

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC):

Georgia's Enhanced Collaborative Model

This Training Companion Guide is brought to you by the CSEC Response Team, a program of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia.

CSEC Definition

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person. CSEC is a form of Human Trafficking.

The Five Paradigms of CSEC

Family Facilitated

Occurs when a family member exchanges sexual acts with a child for goods, substances, rent, services, money, or status within the community. Family members can include parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, etc.

Gang Facilitated

In gang-controlled trafficking, youth may be exploited as initiation and/or to bring in revenue for the gang. Gangs perceive sex trafficking as less risky, compared to arms and drug trafficking, and thus view it as a lucrative market.

Trafficker Facilitated

Traffickers target vulnerable children/ young adults and lure them into sex trafficking using psychological manipulation, drugs and/or violence.

Survival Sex

Includes any sexual act exchanged for an extreme need, including sex for money, or shelter. Being in extreme need for food, money, or shelter places the victim in a desperate situation where they feel that trading sexual contact for basic necessities is their only option.

Technology Facilitated

The youth's exploitation is facilitated via social media or the internet. There may not be a trafficker involved in facilitating the exploitation, however there is a third party involved (john, buyer, etc.). For example: a youth exchanges sexually suggestive or nude images for money, etc.

Risk Factors and Red Flags

Risk Factors

- Victims can be any age, gender, race, or immigration status...they can live in cities, suburbs, or rural areas...but the one thing they share is their vulnerability.
- Low self-worth.
- Unrestricted and unmonitored access to the internet.
- History of Sexual Abuse.
- Runaway/Throwaway/Homeless Youth.
- History Of Involvement in the Child Welfare System (Specifically Foster Care).

Red Flags

- Chronic truant/runaway/homeless/gang-involved youth.
- Tattoos that a youth is reluctant to explain.
- Injuries/ signs of physical abuse.
- High number of suspected sexual partners.
- Not in control of their own money, ID cards, cellphone, personal belongings.
- Dramatic personality changes, evasive behavior especially around a "new boyfriend/girlfriend" or older group of friends.

The presence of a red flag is not by itself evidence of CSEC. However, several red flags warrant an assessment.

Considerations and Recommendations for Working with CSEC Victims

- Introduce yourself to victims, explaining your role and your relationship to the youth, including what you can and cannot do.
- When meeting with a youth impacted by CSEC, gather minimal facts (who, what, when, where, how) to avoid interfering with a potential forensic interview.
- Do not use victim blaming language such as 'child prostitute'.
- Youth are particularly sensitive to facial and emotional cues. Avoid reactions that convey judgement, disdain, or disgust.
- Exploited youth have experienced severe boundary violations. Model healthy boundaries by asking youth for permission to talk to them, to speak alone, to sit down next to them, etc. If the child is not providing consent, have a conversation to further explain why you need to proceed with a particular step.
- When possible, connect the youth with appropriate professionals if a mental or behavioral health crisis is impending.
- Sometimes, youth may exhibit behavioral symptoms of trauma. Exercise patience if a youth is experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis.
- If you encounter or recover a youth who has experienced CSEC, a medical examination is priority. Please connect the youth with your local hospital or your local Child Advocacy Center. Please refer to your local Child Abuse Protocol for more information.
- Make a referral to the CSEC Response Team anytime you encounter a commercially sexually exploited youth.
- If you have questions concerning how to interact with a commercially sexually exploited youth, please refer to your local Child Advocacy Center or the CSEC Response Team.



Where to Report

24/7 Hotline

1-866-END-HTGA

(363-4842)

Option 2

Make a Web Referral

<https://cacga.org/referrals>

Email

Referrals@cacga.org



CSEC Response Team Services

- Comprehensive Assessments
- Case Plans
- Forensic Interviews
- Specialized Medical Exams
- Advocacy
- Intensive Case Management
- Trauma Focused Therapy
- Information and Referral