Responding to Commercially Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Youth

A Handbook for Child Serving Professionals

NEW YORK STATE | Office of Children and Family Services

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About this Handbook

The ***Responding to Commercially Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Youth: A Handbook for Child Serving Professionals*** (handbook) is intended for professionals who work with vulnerable, trafficked, and sexually exploited youth. This includes child welfare workers, Runaway Homeless Youth providers, Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY) staff, social workers, substance abuse counselors, and many others.

The material covers many of the common issues that arise when working with youth who are vulnerable, trafficked, or sexually exploited. It reflects much of New York State supported practice, but acknowledges that many programs go above and beyond these standards to offer the best care possible to vulnerable youth. Note that clients are referred to as "youth" throughout, even though younger children and young adults are trafficked and exploited as well.

This handbook is intended to be as practical as possible. A number of ***appendices (page 56)*** and ***tools (page 44)*** are included in the back of this document that can be adapted and adopted by youth-serving agencies to support their work with trafficked and sexually exploited youth.

This handbook covers a number of critical topics, but is not an exhaustive resource. Refer to the ***Technical Assistance (page 43)*** section for further information and resources on working with a trafficked or sexually exploited youth.

Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook will help direct child serving professionals and child welfare workers in New York State to adequately respond to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and child trafficking. This document provides frontline professionals with key tools, resources, strategies, practice pointers, and guidelines to better identify and assist victims, provide trauma-informed care, and refer them to regional specialized services as appropriate.

Statement of Values and Core Principles

Minors as victims

When New York State enacted the Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act, it became the first state in the nation to recognize that minors who are commercially sexually exploited are victims—not perpetrators—of crimes. This act and other relevant legislation recognize what youth-serving professionals and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) have long known—that children and youth who have been subjected to exploitation and trafficking have endured significant, compounding traumas and that they are in need of supportive, holistic services to aid them in overcoming their many challenges.

OCFS recognizes that:

- Youth survivors of CSEC and trafficking deserve comprehensive, specialized services through the child welfare system.
- The agency plays a pivotal role in implementing the Safe Harbour Act by pursuing safety and recovery of minors who have been victimized by trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Protecting and providing services to survivors fits squarely within its mission to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of New York's youth, families, and communities.

A continuum of care and a spectrum of services are essential to best serve the needs of trafficked and exploited youth. Programming should be available—from a variety of services and service philosophies—to reflect the diversity of trafficking crimes and appropriate survivor-centered intervention.

When a host of services are available, a survivor has a greater opportunity to access services from providers who best meet his or her needs. When a continuum of care is established, child serving professionals can communicate with each other to best meet the survivor's needs. To read more about a variety of services and models of care, please see ***Service Response (page 19)***.

Human Trafficking Defined

Human trafficking is the commodification and enslavement of a person so that another can profit or otherwise benefit from the victim's labor, services, or sex acts.

Child trafficking survivors identified in New York have included:

- Adolescent and pre-pubescent youth living in group homes who were forced into prostitution
- Boys and girls who ran away from home and exchanged a sex act for a place to sleep or something to eat
- Youth raised in gangs who were forced to sell drugs or steal in order to avoid violence or personal danger
- Children from developing countries who were brought to New York to work in a relative's store and go to school, but were instead forced into domestic servitude
- Disabled young people who were forced to peddle and sell trinkets on the street for the benefit of their traffickers
- Youth in detention or immigration facilities who exchanged a sex act for protection from bigger, stronger youth or staff

New York State Definitions of Human Trafficking

Under the New York State Anti-Trafficking law, a person is considered guilty of sex trafficking when he or she intentionally benefits from inducing another person into ***prostitution*** using any of these techniques:

- Providing drugs
- Making false or misleading statements
- Withholding or destroying government documents
- Requiring that prostitution be performed to repay a real or purported debt
- Using force or engaging in any scheme, plan or pattern[1]

Under the New York State Anti-Trafficking law, a person is guilty of labor trafficking when he or she intentionally benefits from inducing another person into ***forced labor*** using the following actions:

- Providing drugs
- Withholding or destroying government documents
- Requiring that the labor be performed to repay a real or purported debt
- Using force
- Engaging in any scheme, plan or pattern to compel a person to engage in or continue providing services[2]

In both crimes, the victim is not defined by gender or age. The law recognizes that males, females, transgender adults, and youth are all trafficked for sex and labor.

Sex and Labor Trafficking May Co-Occur

Although state and federal law divides human trafficking into the categories of sex trafficking or labor trafficking, in many cases a survivor has experienced both forms of exploitation. When working with youth, it is important to ask about potential sex and labor exploitation to identify the full range of services they may need.

[1] N.Y. Penal Law § 230.34

[2] N.Y. Penal Law § 135.35

Elements of Youth Trafficking

Process
- Recruiting,
- Harboring,
- Moving, OR
- Obtaining.

Means
- Force,
- Fraud, OR
- Coercion.

End
- Sex
- Labor

Exception: Minors under 18 years old who are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation don't need to prove means (force, fraud, or coercion) under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000).

Federal and State Differences

Children are an exception to the "means" component of the sex trafficking definition under federal[3]—but not state—law. Under federal law, the use of force, fraud, or coercion need not be proven to discern whether a minor has experienced sex trafficking. Any minor (person under the age of 18) engaged in prostitution or induced into a commercial sex act is considered a victim of trafficking under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Under New York State Law, the elements of force, fraud, or coercion are necessary to define a minor as a victim of sex trafficking.

Trafficking Does Not Require Physical Movement

While the term "trafficking" may imply movement, a person does not need to be moved to experience human trafficking. Human trafficking can occur within state lines, and can involve U.S.-citizen or non-U.S.-citizen victims. Human trafficking occurs in cities, the suburbs, and rural areas. Victims come from all races, socio-economic statuses, and family backgrounds. Human trafficking may involve a variety of other criminal activity and maltreatments, such as kidnapping, rape, sexual violence, assault, child labor, child abuse, neglect, torture, and others. To learn about the differences between human trafficking and smuggling see ***Appendix: Human Trafficking vs. Smuggling (page 61).***

[3] Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

Ages of Child Victims

Many teenagers walk, talk, and appear to be older than they actually are. Society often sees these youth as having the capacity to be complicit in prostitution and may thus perceive them as criminals. However, under federal and state law these youth are to be protected and treated as victims.

The Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act

The New York State Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act protects all minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation (referred to as the commercial sexual exploitation of a child, or CSEC). Please refer to the ***Appendix: Glossary of Child Trafficking Terms (page 57)*** for full definitions of CSEC and sex trafficking.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has implemented the Safe Harbour legislation along with various Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) throughout the state.

- OCFS is responsible for establishing rules and providing oversight to child welfare services.
- LDSS are responsible for delivering services, including short-term safe housing to victims of CSEC.

For guidance on providing direct services to youth survivors of trafficking, see ***Service Response (page 19)***.

The Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act defines a sexually exploited youth as:

"Any person under 18 years of age who has been subject to sexual exploitation as a result of their loitering for the purpose of prostitution or their engagement in an offer to exchange sexual conduct in return for food, clothing, a place to stay, drugs, or a fee." [4]

[4] N.Y.S. Title 8-A § 447A

Identification

Child Trafficking Indicators

A mother calls her local youth-serving program because she just feels something isn't right. Her daughter, an eighth grader, has been coming home with money she can't explain, has a cell phone her mom didn't buy for her, skips school to spend time with an older boyfriend, and uses language that is completely out of character. Then, she starts coming home with bruises and is more withdrawn. After a few weeks of talking with the social worker, the girl discloses that her boyfriend is making her have sex with other men for money and that there are other girls like her.

Many child serving professionals serve cases similar to this, or have had a youth on their caseload that exhibited characteristics that lead them to believe the youth was at risk of, or currently involved in, trafficking or CSEC. Below is a list of red flags that might suggest a youth trafficking situation.

General Indicators of Youth Trafficking (Sex and Labor)

- Leaves home frequently and/or for significant periods of time
- Shows signs of mental, physical, or sexual abuse
- Uses street slang for sex work
- Has a significantly older partner/spends a lot of time with a controlling person or older adult
- Relies on another person to speak for them
- Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Lies about age or carries a fake form of identification
- Describes a stalking situation
- Lives in housing provided by employer
- Significantly reduced contact with family, friends, or other support networks
- Displays a pattern of staying in the homes of friends or a non-legally responsible adult
- Is reluctant to discuss how they make money, where they live, or how or when they came to the United States
- Lacks control over schedule and/or money
- Has large amounts of money or costly items he or she cannot reasonably afford
- Is involved in systems (social services, PINS, courts, etc.)
- Works more than he or she is in school or does not often attend school
- Experiences suicidal ideations and/or depression

Physical Indicators of Child Trafficking

- Has untreated injuries
- Has old and new injuries and/or is injured frequently
- Explanations for injuries are inconsistent with their severity
- Has had multiple sexually transmitted infections and/or abortions
- Has suspicious tattoos or burn marks (branding)
- Exhibits overt sexualized behavior
- Exhibits evidence of sexual abuse

Psychological/Behavioral Indicators of Child Trafficking

- Has heightened sense of fear or distrust of authority
- Is unwilling to disclose whereabouts or information about parents or caregivers
- Is restricted in communication and/or displays anxious, fearful, depressed, submissive, tense and nervous behavior
- Is unwilling or unable to identify as a victim
- Displays behaviors aligned with a trauma history or PTSD
- Has many inconsistencies in his or her story
- Multiple youth retell the same story in the same way many times, giving the appearance that the story has been coached
- Is scared of consequences to a degree greater than a situation (for example, being late) warrants

This list is not comprehensive, but rather incorporates common indicators seen in many of the cases of youth trafficking across the state.[5,6,7] Note that all trafficking situations are unique; some trafficked youth may not exhibit any of these indicators, while others may exhibit many or even all of them.

TAKE ACTION: Identifying Potential Victims

If you suspect a minor is experiencing trafficking or sexual exploitation, approach him or her using trauma-informed practices. Screening and engagement will be covered in the next section: Screening and Engaging Child Trafficking Survivors.

Boys as Victims

Boys are often overlooked as possible victims of sex trafficking. Just like girls, boys are often lured into the sex trade in exchange for something of value, especially when they are attempting to survive on the street with no social or familial support. Male survivors of trafficking often face strong stigma from their communities, social service providers, and law enforcement, even though they are victims of a crime.

Terminology

*The term **"victim"** has legal implications and can afford a person who is trafficked with particular rights within the criminal justice system and access to services through social service systems.*

***"Survivor"** more accurately recognizes that an individual's victimization is not their only identifier and that it requires great strength to continue on a journey toward healing after a traumatic experience of this nature.*

Additional terminology is provided in ***Appendix: Glossary of Youth Trafficking Terms (page 57).***

[5] Child trafficking indicators, adapted from the International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA). (2011). *Building Child Welfare Response to Child Trafficking Handbook.*

[6] Macy, R. & Graham, L. (2012). Identifying domestic and international sex-trafficking victims during human service provision. *Trauma Violence Abuse*, 13-59.

[7] Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Program. (2013). [Word document on red flags of trafficking shared via email]. Brooklyn, NY.

Screening and Engaging Child Trafficking Survivors

Establishing Rapport

Denise, a case worker, is having her first session with a 15-year-old transgender female. The intake documents show several trafficking red flags, including recent signs of abuse, distrust of authority figures, and the teen's use of language about "survival sex." Denise knows that she might not be able to collect all of the information she needs about the teen in their first meeting, so she starts with "warm-up" questions about her hobbies and interests to start building trust. Denise creates a safe space for the teen by using reflective listening techniques and not expressing judgement about the teen's experiences. Denise uses the pronouns the teen prefers and reflects the same vocabulary the teen uses when talking about life "on the street."

Establishing physical, emotional, and psychological safety is critical in building a successful relationship with trafficked and exploited youth.[8] Work to build rapport with youth from the very first interaction.

Rapport is built by:

- Empathizing with the survivor
- Allowing him or her to lead initial conversations
- Treating him or her with respect

Although trafficking and CSEC might be new issues to you, remember that these youth are a lot like other abused and exploited youth you work with. They too need supportive adults to champion them using trauma-informed best practice.

[8] Hopper, E.K., Bassuk, E.L., & Olivey, J. (2010). Shelter from the storm: trauma-informed care in homelessness services settings. *The Open Health Services and Policy Journal*, 3, 80-100.

TAKE ACTION: Engaging Potentially Trafficked Youth

If you suspect a youth has been trafficked or exploited, these tips can get the conversation going:

- Understand that the youth may disclose information that is graphic, violent, and/or sexual in nature. If you are unable to hear this sort of thing without projecting shock or disgust, do not initiate the conversation. Instead, find another staff member who is better able to speak to the youth about these subjects.
- When possible, allow the survivor to choose which staff person they speak with.
- Make sure the youth's basic needs are met (food, clothing, medical care, allowing the person to sleep, etc.).
- Speak to the youth alone, in a private space, where you will not be overheard or interrupted. Ensure the space is non-threatening and comfortable for the youth.
- Make available tissues, regular breaks, and a place where the youth can regain his or her composure if the conversation causes distress. (If a youth is distressed, stop the conversation immediately and help the youth to deescalate.)
- If there is any doubt whether the youth understands you, secure the services of an interpreter. Do not use the youth's family members or friends as interpreters.
- Inform the youth that you are asking questions in order to offer the best help. The purpose of the conversation should be made clear.
- Do not immediately identify the youth as a "victim." Survivors often do not recognize that they are victims of a crime and do not want to be called victims.
- Don't press for details if they are not offered. The conversation should not be an interrogation.
- Ask open-ended questions, rather than questions that prompt a quick "yes" or "no" response.
- Reassure youth that there are no right or wrong answers, and that the conversation can be paused and later resumed at his or her discretion.
- Don't challenge his or her responses. Instead, convey that you believe what you are being told.
- Don't ask repetitive questions.
- Never discuss sensitive subjects with the potential survivor within sight of a potential trafficker. If the survivor arrives with a person (including a friend, family member, or interpreter) who exhibits controlling behavior, this person may be a trafficker.
- Use simple, non-technical language. (For guidance on language see ***Language Do's and Don'ts When Discussing Child Trafficking (page 12)*** on the following page.)
- Use terms and language that the survivor uses, unless these terms can be considered offensive. (For guidance refer to ***Tools: Select Terminology Used in Prostitution and Sex Trafficking (page 46)***).
- Close the discussion in a way that assures the youth that he or she has done well and that they, if they so desire, can continue to talk about the subject with you in the future. It may be very difficult in the initial conversation to obtain enough information to determine conclusively if the person is in fact a survivor of trafficking. Additional engagement may be necessary.
- Keep in mind the role trauma can play in a survivor's life. Always use a trauma-informed approach when working with potential trafficking survivors.[9]

[9] Macy & Graham. (2012).

Language Do's and Don'ts When Discussing Child Trafficking

Do Say	Don't Say	Why?
Trafficking survivor	Child/teen prostitute	Child and teen prostitutes don't exist—what exist are victims and survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Referring to survivors as young prostitutes implies that a delinquent youth chose a criminal lifestyle, as opposed to the reality that a minor is a victim of a sex crime.
Survivor	Victim	"Victim" is a law enforcement term. When talking to youth, referring to them as "survivors" empowers them by recognizing their resiliency to overcome extreme hardship and trauma.
Survivors need supportive service providers and child welfare workers as they leave their situations on their own terms and in a way that is safe for them.	We rescue victims.	People cannot be rescued—they can be empowered. Much like survivors of domestic violence, survivors of human trafficking need to be informed of what services are available to support them, and what exactly each service provides. If we force their "rescue," survivors will run back to their traffickers as soon as they are able.
I believe you and it's not your fault.	That's so awful, I can't/don't believe it!	Well-meaning people might say they can't believe something happened—not because they are expressing disbelief but because they are surprised or horrified. This conveys to survivors that 1) they are not believed and 2) their experience is so shameful they can't talk about it or shouldn't seek help.
What happened to you wasn't your fault.	You don't have to do that anymore.	Stating that someone doesn't need to do something anymore implies that the survivor consented to be trafficked.
You had to do X—did you know that's a skill? You could do Y! "Even though your trafficker should never have forced you to cook drugs you learned chemistry. Did you know you could be a chemist and work on [XYZ]? Here is a program where you can learn more about chemistry and how you can use it in school and at work."	But you are so smart!	Saying that a survivor is smart (or some other positive attribute) might seem like a compliment, but it can be very frustrating for a survivor to hear nice things about themselves when they don't have the support to harness these qualities to improve their life. Instead of offering a compliment, explain how this asset can be used to help the survivor in terms they can act on.

Trauma-informed care does not address trauma directly, but integrating trauma-informed principles creates an environment where a person feels safe, accepted, and understood so therapeutic work about the trauma can take place.

TAKE ACTION: Use Given Titles

Refer to the potential trafficker using the title the survivor uses. Using this title will convey to the survivor that you respect his or her experiences rather than following your personal feelings. For example, if a youth refers to the person trafficking her as her boyfriend, you should also refer to him as her boyfriend. Vilifying him or calling him a trafficker will only create distance between you and the youth rather than trust.

Core Values of Trauma-Informed Care	Example
Safety	A youth comes to a drop-in center. A staff member warmly greets the youth, offers to show her around, and introduces her to other staff and youth. The worker tells the youth about the services offered and invites her to stay for their evening program. The staff member gives the youth the program's phone number so she can call the program later if she wants to.
Choice	A boy disclosed a CSEC situation to his case worker. The worker reminds the youth of their first conversation when she explained her duties as a mandated reporter. She informs the youth that she is obligated to notify police about what the youth disclosed, and that law enforcement might investigate the situation. The case worker tells the youth that he is able to speak to law enforcement if he would like to, but she does not force him to.
Empowerment	A youth is in need of a job but doesn't know how to find one. While the youth listens, the case manager calls a local business to ask whether they are hiring and if there are any minimum qualifications for the position. The case manager invites the youth to practice making a similar call to another business while she listens in order to provide tips and encouragement.
Collaboration	A youth who has been trafficked and is living in a group home is invited to participate in a team meeting to discuss his permanency options. The youth is asked who he wants to consider as a permanency resource. The team researches that connection.
Trust	After a youth discloses having been trafficked, the therapist thanks the youth for sharing her story and validates her emotions. The therapist explains to the youth that she can continue talking about her experiences, or they can take a break and the youth can choose to talk about it at another time. The therapist helps the youth practice grounding exercises she can use when she feels overwhelmed.[10]

[10] Harris, M. & Fallot, R. D. (2001). *New directions for mental health services: Using trauma theory to design service systems*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Trauma-Informed Care in Screening for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Trafficking

Survivors of human trafficking require trauma-informed care. Trauma-informed care recognizes the impact of traumatic experiences (specifically violence and abuse) on an individual's life, behavior, and self-perception. Trauma-informed care recognizes the strengths and culture of the youth and works to prevent re-traumatizing him or her as he or she navigates the system of care.

In order to provide trauma-informed care, service providers and child welfare workers must understand trauma and its impact and believe that recovery is possible.[11]

Trauma-informed programs recognize:

- A survivor's need to be respected, informed, connected, and hopeful regarding his or her own recovery
- The interrelation between trauma and symptoms of trauma (for example, substance abuse, depression, and anxiety)
- The need to work collaboratively with survivors, non-offending family and friends of the survivor, and other human services agencies
- The need to have agency policies and protocols that support the five core principles of trauma-informed care

When engaging with potential survivors, child serving professionals need to communicate that youth:

- Are the experts in keeping themselves safe.
- Are the expert on themselves.
- Have rights.
- Are crime victims, not criminals.
- Are entitled to assistance—and that your program can help them access it.
- Should be able to make their own decisions about what will happen to them. Communicate that what happened to them was wrong and your organization will do its best to meet their needs.[12]

[11] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). Trauma-informed care in behavioral health services. *Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series 57.* HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4801. Rockville, MD.

[12] Douglas, V. (2014, Nov. 18). Anti-human trafficking outreach and engagement. [PowerPoint slides]. Albany, NY: The Center for Youth Services.

Language Do's and Don'ts When Working with Trafficking Survivors

Do's	Don'ts	Why?
We will do everything we can to keep you safe.	You are safe now.	Your definition of safe may vary from theirs. You cannot guarantee that they will be safe; a broken promise can negatively affect your relationship.
We are here because we want to help you.	No one here will hurt you.	Although your intention is not to hurt the youth, he or she may perceive an interaction or something you say as hurtful. You don't want to promise this as you do not know if/when the youth will perceive hurt.
We are here because we want to help you. We will do our best to meet your needs.	We can fix your problems.	You may not be able to meet the needs of the survivor, so don't make promises you can't keep. You may report the crime and nothing may come of it. You may not have the capacity to provide services for all of the needs he or she identifies. It is important to be transparent about your role, and what you can and cannot do.
The people who hurt you violated your rights; you did not deserve what happened to you.	You are a victim, not a criminal.	It is not helpful to label the individual. He or she may not identify as a victim and someone in the past may have considered he or she a criminal so this can be confusing. It is important to explain what happened to the youth in a rights-based way.
We'll build trust together.	You can trust me.	Victims of trafficking have been lied to many times. It might be hard for them to know whom to trust. To demonstrate that you can be trusted, be consistent, keep their information confidential, and be clear and honest about expectations and your role.
Is there anyone you know who might need help?	We want to make sure what happened to you does not happen to anyone else.	Rather than cause a victim to feel responsible for the potential victimization of others, ask him or her if he knows other youth who may need services. Survivors should not be manipulated to provide information when they are unwilling to do so. [13]

[13] Jenkins, D. (2014, Jan.). Chart by Midwest Regional Service Coordinator for the Northern Tier Anti-Trafficking Consortium at Heartland Alliance. [PDF manual emailed to train-the-train participants]. *Train-the-Trainer Manual*. Cook County, IL: Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Training Subcommittee. 26.

Trauma Bonds

Due to the nature of the crime, survivors of trafficking may have trauma bonds with their trafficker. They may believe that their trafficker loves them or is looking out for them. Survivors may to want to protect their trafficker. This can cause them to be reluctant to answer questions or to experience intense anxiety when discussing their trafficking situation. Check in with youth before and during a conversation about how they are feeling, and don't force them to answer questions if they are uncomfortable. Consult a mental health professional if the youth is suffering from acute trauma symptoms.

Screening and Interviewing

A case manager is working with a 14-year-old girl whom she suspects is experiencing CSEC. The teen leaves home frequently. Her mother's friend sees her going in and out of a home where many teens hang out. She is seen arguing in public with a 23-year-old man. When the girl returns to the program, the case manager tells her she is concerned for her safety and asks if she can ask her a few questions about her experiences. The teen agrees and the case manager administers the OCFS Child Trafficking Initial Interview Tool.

Screening, assessing, and interviewing are unique techniques to explore an issue with youth in order to tailor specialized services to their needs.

	Purpose	When should it be done?	Who should do it?
Screening	A standardized process using appropriate instruments to evaluate if a youth might be a survivor of trafficking and is therefore in need of services	Incorporate into the regular history-taking processes when working with youth, whether or not the youth is believed to be a survivor of human trafficking. Screening should not be done before a youth's basic needs (food, clothing, sleep, etc.) have been met. For information about required screening please refer to OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy.	All agencies that have contact with vulnerable youth
Assessment	An evaluation of a youth's (and possibly his or her family's) needs, goals, strengths and safety concerns to guide case planning and service provision	Should be completed during engagement to draft an initial service plan and revisited periodically throughout a youth's case life.	Direct service providers and case managers
Interview	If necessary based on the screening and assessment, an interview may be conducted to determine whether the youth may be a crime victim. Forensic interviews should be used for this purpose whenever possible. *Note: All questions asked of potential survivors should have a clear purpose; questions should never be asked solely out of curiosity.*	Should be done as soon as possible once trafficking is suspected, but not until the potential survivor is safe and ready to answer challenging questions. This can vary based on the trauma history of each survivor. Multidisciplinary teams should make determinations on a case-by-case basis.	Forensic interviews should only be completed by professionals trained in youth-focused forensic interviewing in a Child Advocacy Center (or other youth-friendly environment).

Screening

Several screening tools exist to aid in the screening of potentially trafficked youth. For information on these tools refer to ***Tools: Available Screening Tools to Identify Child Trafficking and CSEC (page 48)***.

When to Screen Youth for Trafficking and CSEC

- Screening should be incorporated into the regular history-taking processes when working with youth. Screening should be administered whether or not the youth is believed to be a survivor of human trafficking.
- Since each agency's intake process is unique, agencies should determine how to best integrate the screening process with their other intake forms or procedures.[14]
- Screening should not occur until a youth has all of his or her basic needs met, including sleep, food, appropriate clothing, and medical care.[15,16]
- For youth in the care, custody, or supervision of the LDSS or OCFS, please consult OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy.

For guidance on how and where to screen youth for trafficking or CSEC refer to ***Establishing Rapport (page 10).***

TAKE ACTION: Only Ask What You Need to Know

Do not ask potential survivors about their trafficking or CSEC experience(s) unless the questions relate directly to your service provision or providing a referral. **Never** ask questions about a trafficking situation out of curiosity. Allow professionals trained in forensic interviewing, such as those at your local Child Advocacy Center, to interview youth for the necessary details of their situation.

Do:	Do Not:
Be very aware of your non-verbals/body language	Judge
Acknowledge that sometimes the options available seem bad	Give advice
Offer access to law enforcement[17]	Lecture
Support their decisions	Make them responsible for other people's safety
Acknowledge that they have the right to make their own decisions and life choices	Make promises you cannot keep
Offer services that are available and accessible	Judge
Validate, validate, validate!	Give advice[18]

[14] For guidance and requirements replaced to Public Law 113-183 please refer to OCFS' Administrative Directives, which can be accessed at ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/

[15] International Organization for Migration. (2007). *The IOM handbook on direct assistance for victims of trafficking.* Geneva, Switzerland: International Organization for Migration.

[16] Vera Institute of Justice. (2014). *Screening for human trafficking: Guidelines for administering the trafficking victim identification tool (TVIT).* New York, NY: Vera Institute of Justice.

[17] Do not force youth to cooperate with law enforcement, even in instances where law enforcement must be notified of a youth by law. For guidance on when law enforcement must be notified of a a youth, please refer to OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy. and ***Working with Law Enforcement (page 37).***

[18] Douglas, V. (2014, Nov. 18). Anti-human trafficking outreach and engagement. [PowerPoint slides]. Albany, NY: The Center for Youth Services.

Office of Children and Family Services Child Trafficking Initial Interview Tool (page 48)
OCFS developed the NYS Office of Children and Family Services Child Trafficking Initial Interview Tool for direct service providers and child welfare workers who need to quickly identify potential victims of CSEC and child trafficking. This tool was developed with the input of direct service providers from across the state. When used according to the accompanying instructions and protocol, the tool enables providers to identify potentially trafficked youth by asking 11 yes or no questions related to a youth's experiences with employment and sex.

Limitations of Screening Tools

- **Rapport is critical.** A tool can be helpful, but in order to truly learn about a youth's experiences it is most effective to engage them through ongoing conversation in which genuine concern for their safety and well-being is expressed.
- **Be aware of false negatives.** If a youth answers "no" to each screening question, this does **not** always mean that he or she has not been exploited—it may mean that he or she is not ready or able to disclose that information yet. Continue to engage and provide services to youth whether or not they disclose having been sexually exploited or trafficked.
- **Speak to the youth, not to the paper.** When using this tool (or any form) speak to the person in front of you, rather than to the paper. Make, and keep, eye contact. This will be more engaging and may increase the likelihood that the answers provided are accurate and complete.

Assessing

If screening the youth triggers some red flags that indicate possible trafficking or commercial exploitation, further assessment of the situation is needed. Assessment is a more in-depth dive into the youth's current or historical situation to determine his or her service needs. Assessment has to be done sensitively; be prepared to respond to identified needs with the appropriate services. Before completing an assessment, determine if the agency has an assessment protocol/tool/policy in place.

Interviewing

If the results of a screening or assessment raise concern that a youth has been trafficked, arrange for the youth to be interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer if possible. In this way the exploiter(s) can be held accountable with the smallest impact to the youth possible. Forensic interviews should ideally be conducted in a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) by a member of a multidisciplinary team (MDT). (For a list of Child Advocacy Centers in New York State refer to ***Appendix: Directory of New York State's Child Advocacy Centers (page 62.)***)

To prevent the youth from recanting or changing the story, the interview should take place as soon as possible after the suspicion of trafficking has been raised—but not before the youth is safe and ready to speak with an interviewer. Attempting to force a conversation when a youth is not willing to speak can be harmful to both the youth and the provider-client relationship.

Separate from a forensic interview, the youth should have access to a trained clinician (therapist, social worker, psychiatrist, etc.) to process his or her experience. When not a trained clinician and youth bring up a trafficking situation, continue to talk with the youth. If youth are comfortable talking, don't shut them down, but do encourage them to further discuss their situation with their social worker as well.

Service Response

Needs to Consider

Ina was trying to find a way to get to America to go to school. Her friend introduced her to a woman in the market who said she could help her go to school during the day and have a good-paying job cleaning an American family's home. The woman asked for $7,000 up front to arrange for Ina's transportation and a fake passport. When Ina arrived in the U.S., she was brought to a family that does not feed her much. She sleeps on the floor in the cold and dirty garage. She is not allowed to go to school and never has a break or day off from caring for the children, cooking, cleaning, and running errands. Her employers threaten with deportation if she complains. The family tells Ina she can leave after she repays her debt of $15,000. They add to the debt each day, claiming they are charging her for food and shelter. Ina fears for what her employers might do to her or her family if she escapes.

Youth survivors of sex and labor trafficking have diverse, intensive service needs. Although the following programs and services are likely considered when working with youth, survivors of trafficking and CSEC frequently need more intensive support in accessing and engaging with the following:

Food
- Food pantries
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits
- Women Infant and Children (WIC) benefits
- Educational programming on cooking and/or nutrition

Housing
- Crisis/emergency housing
- Longer term residential programming
- Runaway and homeless youth shelters and programming
- Domestic violence shelters
- Foster care
- Interim/transitional living programming
- Subsidized independent living

Clothing and Grooming
- Weather-appropriate clothing donations (facilitated by your program or externally)
- Guidance on appropriate clothing by setting (for example, for school, job interviews, court appearances, etc.)
- Bath and toiletry donations appropriate to the youth's ethnicity (facilitated by your program or externally)
- Hair care products, including shampoo, conditioner, weaves, and other hygienic products appropriate to the youth's ethnicity (facilitated by your program or externally)

Job Training
- Resume development programming
- Employment skill-building through programming or volunteer experience
- Summer youth employment programming
- Interview preparation and coaching
- Appropriate work attire coaching
- Job search and placement assistance

Mental Health Care
- Individual counseling
- Complex trauma-focused therapy
- Family reunification services (if appropriate)
- Family therapy (if appropriate)
- Healthy relationship education and programming
- Creative therapies (art therapy, poetry workshops, etc.)
- Meditation, yoga, and other practices for holistic health
- Group/peer led support groups

Legal Services
- Case coordination through a Child Advocacy Center or Multidisciplinary Team
- Immigration relief
- Family Court accompaniment and advocacy
- Criminal defense
- Civil litigation
- Conviction vacature
- Victim rights advocacy
- Assistance interacting with law enforcement
- Order of protection, no contact order
- Employment law advocacy

Healthcare
- OB-GYN services
- Sexually Transmitted Infection screening
- Dental care
- Family planning and contraceptive education and access
- Health insurance coverage
- HIV/AIDS treatment
- Tattoo removal
- Alcohol and drug treatment

Life Skills Development
- Peer education/peer support programming
- Normalcy programming, including recreation opportunities
- Healthy relationship and sexual education programming
- Media literacy programming
- Financial literacy programming
- Mentoring
- Programming to prepare youth for adulthood (workshops on how to find an apartment, how to do laundry, how to use public transportation, etc.)

Educational Services
- Home-based education (home schooling or tutoring)
- Social support when reintegrating into school setting
- Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC, formerly known as GED)
- Remedial learning opportunities and screening for developmental disabilities
- Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)
- College readiness programming
- Trade or vocational programming

LGBTQ-Friendly Services
- LGBTQ youth may require any of the services listed above. The services should be provided in an LGBTQ-affirming environment by professionals who are educated about and sensitive to the needs of LGBTQ youth.

This list is extensive but not exhaustive. Consider individuals on a case-by-case basis with areas of need potentially arising that may not be covered here. Allow the youth to express what he or she needs and wants, and where he or she is most comfortable accessing services. To learn more about how to support a survivor once service needs are identified see ***Case Management (page 25)***.

Experiencing trafficking or CSEC is only one aspect of a youth's life—remember to care for the whole person. Ask survivors about their interests, talents, and skills, as well as their service needs.

When assessing the needs of potential survivors consider the following dynamics:

- **Trauma Bonds—**Victims may have trauma bonds with their trafficker. For example, they may believe that their trafficker loves them or is looking out for them. This may lead them to want to protect their trafficker.
- **Families as Traffickers—**Be aware that the youth's caregiver or parent may also be the trafficker, or that the trafficker may lie and claim to be the youth's parent or caregiver. If a mandated reporter suspects that a parent, guardian, or person legally responsible for a child is abusing or otherwise maltreating the child he or she must call the Statewide Central Register (SCR).
- **Non-English Speakers—**If the potential victim does not speak fluent English, contact a trusted, independent interpreter. Ask the potential victim if it is okay to use an interpreter from his or her community. Sometimes victims may be less willing to share information if the interpreter represents their community. Do not use neighbors, friends or adults present at the scene to interpret. Once an interpreter arrives, ask the interpreter to provide verbatim interpretation and refrain from having side conversations with the survivor. Explain to the survivor the interpreter's role and the confidentiality of the conversation. Resources related to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) can be found on the OCFS website.
- **LGBTQ Youth—**Do not assume that all children and youth are heterosexual (straight) and/or gender-conforming (identify as their assigned birth gender). Similarly, do not assume that LGBTQ children and youth are identifiable by stereotypical habits, mannerisms, or behaviors. Use gender-neutral language with all youth to signal that you are a safe person to talk to (for example, 'are you dating anyone?' instead of 'do you have a boyfriend?'). Make sure to respect the survivor's privacy pertaining to his or her gender identity or sexual orientation, as this may not have been disclosed to a parent or primary caretaker. Finally, be prepared to offer the victim support or referrals to vetted LGBTQ resources in your area.

LGBTQ youth without strong support systems are exploited at a higher rate than their straight peers. Traffickers seek out vulnerable youth, including those who feel unwelcomed in their families, peer groups, and communities. Traffickers do not care about a victim's sexual orientation, and may force straight youth to have sex with people of the same gender or force gay youth to have sex with people of the opposite sex. This can cause an additional level of shame for youth, most notably straight boys who are forced to sell sex to men.

Even when provided with the best services available, a young person can find leaving a trafficking situation very challenging. Sometimes it proves difficult to leave because survivors have developed a trauma bond with their trafficker, or because they are used to "taking care of themselves." If youth return to their trafficking situation, remember that recovery from trafficking is a process—just like recovery from addiction or domestic violence. It doesn't mean you failed. Be patient with youth and be sure they know you will always welcome them back. When a youth returns, do not immediately interrogate him or her. Instead, welcome the youth back and make sure his or her basic needs (including safety, food, clothing, and medical care) are met. The relapse can be discussed once the individual is safe and settled.

Assessment and Safety Planning

Like victims of domestic violence, youth who have been exploited or trafficked will need a plan for their physical, psychological and emotional safety. During the assessment process, it is critical that the youth's safety is carefully considered. In cases where non-offending family members are involved, they may be included in the safety assessment and planning process, based on the agency's protocol and procedures.

An assessment of safety should be conducted at various points of case management, including:

- At initial contact with the youth
- During standard case planning meetings
- Before discharge[19]

Please note that in this handbook safety assessments and safety planning refer to youth-centered processes, not the requirements specific to child welfare workers.

Safety planning is an ongoing process, not a one-time event. A youth's safety should be assessed when he or she is considering leaving a trafficking situation, immediately after leaving, and periodically thereafter.

TAKE ACTION: Non-PLR Traffickers

Although some professionals are restricted to addressing safety concerns stemming from the youth's parent, guardian, or another person legally responsible (PLR), many traffickers do not have this relationship with their victims. When assessing risk, consider all adult relationships (as allowed by your organization's policies and protocol). If you have a safety concern and are unsure how it might be addressed, discuss this with your supervisor or contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.

[19] Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Program (ATP). (2004). Safety planning standards for trafficked and enslaved persons. [Word document shared via email]. Brooklyn, NY.

A successful safety plan will:

- Assess current and potential risks and safety concerns
- Create strategies for avoiding or reducing the threat of harm
- Outline actionable steps for a youth to take to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations[20]

Example items to consider including in a survivor's safety plan are listed below.

Threats against safety may be posed by:

- The trafficker(s)
- The trafficker's network, including other members of an organized crime network or gang
- Family members or friends who were complacent in the trafficking situation[21]

Safety may be threatened for:

- The youth/client
- The youth's family members or caretakers
- The service agency's staff[22]

TAKE ACTION: Imminent Danger

If there is an imminent threat to the youth's safety, call 9-1-1. Once the youth is stabilized, emergency shelter and other basic needs should be arranged as necessary and a safety assessment and plan can be completed.[23]

Example Questions to Ask When Developing a Safety Plan

- What can you do—anytime, anywhere—to help you remain calm when you feel stressed? *(Suggestions: count to 10, take deep breaths, tap your foot, listen to music, etc.)*
- Who can you call who will listen and support you when you feel upset? *(Suggestions: Non-offending family members, friends, staff at your program, a hotline, etc.)*
- Where are some safe places you can go if you feel threatened? *(Suggestions: A building with security staff like a bank, your program's office, school, library, police station, etc.)*

See ***Child Trafficking Safey Assessment Form (page 49)*** for a form to help conduct safety assessments with potentially trafficked youth. The tool can be adopted as-is or be adjusted to meet the agency's needs. Speak with a supervisor before introducing new tools into practice.

Just as no two youth are the same, no two safety plans will be identical. When working with a youth and non-offending family members to develop a safety plan, consider a variety of strategies for enhancing safety. These strategies should range from how a youth can regulate his or her emotions during times of stress (i.e. grounding exercises) to strategies for leaving a trafficker.

[20] National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC). (2011). *Safety Planning and Prevention*. Washington, DC: Polaris.

[21] Walts, K.K., French, S., Moore, H., & Ashai, S. (2011). *Building child welfare response to child trafficking.* Chicago, IL: Center for the Human Rights of Children and the International Organization for Adolescents.

[22] Walts et al. (2011).

[23] Walts et al. (2011).

TAKE ACTION: Speak to the Youth

When using forms to support your work with youth, speak to the youth in front of you, not to the paper. Making eye contact will be more engaging and increase the likelihood that the answers provided are accurate and complete.

Safety Strategies for Survivors Leaving a Trafficking Situation

- If in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.
- Plan an escape route or exit strategy—and rehearse it, if possible.
- Keep any important documents with you in preparation for an immediate departure.
- Prepare a bag with any important documents/items and a change of clothes.
- Contact trusted friends or relatives to notify them or ask for assistance.
- Contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (1-888-373-7888) to obtain local referrals for shelter or other social services.[24]

Safety Strategies for Survivors Who Have Left a Trafficking Situation

- Vary travel habits and daily routine.
- Consider taking out a protective order against the trafficker so he or she is legally prohibited from contacting you.
- Keep any court documents and emergency numbers with you in case of emergency.
- Avoid visiting the same places or cultural communities the trafficker frequents.
- Consider changing phone numbers so the trafficker cannot call or text you. Consider changing your username on social media and changing the image to something he or she won't recognize.
- Keep an emergency cell phone at all times.
- Let trusted family/friends/coworkers know where you are going, when you expect to arrive, and when you expect to return home.[25]

TAKE ACTION: Engaging Youth

Remember to orient the youth to your agency by introducing them to relevant staff and showing them around. This will help them feel safe in the present as you develop safety plans for the future. Encourage them to contact you with safety concerns, but do not make promises you can't keep (such as, "I will keep you safe.").

[24] National Human Trafficking Resource Center. (2011).

[25] Adapted from ATP. (2004).

Working with trafficked youth can pose risks to agencies and their staff.

Safety Strategies for Staff

- Make your agency's location confidential, if appropriate (shelters, group homes, or other residential facilities). If possible, do not list your agency's address on your website or identify your building with signs.
- Keep your direct number or extension confidential.
- Block your office and cell phone numbers from being displayed when making outgoing calls.
- If your youth is based in the same area as the trafficker, see the youth in a space away from this region.
- If you meet with your youth in the community, meet in a public space as appropriate.
- Use rental cars for youth-related travel when necessary so that vehicles cannot be traced to the organization, staff, or survivor.
- If you work in the community or conduct home visits, tell a colleague where you are going and when you expect to be back. Carry a cell phone when working in the community.
- If you are going to a location or home that is known for violent activity, consider a law enforcement escort, if necessary and appropriate.
- Avoid publicity and media. Public attention can compromise staff and youth safety, and can hinder ongoing investigations by law enforcement.[26]

Case Management

Mario, a 16-year old boy, receives case management services from a community-based program. During the first meeting, the case manager asked Mario about his basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, safety), and what he feels he needs to be successful. Mario says he wants help finding a job, but the case manager knows he should be going to school. They talk about his difficulties with school. The case manager tells him about programs to get a GED at night so he can work during the day. The case manager introduces him to a worker at a vocational skills program so he can develop job readiness skills.

As with other forms of case management, case management for survivors of CSEC and human trafficking depends on the provider and youth partnering to:

- Assess the youth's needs
- Define desired outcomes
- Obtain necessary services, treatments, and supports
- Manage crises[27]

[26] Adapted from ATP. (2004.)

[27] National Association of Case Management (NACM). (2014). NACM definition of case management and service coordination.

In addition to the case management you already provide, incorporate the following when working with trafficked or exploited youth:

- Establish a trusting relationship with the youth.
- Educate the survivor about his or her rights as a victim of crime.
- Liaise with law enforcement as necessary.
- Establish safety plans for the survivor and staff.
- Explain the legal protections and entitlements available to youth survivors of trafficking.

Although important in all case management relationships, these points are especially critical when working with young survivors of trafficking:

- Consider power dynamics (gender, age, race, profession, etc.).
- Introduce yourself, explaining your role and your relationship to the youth, including what you can and cannot do.
- Avoid victim-blaming attitudes, statements, and body language.
- Avoid reactions that convey judgment, disdain, or disgust.
- Be a consistent source of support throughout the process of recovery, despite possible setbacks that may occur.
- Maintain cultural humility by educating yourself about the culture and beliefs of youth and displaying a willingness to learn more.

A number of survivors of CSEC and human trafficking have gone on to create or inform service provision for other survivors. Service providers and child welfare workers should partner with local survivor-led or survivor-informed organizations when developing their internal response to child trafficking.

TAKE ACTION: Trauma-Informed Care

Above all, the need for trauma-informed care supersedes. Whether or not specialized services in anti-trafficking or CSEC services are available, staff should adhere to the standards of trauma-informed care to allow for survivor self-determination and choice in their healing and recovery.

Making Appropriate Referrals

Useful Resources for Trafficking Survivors

- Local organizations specializing in services for survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault
- Child Advocacy Centers (CACs)
- Immigrant and refugee organizations
- Health services (general practice, reproductive health, hospital services, etc.)
- Mental health services (in-patient, outpatient, and crisis stabilization)
- Counseling services and trauma-focused therapy
- Housing (short term, long term, and transitional)
- Legal services
- Immigration services
- Services provided by home country's embassy
- Translation services
- Faith-based community support
- Educational and/or vocational training
- Social service navigators and advocates
- Peer support groups
- LGBTQ services

When a referral needs to be made, practitioners should first consider the particular expertise of other agencies in the community. Youth rely on service providers and child welfare workers to be competent, and they will need to trust that this new agency will be able to meet their needs. In order to prevent causing more harm to a youth, it is important to vet other agencies before making a referral.

Consider the agency's:

- Awareness and experience around commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking
- Level of professionalism and quality of care
- Non-discrimination policies and cultural sensitivity
- Confidentiality policies
- Procedures for obtaining informed consent
- Security and safety of the agency location and premises
- Language capacity
- Experience with trauma-informed care
- LGBTQ services
- Location and accessibility

TAKE ACTION: Youth Hesitation

If a youth seems hesitant about a particular referral, explore this. It may be that the youth is fearful about the location of the service provider or has transportation issues. Perhaps the youth has received services from this provider before and it didn't go well, or maybe he or she has heard rumors about this provider. Allow youth the space to explore these concerns rather than forcing him or her into accepting a referral. Remember—youth know what they need more than we do!

It is not uncommon for systems to encounter a youth more than once. The recovery process is different for each individual, and some will need more support or time than others. Don't allow frustration with a youth's seemingly slow recovery to prevent you from taking all of these steps in making a referral, or from believing that recovery is possible. It is critical that you believe a youth can and will succeed each and every time they interact with your services. Each person needs the space to grow as he or she is ready, and the support of agencies like yours throughout the entire recovery process.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) operates a National Contacts Referral Database, containing more than 3,000 unique contacts for anti-trafficking practitioners and organizations in the field. Access this list to see select referrals in specific regions across New York State. This list is not exhaustive. ***Call 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733)*** *for direct assistance from an NHTRC representative.*

TAKE ACTION: Making a Referral

When a referral is in the best interest of a youth, take the following steps:

- Identify youth needs that cannot be met through your agency or would be better met through specialized service provision elsewhere.
- Find trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services by reaching out to local anti-trafficking task forces and coalitions who provide services to survivors of child trafficking or CSEC.
- Ask new contacts for details about their experience and service options. Contact the provider in the presence of the youth so that he or she can ask questions.
- Discuss each referral option with the youth. Weigh each option with the youth, giving consideration to any potential safety risks.
- Establish contact with a representative from the agency chosen by the youth who has familiarity with trauma and child trafficking or CSEC.
- Provide information on the youth's need, special considerations in relation to the trauma he or she has already experienced, and any relevant paperwork that the service provider will require to offer services.
- Visit the agency with the youth before arranging services. This is called a **"warm hand-off."**
- Continue to escort the youth to appointments if youth so desires.

Sometimes making an appropriate referral is not possible or is not in the youth's best interest because the situation is unsafe, the survivor refuses to be referred, or because the necessary services are not available in your locality.

TAKE ACTION: When a Referral Will *Not* be Made

- Maximize your impact on the survivor at each encounter. Offer empathetic support and aim to meet his or her basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, safety) whenever possible.
- Provide information about the crime of trafficking, available support services, including hotline numbers, and information on whom to call in the future should the youth decide to access services later.[28,29]

Serving Young Survivors Through Child Advocacy Centers (CACs)

In many communities, the professionals who are charged with responding to instances of child sexual abuse will be the same people poised to identify and respond to youth sex trafficking or the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Because of the similar dynamics between child sex abuse and child trafficking, it is recommended that localities build on existing Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) frameworks to provide a central point of intervention for suspected survivors of youth trafficking.

[28] NACM. (2014).

[29] Zimmerman, C. & Watts, C. (2003). *WHO ethical and safety recommendations for interviewing trafficked women*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization.

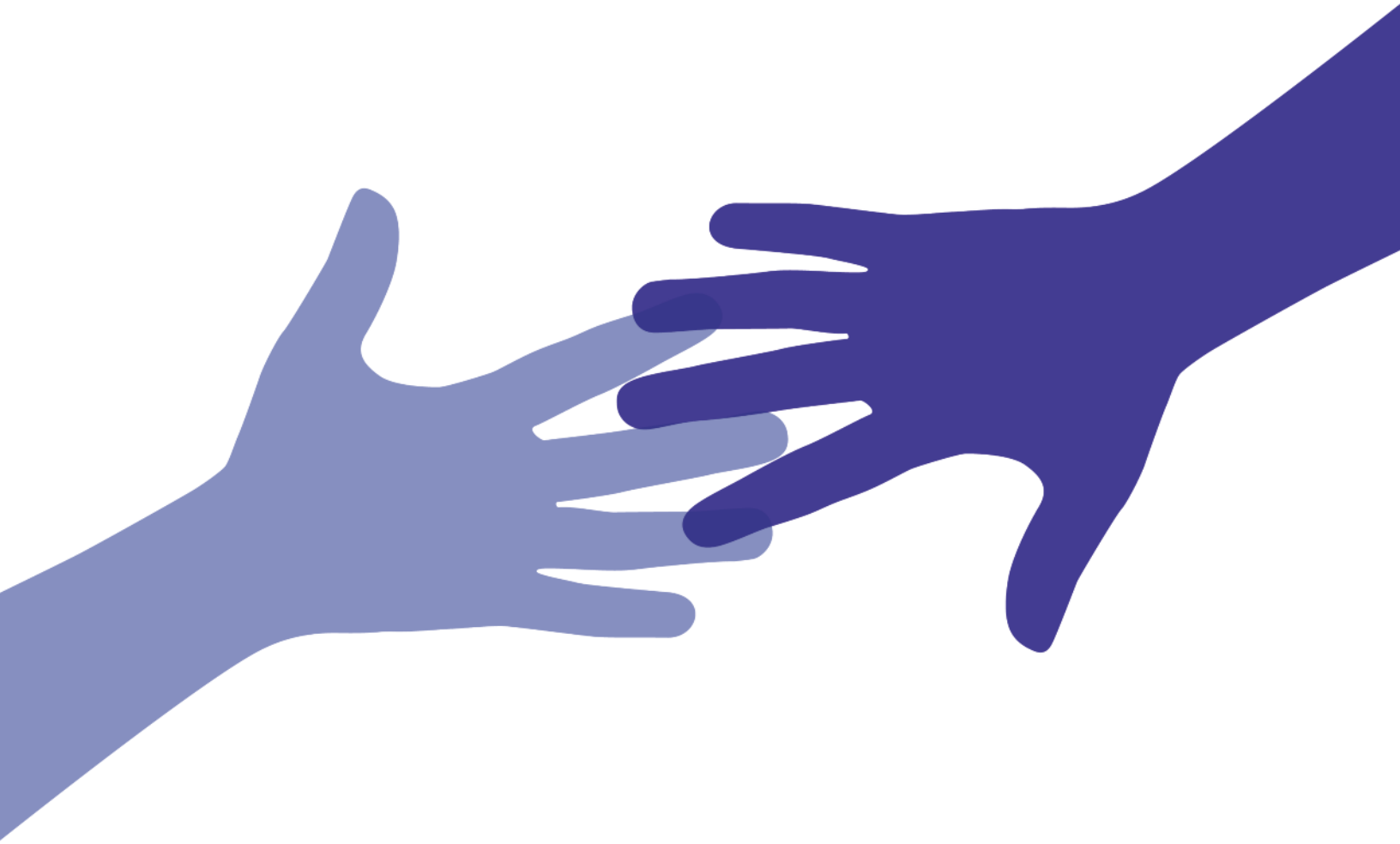
Potential advantages to using existing CACs to organize improved responses to sex trafficking of minors include:

- Access to an established, extensive network of CACs and other supports throughout the United States
- The availability of specially trained professionals who can provide youth forensic interviews medical care and evaluations, mental health services, and victim advocacy
- The ability of CACs to innovate and develop services responsive to local needs[30]

Recognized benefits of proficient CACs or MDTs include:

- Less "system-inflicted" trauma to youth and families
- More comprehensive investigations, interventions, and service provision
- More efficient use of limited agency resources
- Involvement of professionals with significant cross-discipline experience and training
- Less burnout among professionals[31]

For a list of CACs in New York State refer to ***Appendix: Directory of New York State's Child Advocacy Centers (page 62)***.



[30] Clayton, E., Krugman, R., & Simon, P. (Eds.) (2013). *Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

[31] Ells, M. (2000). *Forming a multidisciplinary team to investigate child abuse*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Addressing Absence from Care

Rayna gets into a fight with another youth at her group home when the other youth calls her a 'ho.' After the fight breaks up Rayna grabs her bag and leaves. The staff calls local police and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to report her as a missing person. The police find Rayna three days later and bring her back to the program. Staff meets her at the door with a smile and tells her how glad they are to see her. They offer her a hot meal and a shower. Once she's settled in, staff asks her where she's been and how she took care of herself while she was gone. The child welfare worker emphasizes that they aren't there to get her into trouble, only that they are concerned for her safety. They review Rayna's safety plan for the next time she gets upset. The worker then informs the police, NCMEC, and the LDSS that Rayna has returned.

Youth who are absent from care (formerly known as 'AWOL') are at high risk of becoming victims of trafficking.[32] For information about OCFS requirements related to youth who are absent, missing, or abducted, refer to OCFS' Protocols and Procedures for Locating and Responding to Children and Youth Missing from Foster Care and Non-Foster Care policy.

The following factors are known to contribute to a youth's decision to leave care:

- **Separation of youth from their siblings and/or their own children.**
- **Overly restrictive placements.** The more restrictive and punitive an individual placement is, the more likely it is that a youth will leave it compared to a similar program with more flexibility. While professionals often place youth in more restrictive settings to protect them, youth frequently experience new trauma as a result of being moved to more restrictive settings.
- **Untreated substance abuse**. Substance misuse is another common coping mechanism youth use to deal with trauma. When we remove one coping mechanism from a youth (like using a substance) they may adopt new ones (absenting from care).
- **Need for a healthy coping mechanism.** Some youth have learned that leaving home is the best response to a negative situation. When youth are used to leaving home they will need support from staff to develop safer and healthier coping mechanisms while in care.
- **Frustration with their lack of involvement or control over an assigned placement.** Youth who do not have adequate opportunities to provide input in their case planning, transition, and permanency planning are more likely to leave care.[33,34,35]

Prevention.

[32] U.K. Department for Education. (2014). Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care.

[33] Behavioral Health and Welfare Program Institute for Juvenile Research. (2010). *Residential runaway risk assessment user guide.* Chicago, IL: University of Illinois at Chicago.

[34] Thomson, N. (2014, Dec. 10). [Conference call].

[35] Day, A., & Riebschleger, J. (2007). Circumstances and suggestions of youth who run from out-of-home care. *The Michigan Child Welfare*

TAKE ACTION: Addressing Absence from Care

When working with youth at high risk of absence from care:

- Give youth an active role in their case planning. When youth are engaged in their own treatment planning they have an increased sense of control over their lives.
- Support safe connections to non-offending family members. Youth are most successful when they have at least one consistent adult in their life.
- Acknowledge that youth might leave, even though you don't want them to. Be factual and non-threatening about what can happen if a youth does go absent. Help youth create safety plans for what to do if they do leave care and get into trouble.
- Create an environment where youth feel safe and supported. Youth need to feel physically and psychologically safe in their placements. Youth also need to feel that the adults in their environment genuinely care about their well-being and that their decisions and wishes are supported. Be friendly!
- Provide youth with leadership opportunities and responsibilities in placement and within their community. Young people who are contributing members of the community are less likely to exhibit rebellious and delinquent behavior and are more likely to learn how to effectively cope with their own challenges.
- Provide support, training, and supervision to front-line staff surrounding absence-from-care best practice. It will help them provide better services to youth and prevent staff burnout.
- Staff might perceive that they 'failed' when a youth leaves care. Staff need to be supported in not taking a youth's behaviors personally and knowing that an absence is not about them. Programs must accept the risk inherent in working with youth and stand behind their staff.
- If a youth goes absent once, or makes one bad decision, understand that the young person does not 'become' that one decision. Youth make mistakes—it's part of the normal maturing process.
- Be happy when a youth returns after absence. Showing the youth that you're happy she or he is back helps to build healthy relationships and strong connections.
- Don't make the youth less safe by taking shoes or coats to block them from leaving. Youth have the right to their belongings, and keeping these items does not effectively prevent absence from care. Traffickers are also known to target youth without coats, shoes, and other necessities.
- If a youth's bed is filled when they return from absence, state this in a neutral way. Let the youth know that the bed was reassigned not as a punishment, but because another youth needed a safe place.[36,37,38,39]

Responding to Recruitment [40]

Staff at a program for survivors of sexual abuse and CSEC notice that one of the survivors, Shauna, is spending a lot of one-on-one time with other teens in the program. She is frequently asking other survivors for their phone numbers and to follow her on Instagram. Another survivor tells a counselor that Shauna invited her to skip school and go to a party with Shauna and her boyfriend. The program staff hold a meeting to discuss how they can continue to offer Shauna services without putting the other youth in jeopardy.

Law Journal, Fall, 20-30.

[36] Shared Hope International, ECPAT-USA & John Hopkins University. (2013). *National colloquium 2012 final report: An inventory and evaluation of the current shelter and services response to domestic minor sex trafficking.*

[37] Finkelstein, M., Wamsley, M., Currie, D., & Miranda, D. (2004). *Youth who chronically AWOL from foster care: Why they run, where they go, and what can be done*. New York: Vera Institute.

[38] Day & Riebschleger. (2007).

[39] Thomson. (2014, Dec. 10).

[40] Recruitment is used in this context to describe instances when youth entice other youth to enter a trafficking situation. Some youth recruit

While it is important to be sensitive to the needs and traumas of all youth receiving services, programming should not allow some youth to harm or potentially victimize others.

To view a sample recruitment policy that can be adapted and adopted by youth-serving agencies, refer to ***Tool: Sample Recruitment Policy.***

Traffickers often recruit vulnerable youth from residential facilities and other youth-serving programs by loitering nearby or sending youth in to recruit on their behalf.

General safety measures programs implement to limit recruitment:

- Locating the program away from areas known for street prostitution
- Building relationships with local law enforcement to address current or future safety concerns
- Maintaining confidential locations with unpublished addresses and unmarked buildings
- Gating or enclosing the property
- Maintaining 24-hour staff
- Installing security monitoring systems
- Allowing youth only limited internet access
- Screening phone calls and limiting the cell phone use of youth
- Locking entrance doors to the facility and requiring screening of all visitors[41]

Preventative Measures to Avoid Recruitment in Programming

- Separate youth based on stage of recovery. Separation can help prevent those who are most vulnerable to recruitment from being victimized by youth who are not yet engaged in services or ready to leave their situation.
- Educate all youth in programming about trafficking and CSEC.
- Educate parents and other youth caregivers about CSEC and trafficking, what steps to take if they suspect a youth is being exploited, and how to prevent the victimization of youth.[42]

TAKE ACTION: Addressing Recruitment

- When a youth is suspected of trying to recruit another youth, staff members should not allow them to be alone with others in the program.[43]
- Youth who are consistently causing safety concerns (including recruitment) should be considered for removal from the program and served elsewhere, either in another program or in the community.[44]

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others of their own volition while others are forced to recruit other youth by a trafficker.

[41] Reichert, J. & Sylwestrzak, A. (2013). *National survey of residential programs for victims of sex trafficking.* Chicago, IL: The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

[42] Walker, K. (2013). *Ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children: A call for multi-system collaboration in California*. CA: California Child Welfare Council.

[43] National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth (NCFY). (2012). Creating a safe place for trafficked youth in runaway and homeless youth programs.

[44] Thomson, S., Hirshberg, D., Corbett, A., Valila, N., & Howley, D. (2011). Residential treatment for sexually exploited adolescent girls: Acknowledge, Commit, Transform (ACT). *Children and Youth*

Trauma-Informed Care in Providing Services to Trafficked Youth

> *Matt has been in care and receiving services for CSEC for the past six months. At first, he was distant and uncooperative. Just when his case worker felt like they were beginning to build a connection, Matt would leave. Sometimes, while Matt was absent from care, he would call his case worker to "just talk." He wouldn't tell the case worker where he was, but he said that he was safe and he'd come back when he was ready. Even though his case worker was very concerned for Matt's safety, she always accepted his phone calls, told him she was happy to hear from him, and encouraged him to return to the program.*

Sometimes, the service systems that exist to protect youth from harm are instead re-traumatizing. Rather than asking "what's wrong with this person?" ask "what happened to this person?" This shift in thinking will create an approach that is more trauma-informed. Trauma-informed care is not designed to treat a specific trauma, but to provide services in such a way that youth feel safer, accepted, and understood.[45]

When providing trauma-informed care to trafficking survivors, professionals should:

- Understand the impact of violence and victimization on the youth's development
- Note the process of recovery from trauma as a primary goal
- Implement an empowerment model
- Highlight the youth's right to self-determination in his or her recovery process
- Emphasize the youth's strength and resilience
- Recognize cultural uniqueness specific to youth
- Involve youth in a collaborative relationship[46]

Leaving an exploitative situation can take years filled with many ups and downs. Focusing on the small, daily successes empowers youth and allows service providers, child welfare workers, and systems to view them as resilient, rather than somehow deficient.

Examples of "small" successes:

- A night spent in a safe, warm bed
- Attending a scheduled appointment
- Any time a youth asks for help or recognizes a need
- Any contact made by youth to a provider while absent from care
- Any time youth know that they can return to services and that they will be welcomed back[47]

Services Review, 33(11), 2290-2296.

[45] Center for Youth Services. (2014).

[46] Elliott, D.E., Bjelajac, P., Fallot, R.D., Markoff, L.S., & Reed, B.G. (2005, July). Trauma-informed or trauma-denied: Principle and implementation of trauma-informed services for women. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 33:4, 461- 477. doi: 10.1002/jcop.20063

Legal Protections and Advocacy

This section provides introductory information on the basic legal needs of young survivors of CSEC and trafficking. For more detailed information and guidance, please refer to the ***Reference List (page 68)***.

Victim-Centered Approach

> *After months of engagement, Joanna discloses to her case manager that a week ago she had sex with a man so she could sleep on his couch. The case manager is concerned for Joanna and offers to take her to an OB-GYN exam to check for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. Joanna says she doesn't want to talk to a doctor, but she does want help finding a job. The case manager helps Joanna look for a job-readiness program and continues to offer her medical assistance each time they meet. After a few more meetings, Joanna agrees to see a doctor if her case manager comes with her.*

Federal legislation requires—and New York State supports—using a "victim-centered" approach when responding to survivors of CSEC and human trafficking. Federal law provides that "victims of trafficking should not be inappropriately incarcerated, fined, or otherwise penalized solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked."[48] The movement of CSEC and child trafficking victims from the criminal justice sector to the child welfare system is the intent of the Safe Harbour Act, which requires that minors involved in CSEC are to be treated as victims of a severe crime rather than criminals. A victim-centered approach can also be realized by providing services to survivors, whether or not there is an active criminal investigation against their trafficker(s).

TAKE ACTION: Required Reporting

Under state law,[49] law enforcement agencies and District Attorney's offices are **required** to notify OTDA and DCJS when a person reasonably appears to be a human trafficking victim. Social service and legal service providers are also required to make this same notification with consent from the victim (see ***Confirmation (page 38)***. Additional notification requirements for identified survivors of sex trafficking in the care, custody, or supervision of OCFS, LDSS, and Voluntary Agencies are outlined in OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy.

[47] Center for Youth Services. (2014).

[48] Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2008, Sec. 102(a)(19).

Basic Needs Assistance

Victims of CSEC and underage sex trafficking may have access to the following gender-sensitive services:

- Crisis intervention services
- Provision of basic needs, including food, clothing, and medical care
- Short-term safe housing
- Long-term safe housing
- Educational and vocational counseling
- Legal services[50]

In addition, New York State's 2007 anti-trafficking law states that survivors of sex or labor trafficking must have access to a number of services, which may include:

- Access to case management services
- Emergency temporary housing assistance
- Health care
- Mental health counseling
- Legal services
- Drug addiction screening and treatment
- Language interpretation and translation services
- English language instruction
- Job training and job placement assistance
- Relocation and/or connection to originating county or state (through LDSS or Interstate Compact)

The *Trafficking Victim Protection Act* (TVPA) allows access for all U.S.-citizen victims and non-U.S.-citizen victims of trafficking to:

- Information about their case
- Legal representation
- Due process
- Medical attention
- Appropriate social services
- Compensation for damages
- Repatriation (safe return home for foreign victims)
- Seeking residence (stay in the United States for foreign victims)[51]

[49] NYS SSL 483-cc

[50] N.Y.S. Title 8-A § 447B

__All__ youth under 18 years old who are victims of sex or labor trafficking are protected by state and federal anti-trafficking laws.

Special Considerations for Foreign-Born Victims

In addition to getting their basic needs met, foreign-born survivors may also need to secure their immigration status.

A number of protections may be available to foreign-born survivors of CSEC and human trafficking, such as:

- Continued Presence
- T-Nonimmigrant Status (T-Visa)
- U-Nonimmigrant Status (U-Visa)
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioning and cancellation of removal
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)[52]

Survivors of CSEC and youth trafficking may also benefit from Federal Certification and the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program. For more information see the ***Appendix: Glossary of Youth Trafficking Terms (page 57)***.

Traffickers do not need to be charged or convicted of human trafficking crimes for victims to receive appropriate protections and services. It is not uncommon for trafficking perpetrators to a) plead to lesser charges, b) be prosecuted for non-trafficking charges, or c) be investigated but not pursued fully in the criminal justice system (due to lack of evidence or resources, or for a variety of other reasons). Survivors of human trafficking are still entitled to social services, medical attention, legal advocacy, and immigration relief as applicable.

Avoid common mistakes made by service providers and child welfare workers, lawyers, and law enforcement.

- Do not arrest or process a minor (under the age of 18) as a "juvenile prostitute."
- Do not distinguish between younger children and older teens—they are "equally victims" under state and federal law.
- Do not disregard non-U.S. citizen victims of trafficking because of unauthorized entry or dismiss their rights because they are perceived merely as "illegal aliens."

[51] TVPA. (2000).

[52] New York State Office of Children and Family Services. (2011). Administrative directive on special immigrant juvenile status.

Working with Law Enforcement

After several weeks of meeting with her case worker, Sherri begins to talk about "the game," her "daddy," working for her boyfriend, and frequently staying in hotels. The case worker recognizes red flags of trafficking in what Sherri is saying. She reminds Sherri about the first conversation they ever had, when she had explained to Sherri that everything Sherri says is confidential unless she talks about posing a threat to herself or others because she is a mandated reporter. The case worker explains that she is concerned about some of the things Sherri said, and that she is required to ask her a few questions. The worker administers the OCFS Initial Trafficking Interview Tool for Youth, which indicates that Sherri is likely experiencing sex trafficking. The worker explains to Sherri that she is required by law to notify law enforcement that Sherri may be experiencing human trafficking. She says that she cannot promise what will happen or not happen after law enforcement is notified, but that Sherri is not required to do anything – she is not required to see or talk to law enforcement unless she wants to. The case worker tells Sherri that they can continue to talk about what Sherri is experiencing, if Sherri wants to. The case worker then refers to OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy and completes forms OCFS-3920 and OCFS-3921. That day, the worker makes a law enforcement notification using form OCFS-3922.

Take Action

Under Public Law 113-183, local departments of social services (LDSS) and voluntary authorized agencies are required to report identified survivors of child sex trafficking to law enforcement within 24 hours of identification. This notification is made by completing the Law Enforcement Report of a Child Sex Trafficking Victim form (OCFS-3922). For further guidance on required reporting and required action should a youth disclose a CSEC or child trafficking situation, refer to OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy. Service providers and child welfare workers who are not required to make this report per the policy are encouraged to discuss with youth whether or not they wish to engage with law enforcement.

Service providers and child welfare workers should not make promises to youth about what will or will not happen once law enforcement has been notified. Although federal law requires LDSS and voluntary authorized agencies to report identified cases of child sex trafficking to law enforcement, youth are not required to communicate with law enforcement should communication be requested as a result of the notification.

Workers are encouraged to explore with youth the possible pros and cons of working with law enforcement, and to support youth in talking to law enforcement when the youth decides to do so. The use of victim advocates (like those available at Child Advocacy Centers) can be especially helpful in this process. (For a list of Child Advocacy Centers in New York State refer to ***Appendix: Directory of New York State's Child Advocacy Centers (page 62)***.)

Partnering with law enforcement can be a new and sometimes challenging experience for some service providers and child welfare workers. Tips from these professionals and law enforcement partners for how to approach this work include:

- Understand that law enforcement and service providers have the same overall goals – to eradicate trafficking and protect and support survivors.
- Appreciate that, even when the goals are the same, each group has a different mission and mandate. Both roles are necessary and equally important.
- There may be times when the groups' goals do conflict; this is normal and often temporary.
- Neither group should try to do the other's job.
- Explain to each other what you can and cannot do within your role. There are often misconceptions about what the other group is able to contribute to a case.
- Explain to each other how long processes can take. Generally, the law enforcement process is longer.
- Clearly define to each other your guidelines around confidentiality and information sharing. Each party has their own regulations to protect confidentiality, and these need to be respected. This is true even when it might hinder a case or prevent youth engagement. When you can safely share information, do.
- Establish protocol or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) if necessary. These documents can formalize the roles and responsibilities of each group as you work together on a case. They can be referred to and revised should conflict arise.
- Build relationships inside and out of the office before cases come up. Formal gatherings like Task Force meetings and informal gatherings like lunch or happy hour build rapport and trust.
- Seek out cross-training opportunities to build mutual understanding.
- Understand that no one is perfect and everyone makes mistakes. Tension is not uncommon but it will pass.
- Do not take work challenges personally – everyone is learning together.

Developing partnerships with law enforcement personnel and agencies at every level (local, county, state, and federal) has proven valuable for those agencies that enter the relationship with a strong willingness to work and learn together. Incorporating trauma-informed practices in the partnered response to survivors of child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation can benefit all of the partners and youth involved. For more information see ***Trauma-Informed Care In Providing Services to Trafficked Youth (page 33).***

Confirmation

A confirmation process was established under New York's 2007 anti-trafficking law to rapidly connect trafficking survivors with criminal relief and access to social services. This process is jointly administered by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

A referral of a potential trafficking victim for confirmation triggers a response involving a number of resources and referrals. Confirmation may be required for some adult victims of trafficking to receive services, however **confirmation is not required for minors to access social services** related to their trafficking situation. When minor victims are referred for confirmation, their Local Department of Social Services is notified.

For more information about the New York State Confirmation Process or for support in making a referral, contact:

- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) – Phone: 518-457-5837 or 1-800-262-3257; Email: InfoDCJS@dcjs.ny.gov
- The Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (BRIA) at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) – Phone: 518-402-3096; Email: bria.contact@otda.ny.gov
- OTDA & DCJS confidential fax number for confirmation forms: 518-485-9611

The Three-Level System

Three-Level Systems were developed independently of each other in Monroe and Westchester counties in 2013. These Three-Level Systems allow service providers and child welfare workers to screen, assess, track, and offer targeted services to victims of child trafficking. In Westchester County, this system was developed within the Child Protection system;[53] in Monroe County it was developed by a Runaway-Homeless Youth service provider. In 2015 OCFS used these models to create a statewide Three-Level System which is incorporated in OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy.

A teacher notices a student, Alex, has bruises she suspects were caused by an assault. She calls the Statewide Central Register (SCR) to make a report, and Alex is referred to Child Protective Services (CPS). During a conversation with her CPS worker, Alex talks about couch-surfing with friends and occasionally staying in hotels, despite not having an income. She is not able to provide the CPS worker a timeline of when she stays where. The worker also notes that Alex has an older boyfriend who accompanies her to every appointment.

The CPS worker notes his observations on the Rapid Indicator Tool to Identify Children Who May Be Sex Trafficking Victims or At Risk of Being a Sex Trafficking Victim (RIT). Because Alex has displayed at least one of the indicators on the RIT, the worker completes the Child Sex Trafficking Indicators Tool. It is determined that Alex exhibits high level indicators. Alex's CPS worker refers her to the local Child Advocacy Center/ Multi-Disciplinary Team (CAC/MDT) for consultation.

[53] The Westchester County Three-Level System was developed with support from Shared Hope International.

Levels [54]

The levels are progressive.

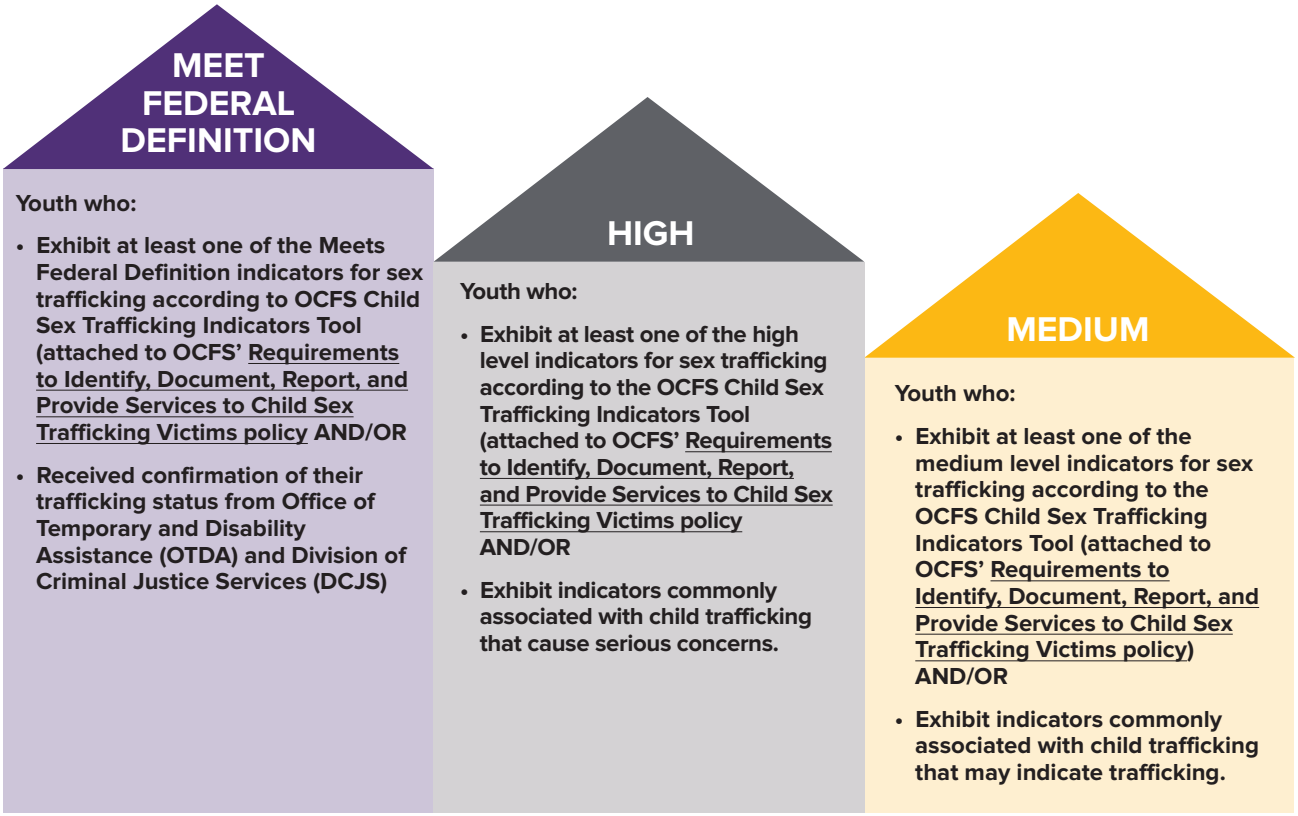
- **Meeting federal definition as child trafficking victim. Includes youth who:**
  - Exhibit at least one of the 'Meets Federal Definition' indicators for sex trafficking according to OCFS Child Sex Trafficking Indicators Tool (attached to OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy AND/OR
  - Received confirmation of their trafficking status from Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
- **High Level. Includes youth who:**
  - Exhibit at least one of the high level indicators for sex trafficking according to the OCFS Child Sex Trafficking Indicators Tool (attached to OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy AND/OR
  - Exhibit ***indicators commonly associated with child trafficking (page 45)*** that cause serious concerns.
- **Medium Level. Includes youth who:**
  - Exhibit at least one of the medium level indicators for sex trafficking according to the OCFS Child Sex Trafficking Indicators Tool (attached to OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy) AND/OR
  - Exhibit ***indicators commonly associated with child trafficking*** that may indicate trafficking.

Note: Although OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy focuses exclusively on child sex trafficking, LDSS and service providers are strongly encouraged to identify and respond to instances of potential child labor trafficking as well.

Although these levels are used to identify survivors and direct tailored services, they should be seen as a continuum rather than as fixed points. Youth can move between levels as their situation changes or more information is shared. The Three-Level System is designed to allow for this movement as new information emerges.

[54] These levels differ slightly from those included in the OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy because Safe Harbour: NY also serves youth who do not fall under the requirements of the Administrative Directive.

Three-Level System to Identify Youth Who Have Experienced and Are at Risk of Trafficking and Exploitation



Services

The Three-Level System is a tool to help service providers and LDSS workers provide youth with services tailored to their needs. **All youth** in the care, custody or supervision of an LDSS or OCFS who are identified as potential or identified survivors of child trafficking or CSEC are required to be offered services per OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy.

Take Action

In counties that receive Safe Harbour funding, the Safe Harbour Coordinator can be contacted to help screen and coordinate services for youth. In counties that do not receive Safe Harbour funding, the LDSS Human Trafficking liaison and/or the local Child Advocacy Center can be contacted for these purposes. OCFS Regional Offices can help you connect with these professionals.

Appropriate services exist on a spectrum, ranging from low threshold where very little engagement or commitment is required from youth (for example, drop-in centers for runaway and homeless youth) to high threshold where youth need to be very engaged and committed to the program in order to participate successfully (for example, placement in residential care).

Spectrum of Services to Meet the Needs of Trafficked and Exploited Youth

There is no "one size fits all" when providing services to youth survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. It is recommended that service providers engage youth in their service planning as much as possible to find the services that are the "right fit" for each youth.

Data

Service providers and child welfare workers can use these levels to track the services a youth receives and track data—without duplication—on youth who have experienced trafficking or exploitation. When youth in the care, custody or supervision of LDSS are assigned a level, that level and corresponding services are entered into CONNECTIONS per OCFS' Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy. When youth in the care, custody, or supervision of OCFS are assigned a level, that level and corresponding services are entered into JJIS (for more information please refer to the OCFS DJJOY Policies and Procedures Manual section 3407.00). Counties receiving Safe Harbour: NY funding also track data corresponding to Safe Harbour: NY services.

Training

In both Westchester and Monroe counties, all agencies that use the level system are trained on child trafficking by a Safe Harbour: NY partner. After receiving training, these partners, including Child Protective Services workers, other LDSS employees, and youth-serving agencies and organizations, use their knowledge of identification and provided tools to screen for child trafficking. (For a list of available screening tools refer to ***Appendix: Available Screening Tools to Identify Child Trafficking and CSEC (page 48)***.)

OCFS created computer based trainings (CBT) which are accessible through the Human Service Learning Center (HSLC). A one-hour CBT titled *Human Trafficking/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC); An Overview* provides an introduction to the subject of human trafficking. In addition, OCFS created a training on the policy and protocol on the Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy titled *Child Welfare Requirements for Identifying and Working with Sex Trafficking Victims*. An accompanying training titled *DJJOY Requirements for Identifying and Working with Sex Trafficking Victims* is available for DJJOY personnel. Anyone with access to HSLC is encouraged to use these free training resources.

Technical Assistance

New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

The Office of Children and Family Services can offer the following technical assistance to providers working with trafficked and exploited youth:

- Provide information on human trafficking and child serving systems in New York State
- Liaise with other state agenices, county agencies, non profits, etc.
- Assist in working with OTDA and/or DCJS on confirmation referrals of trafficking victims
- Assist in working with other counties or states on child trafficking cases
- Provide training referrals and resources
- Assist in case consultation for potential victims of trafficking

To access technical assistance from OCFS contact: humantrafficking@ocfs.ny.gov

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a federally funded, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The NHTRC is operated by Polaris, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking. It is not a government entity, law enforcement, or immigration authority.

The NHTRC accepts tips on trafficking situations, crisis calls from survivors, and calls from law enforcement and service providers looking to connect with resources in their area via call or text message. The NHTRC keeps data on the calls it receives on its website: http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/.

Call: 1-888-3737-888
Text: BeFree (233733)

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Sample Recruiting Policy 55

Red Flags of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Child Trafficking

General Indicators of Child Trafficking (Sex and Labor)

- Leaves home frequently and/or for significant periods of time
- Shows signs of mental, physical, or sexual abuse
- Uses street slang for sex work
- Has a significantly older partner/spends a lot of time with a controlling person or older adult
- Relies on another person to speak for them
- Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Lies about age or carries a fake form of identification
- Describes a stalking situation
- Lives in housing provided by employer
- Significantly reduces contact with family, friends, or other support networks
- Displays a pattern of staying in the homes of friends or a non-legally responsible adult
- Reluctant to discuss how they make money, where they live, or how or when they came to the United States
- Lacks control over schedule and/or money
- Has large amounts of money or costly items they cannot reasonably afford
- Involvement in systems (social services, PINS, courts, etc.)
- Works more than they are in school or does not often attend school
- Experiences suicidal ideations and/or depression
- Youth has experienced multiple placements

Physical Indicators of Child Trafficking

- Has untreated injuries
- Has old and new injuries and/or is injured frequently
- Explanations for injuries are inconsistent with their severity
- Has had multiple sexually transmitted infections and/or abortions
- Has suspicious tattoos or burn marks (branding)
- Exhibits overt sexualized behavior
- Exhibits evidence of sexual abuse

Psychological/Behavioral Indicators of Child Trafficking

- Has heightened sense of fear or distrust of authority
- Is unwilling to disclose whereabouts or information about parents or caregivers
- Is restricted in communication and/or displays anxious, fearful, depressed, submissive, tense and nervous behavior
- Is unwilling or unable to identify as a victim
- Displays behaviors aligned with a trauma history or PTSD
- Has many inconsistencies in their story
- Multiple youth retell the same story in the same way many times, giving the appearance that the story has been coached
- Fear of consequences is greater than circumstances would warrant (for example, being late)

Select Terminology Used in Prostitution and Sex Trafficking

Automatic — When a victim continues to follow the "pimp rules" even when his or her pimp is incarcerated or out of town. All money made while a pimp is away is turned over to pimp upon his or her return.

Bottom — A trafficker/pimp who has multiple victims under his or her control will force one victim to help supervise and control the others, conducting tasks like booking hotel rooms or posting advertisements online. The "bottom" helps the pimp enforce the rules over the other victims, but the "bottom" is also under the control of the pimp and often endures the worst abuse.

Branding — When pimps tattoo or carve their name or symbols on a victim to signify ownership.

Brothel — A place where sex is sold. It might be a strip club, private home, or the back of a business. There are often security measures in place to control the victims and screen out law enforcement.

Catch a case — Getting arrested or charged with a crime.

Choosing — When a victim is rumored to be leaving his or her current pimp for another pimp.

Choosing up — The process by which a new pimp takes "ownership" of a victim. Victims may be "transferred" from one pimp to another because they broke a rule of "the game" or because they chose to leave one pimp for another.

Circuit — A series of cities along which people in prostitution are moved. One example is the East Coast Corridor connecting the cities of Montreal to Miami (and many cities in between).

Daddy — What pimps often require victims to call them.

Date, Trick (verb) — An encounter in which a sex act is exchanged for something of value. A person in prostitution is said to be "with a date" or "dating" or "turning a trick" or "with a trick."

Folks, Family — A pimp.

Getting your coins — Making money by selling a sex act.

Lot Lizard — Derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops.

Madam — A female pimp.

Mama — What some transgender traffickers require victims to call them. (This term can also have a positive connotation in the transgender community and does not automatically indicate that a youth is being trafficked or exploited.)

P.I. — How pimps refer to each other.

Pimp — A person who controls and sells a person for sex.

Quota — An amount of money that victims must make for their trafficker every night. Quotas vary based on location, day of the week, local events, and other factors.

Renegade — Someone involved in prostitution on his or her own and has no trafficker.

Runway, Kiddie Track — Areas where young children, usually aged 11-16, are forced to engage in street prostitution by their trafficker.

Seasoning — When a pimp breaks down victims through violence and torture to force them into a trafficking situation.

Stable — A group of victims under the control of a single pimp.

Square — People who are not involved in prostitution, commercial sexual exploitation, or human trafficking.

Squaring up — When a survivor leaves a trafficking situation.

"The life", "The game" — The subculture of pimp-controlled sex trafficking which includes unique rules, language, and a power hierarchy.

Track, Stroll, Blade, Loop, Turf — Areas where people engage in street prostitution.

Trick (noun)*, John, Buyer* — Person who buys sex from someone.

Turn out (noun) — A person who is new to CSEC or prostitution.

Turn out folks — A victim's first pimp.

Walking the line — Street prostitution.

Wife-in-law, Wifey — What women/girls are required to call the other women/girls in their stable.

Language Frequently Used for Youth Victims of Sex Trafficking in Online Advertisements

Just visiting, new in town — Signifies that person in prostitution is transient or is a potential victim of child trafficking.

Barely legal, teen, playmate, fresh, clean — Indicates that person advertised is a potential victim of child trafficking.

Drugs and disease free (DDF) — Indicates that person being advertised is not drug-involved or is young. [55,56,57,58]

[55] Frundt, Tina. (2014, July 30). [Live presentation by Executive Director during ChildRight: New York training]. Suffolk County, NY: Courtney's House.
[56] Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Program. (2013). [Word document on red flags of trafficking shared via email]. Brooklyn, NY.
[57] Polaris (2012). [Internal documents]. Washington, DC.
[58] Shared Hope International. Glossary of trafficking terms.

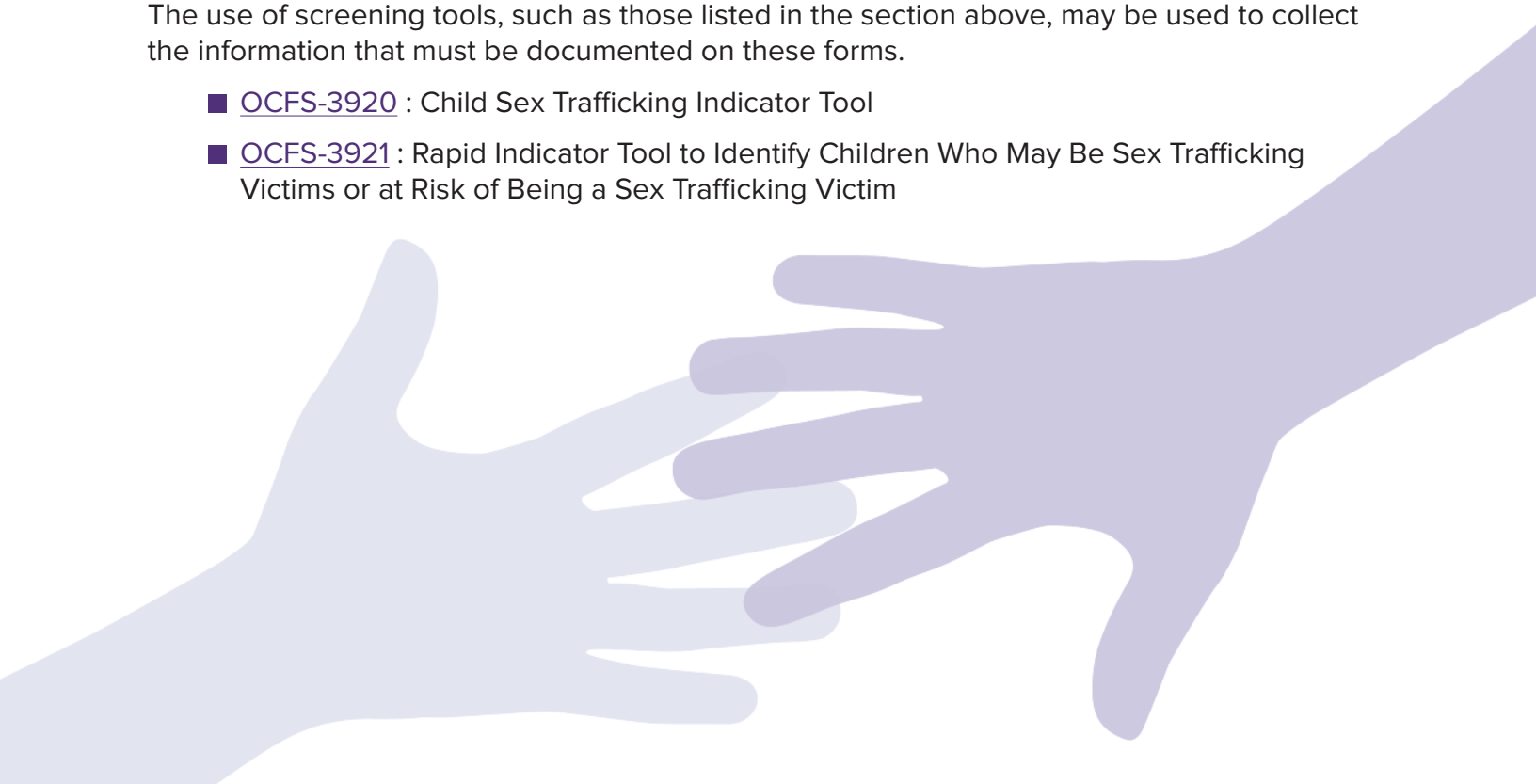
Available Screening Tools to Identify Child Trafficking and CSEC

- OCFS Child Trafficking Initial Interview Tool, New York State Office of Children and Family Services & the International Organization for Adolescents, 2015
  - Screens for CSEC, sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
  - Developed with input from service providers and child welfare workers across New York State, this tool helps providers identify potentially trafficked youth aged 12-18.
- Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure, Covenant House & Fordham University, 2013
  - Scientifically validated; screens for sex and labor trafficking.
  - Tool was tested on 174 randomly sampled youth between 18- and 23-years-old who accessed Runaway/Homeless Youth services in New York City.
- Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (long version and short version), Vera Institute of Justice, 2014
  - Scientifically validated; screens for sex and labor trafficking.
  - Tool was tested on 180 adult clients; an additional 53 administrative cases were screened. Testing was conducted by 11 victim services agencies in New York, California, Colorado, Texas, and Washington.

Forms to Accompany OCFS's Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services policy

The following forms were developed for and are attached to OCFS's Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims policy. They are required in all cases where youth are in the care, custody, or supervision of OCFS, LDSS, or Voluntary Agencies. They are not tools to be administered to youth, but rather are completed by professionals based on their observations and knowledge of each situation. The use of screening tools, such as those listed in the section above, may be used to collect the information that must be documented on these forms.

- OCFS-3920 : Child Sex Trafficking Indicator Tool
- OCFS-3921 : Rapid Indicator Tool to Identify Children Who May Be Sex Trafficking Victims or at Risk of Being a Sex Trafficking Victim



Child Trafficking Safety Assessment Form

Date:_____ **Case worker:** _____

Youth:_____ **Case Number:** _____

Guidance on Using this Form
This form will assist service providers and child welfare workers in identifying potential risks posed by the trafficker* to the youth, the youth's family, and to any staff working with the youth so that they can create a service plan maximizing the safety of all parties. Explain this to youth before conducting the assessment.

Explain to the youth that many of the questions ask about work. In this conversation, the word "work" means anything they have done to receive something of value, such as money, food, clothing, a place to stay, protection, drugs or gifts in exchange for their efforts. By this definition, "work" could mean a more typical job (such as working in a store or restaurant), and could also mean stripping, prostitution, shoplifting, moving drugs, or many other things.[59] In this context, the employer* could include a traditional boss, a family member, friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or anyone the youth lived with or was in a relationship with.

*The terms "trafficker" and "employer" should be replaced with the word used by the youth (for example, "boyfriend," "aunt," etc.). Reliably using this title will convey information about how the survivor views the person, rather than express the interviewer's feelings about him or her. Labeling the person differently can cause the survivor to disengage.

History of Threats or Violence	Yes	No
When you were working did anyone threaten to harm you? (For example: Not doing what you were told, getting sick, etc.)		
Did anyone actually harm you? *If the youth struggles with this question you may wish to provide specific examples, like:* • Were you ever hit or burned? • Did anyone ever touch you where they shouldn't have or in a way that made you uncomfortable? • Did anyone try to have sex with you when you didn't want to, or want you to have sex with someone else when you didn't want to? • Did anyone take pictures or videos of you doing something you wouldn't want others to see?		
Did anyone ever threaten to harm you if you left or told someone else what was happening to you? *If so, what did they say would happen to you?* Write the youth's response here:		
Was anyone (including you) ever caught trying to leave OR caught after getting away? *If so, what happened to him or her?* Write the youth's response here:		
Did anyone ever force you to consume alcohol or other drugs when you didn't want to? *If yes, which drugs?* Write the youth's response here:		

[59] Covenant House. (2013, May). *Homelessness, survival sex and human trafficking: As experienced by the youth of Covenant House New York.*

Did your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* own weapons, show you weapons, or threaten to use weapons to hurt someone? *If yes, which weapons?* Write the youth's response here:		
Was your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* engaged in any illegal activity that might be dangerous that I didn't ask about yet? *If yes, what type of activity?* Write the youth's response here:		

Present situation	**Yes**	**No**
Has anyone recently threatened to harm you for any reason? *If yes, who threatened you?* Write the youth's response here:		
Has your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* or his/her friends attempted to contact you since you left, either directly or through someone else?		
Are you in contact with anyone your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* knows?		
Is your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* or his/her friends from the same geographic, ethnic, or religious community as you?		
Are you involved in any legal proceedings against your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)*, including criminal, civil, or family court cases?		
Do you know where your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* and any of his/her friends are now? *If yes, is he or she:* ☐ incarcerated ☐ living in the community ☐ overseas		

Assessment of risk to family or loved ones	**Yes**	**No**
Did anyone ever threaten to harm your family or someone you care about if you left or told someone what was happening to you? *If so, what did they tell you would happen?* Write the youth's response here:		
Do you know if your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* or his/her friends have ever harmed someone else's family or loved ones for any reason? *If so, please tell me what happened.* Write the youth's response here:		
Does your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* know where your family or loved ones are now?		
Has your employer *(or term supplied by the youth)* or his/her friends contacted your family or loved ones looking for you?		
Has anyone threatened to harm your family or loved ones? *If so, what was threatened?* Write the youth's response here:		

Other Questions to Consider When Assessing Youth Safety

- Have all third party service providers, including interpreters and caregivers, been carefully screened for ties to the youth's employer?
- Does the youth live, work, or travel through the area(s) where he or she was abused? Consider whether service providers, child welfare workers, religious services, shelters, etc. are in or near these areas.
- Does the youth frequently leave home or care?
- Does the youth have any health conditions that require special attention or treatment?
- Does the youth exhibit any symptoms of trauma or extreme fear?
- Does the youth engage in self-harm (cutting, scratching, biting, hitting, etc.)?
- Is the youth known to be involved in a gang or other criminal activity?
- Is the youth known to misuse alcohol or other drugs?

After conducting this assessment if there are any safety concerns for the youth or his or her family, work with the youth to develop an anti-trafficking safety plan with the youth. Include a supervisor, the youth's guardian ad litem, and other multi-disciplinary team members, as appropriate, in the development of this safety plan.

Individual Service Plan

About This Tool
A service plan should be developed with youth soon after intake to identify their needs and goals. Use this tool to address specific issues articulated by the youth and discuss potential resources. The plan should include the youth's goals, strategies/steps for achieving each goal, target completion dates, and the dates goals are achieved or revised. Each box does not need to be filled—instead use the form to organize and track the youth's needs as they are expressed by the youth. Provide the youth with his or her own copy of the plan. This is an optional tool and does not replace specific child welfare requirements, including the FASP.

Youth's Name_____ **Date of Intake:** _____

Case Manager:_____ **Youth's DOB:** _____ / _____ /_____

CONCERN/NEED #1				
Goal	**Strategies/Steps**	**Person(s) responsible**	**Target Date**	**Date Achieved**
1.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			
2.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			
3.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			

Youth Strengths: _____

System's Strengths: _____

Youth Obstacles: _____

System's Obstacles: _____

Progress Summary: _____

CONCERN/NEED #2				
Goal	**Strategies/Steps**	**Person(s) responsible**	**Target Date**	**Date Achieved**
1.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			
2.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			
3.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			

Youth Strengths: _____

_____

System's Strengths: _____

_____

Youth Obstacles: _____

_____

System's Obstacles: _____

_____

Progress Summary: _____

_____

CONCERN/NEED #3				
Goal	**Strategies/Steps**	**Person(s) responsible**	**Target Date**	**Date Achieved**
1.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			
2.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			
3.	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			

Youth Strengths: _____

_____

System's Strengths: _____

_____

Youth Obstacles: _____

_____

System's Obstacles: _____

_____

Progress Summary: _____

_____

Sample Recruiting Policy

Guideline: PEER RECRUITING FOR THE PURPOSES OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

There are times when youth will attempt to engage other youth in illegal activity. Illegal activity might include (but is not limited to) gang activity, human trafficking, commercial sexual activity, or drug sales. In order to protect the safety of all youth in this program, there is a zero tolerance policy for recruitment. This policy must be reviewed with each youth during intake.

For the purpose of this policy recruiting is defined as actively seeking to engage another youth in illegal activity.

For example, if a youth were to invite a peer to work with his or her selling drugs to earn money that invitation constitutes recruiting per this policy. Vague statements such as "If you want to come and stay with me we can make a bunch of money together" are not, in isolation, sufficient to constitute recruitment. After hearing such statements additional information is necessary to determine whether recruitment for illegal activity has occurred. The following behaviors separately should not, on their own, be considered recruiting for the purposes of this policy: exchanging phone numbers, providing phone numbers of others, making arrangements to meet peers outside the program or after discharge from the program, discussing prior experiences with illegal activities, etc.

If a youth is suspected to be engaging in recruitment activities as defined above, staff are to take the following actions:

1. Separate the youth engaging in recruiting from his or her peers.
2. Address any concern about the behavior and review this policy with the youth.
3. Contact the supervisor on call to determine if the youth has violated the recruitment policy.
4. If it is determined that the recruitment policy has been violated, make arrangements so the youth can continue receiving services off-site or from another provider. If this is not possible, begin providing one-on-one supervision for the youth in question immediately.

I have read this policy and it has been explained to me verbally. I understand this policy and agree to follow it. I understand that if I violate this policy I may be subject to constant supervision, may receive services off-site, or may be discharged from the program.

Youth Name (signed)	Staff Name (signed)
Youth Name (printed)	Staff Name (printed)
Date	Date

Appendix

Appendix *56*

Glossary of Youth Trafficking Terms *57*

Human Trafficking vs. Smuggling *61*

Directory of New York State's Child Advocacy Centers *62*

Hotlines and Helplines *64*

Safe Harbour: NY — Members of the Steering Committee and Subcommittees *66*

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Glossary of Youth Trafficking Terms

Term or Acronym	Definition
Child Advocacy Center (CAC)	Provides a multi-disciplinary response to youth victims of sexual and extreme physical abuse. CACs are often co-located in a youth-friendly center.
Child Labor Trafficking *(New York State definition)*	To intentionally recruit, entice, harbor, or transport any person under 18-years-old to compel or induce him or her to engage in labor by providing drugs, withholding or destroying government documents, requiring that the labor be performed to repay a real or purported debt, using force, or engaging in any scheme, plan or pattern to compel or induce the person to engage in or continue to engage in labor activity.[60]
Commercial Sex Act	Any sex act, on account of which, anything of value is given to or received by any person.
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children/ Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC)	Any person under the age of 18 who has been subject to sexual exploitation as a result of their loitering for the purpose of prostitution or their engagement in an offer to exchange sexual conduct in return for food, clothing, a place to stay, drugs, or a fee.[61]
Continued Presence	Conveys short-term immigration status and provides temporary permission to remain in the United States for victims of human trafficking who are *potential* witnesses in a trafficking investigation or prosecution. It provides temporary work authorization and access to public benefits via a certification letter issued by the Office for Refugee Resettlement.[62]
Federal Certification	Available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to determine whether foreign victims of trafficking are eligible to receive federal and state benefits. These benefits are generally the same as those available to refugees. Unlike adult victims of trafficking, minor victims do not need to cooperate with law enforcement in order to be eligible for these benefits.[63] U.S. citizen and Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) victims also do not need to be federally certified for eligibility for similar benefits and services—instead these can be accessed through their Local Department of Social Services (LDSS).
Force	The use of any form of physical force—including rape, beatings, forced drug consumption, and confinement—to control another person.

[60] N.Y. Penal Law § 135.35
[61] N.Y.S. Title 8-A § 447A
[62] U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (2010, Aug.). Continued presence: Temporary immigration status for victims of human trafficking.
[63] ICE. (2010, Aug.)

Term or Acronym	Definition
Fraud	A false or misleading offer that induces another into a trafficking situation, such as a false job offer or promises of love or family.
Human Trafficking of Children	The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a youth for labor or services, including sex acts, through the use of force, fraud or coercion. Under federal law, the definition of sex trafficking (any commercial sex act, including prostitution and pornography) does not require that there be force, fraud or coercion if the victim is under 18 years of age.[64]
Labor Trafficking, Victim of *(Federal definition)*	Any person who is forced to engage in labor or services by any one, or combination, of the following means: • Force, threats of force, physical restraint, or threats of physical restraint to that person or another person • Serious harm or threats of serious harm to that person or another person • Abuse or threatened abuse of law or legal process • Any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that if that person did not perform such labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint[65]
Labor Trafficking *(New York State definition)*	The intentional recruitment, enticement, harboring or transportation of a person to compel or induce him or her to engage in labor by providing drugs, withholding or destroying government documents, requiring that the labor be performed to repay a real or purported debt, using force, or engaging in any scheme, plan or pattern to compel or induce the person to engage in or continue to engage in labor activity.[66]
Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)	A group of professionals from various professions—including service providers and child welfare workers, law enforcement, prosecution, health services, youth protection, and many others—who work together to provide a comprehensive response to youth victims of abuse.
Parent, Guardian, or Person Legally Responsible (PLR)	A person who provides care and supervision of a youth, including a parent, guardian, custodian, and any other person responsible for the youth's care at the relevant time. An individual's status as a Person Legally Responsible is determined by his or her relationship to the youth. A custodian may include any person continually or at regular intervals found in the same household as the youth when the conduct of such person causes or contributes to the abuse or neglect of the youth.

[64] 18 U.S. Code § 1589
[65] 18 U.S. Code § 1589
[66] N.Y. Penal Law § 135.35

Term or Acronym	Definition
Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act	This New York State law aims to protect youth under the age of 18 who are exploited by the sex trade. The law intends to recognize all persons involved in CSEC as victims of a crime rather than juvenile delinquents.
Sex Trafficking, Victim of *(Federal definition)*	Any person who exchanges sex for something of value under duress in the form of force, fraud, or coercion, or any person who has not yet reached the age of 18 who exchanges a sex act for something of value (regardless of whether force, fraud or coercion are present).[67]
Sex Trafficking *(New York State definition)*	The intentional advancement or profiting from prostitution by providing drugs, making false or misleading statements, withholding or destroying government documents, requiring that prostitution be performed to repay a real or purported debt, or using force or engaging in any scheme, plan or pattern to compel or induce the person to engage in or continue to engage in prostitution activity.[68]
Screening for Youth Trafficking and CSEC	A standardized process using appropriate instruments to evaluate if a youth might be a survivor of trafficking and is therefore in need of services. OCFS developed several tools to identify youth who have experienced and are vulnerable to trafficking and CSEC. Refer to ***Available Screening Tools to Identify Child Trafficking and CSEC (page 48)*** for more information.
Smuggling	When persons or items are brought into the United States without proper documentation. Smuggling and human trafficking are different crimes. For more information see ***Appendix: Human Trafficking vs. Smuggling (page 61)***.
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)	An immigration classification available to certain undocumented immigrants under the age of 21 who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents. SIJS is a way for immigrants under 21 to apply for and obtain legal permanent residence in the United States. OCFS developed a policy regarding SIJS that can be accessed here.
T-Nonimmigrant Status	An immigration status created by the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to protect men, women, and youth who are the victims of human trafficking. Known as a "T-visa," this status allows victims of severe forms of trafficking to remain in the United States and receive work authorization and access to temporary public benefits.

[67] 18 U.S. Code § 1591
[68] N.Y. Penal Law § 230.34

Term or Acronym	Definition
The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)	The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 is the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons in the United States. The law provides a three-pronged approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution. The TVPA was reauthorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013.
U-Nonimmigrant Status	An immigration status created by the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to protect men, women, and youth who are the victims of certain crimes (including human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other crimes) who have suffered mental or physical abuse human trafficking. Known as a "U-visa," this status allows victims who assist law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity to remain in the United States for four years, receive work authorization, and access temporary public benefits.[69]
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program	These programs are federally funded and locally administered to meet the needs of youth under 18-years-old who entered the United States without legal documentation and without a parent or other qualified guardian. The New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) contracts with some licensed youth welfare agencies to provide URMs the full range of assistance, care, and services comparable to what is available to all foster children in the state. URMs also receive assistance in pursing their Legal Permanent Residence (green card).[70]
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petition	Allows victims of abuse to self-petition for lawful permanent resident (green card) status without separating from the abuser.[71] VAWA self-petitions are available to a number of victims, including children of abusive citizens or lawful permanent residents who file before turning 25. VAWA provisions apply equally to all victims, regardless of gender.[72]
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Cancellation of Removal	Designed to keep victims of abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouses or parents from being deported. A successful cancellation of removal will result in lawful permanent resident status (green card) for the victim. VAWA provisions apply equally to all victims, regardless of gender.[73]

[69] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Victims of criminal activity: U-nonimmigrant status.
[70] Stewart, Esq., C., (2014). The intersection of trafficking and gender-based violence and unaccompanied alien children. [PowerPoint slides]. Albany, NY: New York Bureau of Refugee and Immigration Assistance.
[71] American Immigration Council. (2012, May 7). Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides protections for immigrant women and victims of violent crime.
[72] U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). (2012, Aug. 20). Immigration options for victims of crimes.
[73] DHS. (2012, Aug. 20).

Human Trafficking vs. Smuggling

Human trafficking is often confused with other crimes, such as child abuse, child labor, smuggling, or child exploitation. All of these crimes can be present in one human trafficking case. However, it is important to distinguish individuals who are "smuggled" versus "trafficked" into the country.

Trafficking	Smuggling
Must contain an element of force, fraud, or coercion (actual, perceived, or implied), unless victim under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sex	Person agrees to or complies to arrangement to cross U.S. border without documentation and without actual or implied force, fraud, or coercion
Includes forced labor or sexual exploitation	Labor or sexual acts may be involved in the arrangement, but person agrees to or complies without actual or implied force, fraud, or coercion
No movement or border crossing required	Undocumented border crossing must occur
Victims frequently have ongoing relationships with their traffickers	There is no continued relationship with the smuggler (a.k.a. "coyote" or "snakehead") once the border is crossed
Trafficked persons are recognized as victims by law	Smuggled persons are violators of the law[74]

Discerning the difference between a trafficking situation and a smuggling situation can be very nuanced and complicated. It is best to consult with an experienced immigration attorney when there are any doubts about a youth's experience.

[74] Adapted from Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center. (2006, April). Fact sheet: distinctions between human smuggling and human trafficking.

Directory of New York State's Child Advocacy Centers

County	Organization	Address	Phone
Albany	Albany County Children's Center	260 South Pearl Street Albany, NY 12202	518-447-2525
Allegany & Cattaraugus	Southern Tier Children's Advocacy Center	772 Main Street Olean, NY 14760	716-372-8532
Bronx	Butler Child Advocacy Center of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore	3314 Steuben Avenue Bronx, NY 10467	718-920-5833 *or* 718-618-8920
Broome	Broome County Child Advocacy Center	377 Robinson Street Binghamton, NY 13904	607-723-3200
Cayuga	Child Advocacy Center of Cayuga County	17 East Genesee Street Auburn, NY 13021	315-253-9795
Chautauqua	Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County	405 West Third Street Jamestown, NY 14701	716-338-9844
Chemung	Chemung County Child Advocacy Center	304 Hoffman Street Elmira, NY 14905	607-737-8449
Chenango	Catholic Charities of Chenango County	3 O'Hara Drive Norwich, NY 13815	607-334-8244
Clinton	Clinton County Child Advocacy Center	46 Arizona Avenue Plattsburgh, NY 12901	518-324-6959
Columbia & Greene	Dr. Stephen & Suzanne Menkes Child Advocacy Center	2A Milo Street Hudson, NY 12534	518-828-4619 ext. 203
Cortland	Cortland County Child Advocacy Program	60 Central Avenue, Room B9 Cortland, NY 13045	607-753-5087
Dutchess	The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse	249 Hooker Avenue Poughkeepsie, NY 12603	845-454-0595
Erie	Lee Gross Anthone Child Advocacy Center	556 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202	716-886-5437
Fulton	Child Advocacy Center of Fulton County	307-309 Meadow Street Johnstown, NY 12095	518-736-2443
Genesee	Justice for Children Center	108 Bank Street Batavia, NY 14020	585-344-8576
Herkimer	Child Advocacy Center of Herkimer County	248 West Main Street Ilion, NY 13357	315-895-0349
Jefferson	Child Advocacy Program of Northern New York	120 Washington St., Suite 406 Watertown, NY 13601	315-788-8520
Kings	Jane Barker Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center	320 Schermerhorn Street Brooklyn, NY 11217	718-330-5405
Madison	Madison County Multidisciplinary Team	6802 Buyea Road Canastota, NY 13032	315-363-2816
Monroe	Bivona Child Advocacy Center	275 Lake Avenue Rochester, NY 14608	585-935-7803

County	Organization	Address	Phone
Nassau	Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect	15 Grumman Road West, Suite 900 Bethpage, NY 11714	516-465-9313
New York	Manhattan Child Advocacy Center	1753 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor New York, NY 10035	646-695-6111
Niagara	Child Advocacy Center of Niagara	501 Tenth Street Niagara Falls, NY 14302	716-278-4543
Oneida	Oneida County Child Advocacy Center	930 York Street Utica, NY 13502	315-732-3990
Onondaga	McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center	601 East Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13202	315-701-2985
Ontario	Child Advocacy Program of the Finger Lakes	8 Banta Street, Suite 413 Phelps, NY 14532	315-548-3232
Oswego	Child Advocacy Center Foundation, Inc.	301 Beech Street Fulton, NY 13069	315-592-4453
Otsego	Otsego County Child Advocacy Center	140 County Highway 33W, Suite 2 Cooperstown, NY 13326	607-547-1770
Putnam	Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County	121 Main Street Brewster, NY 10509	845-808-1400
Queens	Queens Child Advocacy Center	112-25 Queens Boulevard Forest Hills, NY 11375	718-575-1342
Rensselaer	START Children's Center	131 6th Avenue Troy, NY 12180	518-271-6001
Richmond	Staten Island Child Advocacy Center	130 Stuyvesant Place Staten Island, NY 10301	718-556-4095
Rockland	Spirit of Rockland Special Victims Center	1 South Main Street New City, NY 10956	845-821-5639
Saratoga	Harriet M. West Child Advocacy Center	359 Ballston Avenue Saratoga Springs, NY 12866	518-587-8008
Schenectady	Schenectady County Multidisciplinary Team	106 Erie Boulevard Schenectady, NY 12305	518-388-4615
Schoharie	Child at Risk Response Team of Schoharie County	113 Park Place, Suite 1 Schoharie, NY 12157	518-295-2021
Suffolk	Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center at the Pat & Mary Bagnato Place for Kids	80 Wheeler Road Central Islip, NY 11722	631-439-0480
Ulster	Ulster County Department of Social Services	21 O'Neil Street Kingston, NY 12401	845-334-5155
Warren and Washington	Warren/Washington CARE Center	P.O Box 659, 24 Dix Avenue Glens Falls, NY 12801	518-792-2731

Hotlines and Helplines

A number of existing hotlines accept crisis calls from survivors and tips from the public about trafficking and exploitation, provide referrals for survivors and service providers, and support survivors when counseling is unavailable. These hotlines are described below.

To report emergencies and tips

9-1-1

Dialing "9-1-1" from any telephone will link the caller to an emergency dispatch center which can send emergency responders to the caller's location. 9-1-1 should be called in any situation where immediate danger is present.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

Call: 1-888-3737-888
Text: BeFree (233733)

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a federally funded, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The NHTRC is operated by Polaris, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking. It is not a government entity, law enforcement, or immigration authority.

The NHTRC accepts tips of trafficking situations, crisis calls from survivors, and calls from law enforcement and child care workers looking to connect with resources in their area via call or text message. The NHTRC keeps data on the calls it receives on its website, http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Call Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The call center receives reports of missing youth and tips about missing and sexually exploited children. NCMEC relays tips to the appropriate law enforcement representatives and provides support to the families of missing youth. Leads and tips about missing and sexually exploited children can also be reported to NCMEC via the CyberTipline at http://www.missingkids.com/.

Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR)

1-800-342-3720

OCFS maintains a Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) for reports made pursuant to the Social Services Law. The SCR receives calls alleging child abuse or maltreatment within New York State. It relays information to local Child Protective Services for investigation, monitors their prompt response, and identifies if there are prior child abuse or maltreatment reports. The hotline receives calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week from two sources: mandated reporters and non-mandated reporters, including the public. To learn more visit http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cps/.

National Runaway Safeline

1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)

The National Runaway Safeline is for teens who are thinking of running away from home, have friends who left home, or who have left home and want to go back. This 24-hour crisis line is anonymous, confidential and free.

Helplines for Survivors

For Survivor By Survivor Hotline (Courtney's House)
1-888-261-3665

The Survivor Hotline is available to survivors, their families, and allies who need a sympathetic person to talk to—often when therapeutic services are unavailable. The hotline is answered by survivors of sex trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It does not accept tips.

National Sexual Assault Hotline (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, RAINN)
1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

The National Sexual Assault Hotline instantly connects callers to their local rape crisis center. Callers can request assistance or just use the number to talk to someone who understands. All calls are anonymous and confidential unless the caller chooses to share personally-identifying information. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) also operates the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline, which provides free, anonymous help and support services online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The online hotline can be accessed at http://www.rainn.org.

2-1-1 (United Way)

2-1-1 is a telephone service that links callers with essential human services, including shelter, employment, food pantries, support groups, and other services. 2-1-1 can be accessed anywhere in New York State by survivors or service providers looking for service referrals.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline accepts calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Calls are answered by trained crisis workers. They can listen to your problems and connect you with local supportive services. All calls are free and confidential.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide confidential support to anyone experiencing domestic violence or in an unhealthy relationship. Trained professionals answer calls and can connect you to local supports or simply listen to your concerns.

Members of the Safe Harbour: NY Steering Committee and Subcommittees

Subcommittees

- Adopting Best Practice Treatment Models
- Coordinating a Statewide Response
- Data Collection
- Developing an Operational Framework
- Legal and Procedural Challenges
- Training, Technical Assistance, and Awareness Raising

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Morley, Susan – *NYC Administration for Children's Services*
Mullen, Katherine – *Legal Aid Society*
Murray-Fields, Nolica – *Center for Youth Services*
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Tomatore , Suzanne – *City Bar Justice Center*
Toomer, Ray – *OCFS*
Watson, Charlotte – *OCA*
Welch, John – *Safe Horizon*
Whitcomb, Dana – *OCFS*

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Notes

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