequate resources, and vary in their ability to provide specialized care.



#### **MYTH OR TRUTH?**

It is easy for professionals who interact with minors to recognize victims, survivors, and youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

#### MYTH

Many teachers, doctors and nurses, child welfare workers, and other individuals who interact with youth are unaware that commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors occur in their communities or lack the knowledge or training to identify and respond to them.



### **RED FLAGS**

Sec. States in a second data

Loyalty to positive feelings toward pimp/trafficker	Does not consider self a victim	Unexplained expensive items	Excess amount of cash in their possession (may be reluctant to explain its source)	Has an older intimate partner
Demeanor exhibiting fear, anxiety, depression, submissiveness, tenseness, nervousness	Injuries/signs of physical abuse (that they may be reluctant to explain)	Overly familiar with sex acts and sex terms	Sexualized behaviors	Inconsistencies when describing and recounting events
		Prepaid cash cards/prepaid cellphones (multiple)		





# HOW CASAS CAN BE INVOIVED?

#### **ADVOCACY AND ACTIVITIES**

# **INFORMATION GATHERING**



Connect with necessary case parties (CSW, Attorney & CLC Case Manager)



Participate in multidisciplinary team meetings (MDT) Meetings



Work with Advocate Supervisor to understand available CSEC resources.





Empowerment/ Collaborate

People need safety first

Support Healing Validate the young person's strengths and meet them where they are at.



#### VALIDATE FEELINGS

ADVOCATE FOR RESOURCES

BE A CONSISTENT SUPPORT PERSON IN YOUTH'S LIFE Allow the young person to fully express themselves recognize their feelings as real and important without condoning abuse/exploitation.

Advocate for needs related to identification, medical attention, mental health resources housing, etc.

Prove to your young person that you are truly on their side. A CASA is often the only consistent adult in a foster youth's life, and can provide them with a sense of stability in an otherwise chaotic system.



- Advocate for Saving Innocence Worker
- Work with youth to explore career opportunities
- Collaborate with youth and team to make a safety plan
- Connect youth to more intensive therapeutic services e.g., EMDR
- Request secondary DCFS social worker for extra support
- Request Restoration Funds



- Understand a youth may not be ready to acknowledge or change their current behaviors or choices
- Accept their choice and providing resources/plans to reduce harm as much as possible
- Encourage your youth to identify their top 3 people to provide additional support



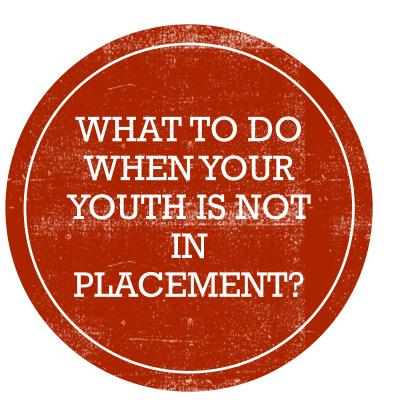
- Picking up youth when they runaway
- Communicating with trafficker



#### A NOTE ON CONFIDENTIALITY

Do not share CSEC status with the court unless it has been confirmed by DCFS/the court (there is a CSEC unit assigned or youth has openly disclosed to team, etc.)





Stay active and in contact with case parties (family, CSW & attorney)

Ask your supervisor about CSEC continuing education opportunities (webinars, books, classes)

Attend a CSEC share & support group at CASA

Ask your supervisor about Short- term Advocacy opportunities

# WHAT TO SAY/ASK WHEN THE YOUTH RETURNS

I am here to talk, if you need me.

What led you to leave placement?

Is there a way we can support you differently, so you don't feel the need to leave?

If you feel comfortable telling me, where did you go while you were away? If the youth reports to being sexually active, ensure they have access to health resources.

Would you be open to discussing a safety plan?





- Ask for support from your supervisor
- Disengage from your case for week
- Seek support in your community



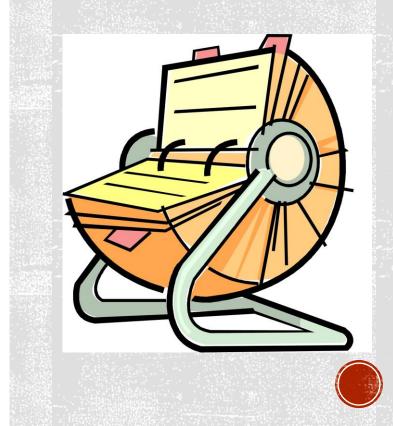
# RESOURCES

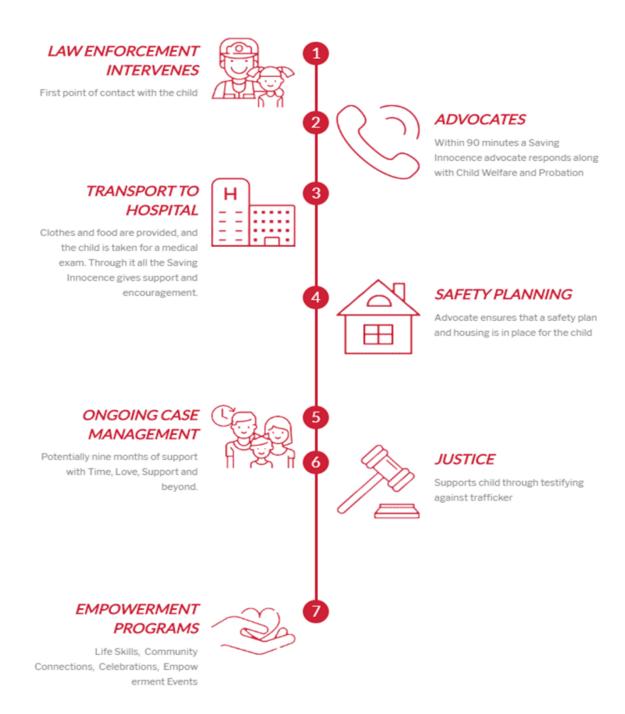
#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

AB1227 Human Trafficking prevention education and training ACT: AB1227 requires all California public schools to offer education and training on human trafficking identification and prevention in order to avert children from being exploited for labor or sex.

- The number of their social worker
- DCFS Command Post
- Number of their CASA
- The National Hotline which is available 24/7 and has resources across the country: 1-888-373-7888
- National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 1-866-331-9473
- Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN): 1-800-656-4673
- National Runaway Switchboard: 1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)

ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO MEMORIZE THESE





### SAV NG INNOCENCE

#### INFO@SAVINGINNOCENCE.ORG (323) 379-4232

CLCHT is a forum for practitioners, experts, and those interested inhuman trafficking in California to come together to discuss current trafficking related legislation in California and receive insight and guidance on policy advocacy

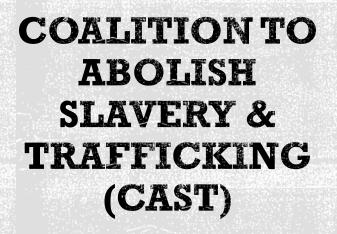
The call is the last Friday of every month from 11 AM-12 PM PST/2-4 PM EST.

Join the call:

https: www.uberconfrence.com/castla

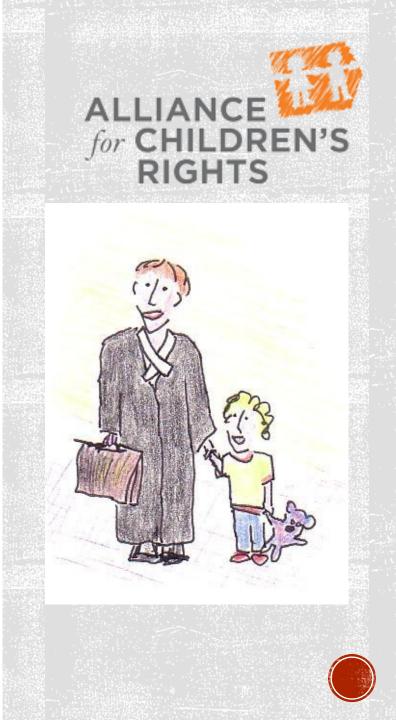
Dial in number:866-383-9568

No PIN Needed









#### THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

ASSISTS CSEC YOUTH (UP TO AGE 21) WITH DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES TO SUPPORT THEIR EDUCATION AND TRANSTION TO INDEPENDENCE

https://kids-alliance.org/programs/csec/

Building long-term, trusting relationship is at the heart of this work.

There are a range of therapeutic modalities that work to help victims build self-esteem, empowerment and reconnect with themselves.

Being an active support for the youth, even through challenging times, is the most important role you can play.

### REMEMBER...

 $https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/human-trafficking-in-the-us-facts-statistics-2019-7-1028361786?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#it-is-estimated-that-between-18-000-and-20-000-victims-are-trafficked-into-the-united-states-every-year-6$ 



# O THANKYOU!