

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Merced County Juvenile Court, Merced County Human Services Agency Child Welfare, Merced County Probation, Merced County Mental Health/Drug and Alcohol, Merced County Public Health, Merced County District Attorney, Merced County Sheriff Department, Merced County Office of Education, and Alliance for Community Transformations, Inc., d.b.a. Valley Crisis Center.

As to Merced County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program

WHEREAS, an individual who is a CSEC or sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the California Penal Code, or who receives food or shelter in exchange for, or who is paid to perform, sexual acts described in Section 236.1 or 11165.1 of the California Penal Code, and whose parent or guardian failed to, or was unable to protect the child, is a CSEC and may be served through the Merced County child welfare system pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300(b)(2); and

WHEREAS, Merced County elected to participate in the CSEC Program as described in Section 16524.7 of California Welfare and Institutions Code in order to more effectively serve CSEC by utilizing a multidisciplinary approach for case management, service planning, and the provision of services; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Merced County Juvenile Court, Merced County Human Services Agency Child Welfare, Merced County Probation, Merced County Mental Health/Drug and Alcohol, Merced County Public Health, Merced County District Attorney, Merced County Sheriff Department, Merced County Office of Education, and Valley Crisis Center have developed the following Interagency Protocol to guide Merced County's approach to serving CSEC; and

WHEREAS, the MOU reflects the Merced County and the parties' commitment to the following guiding principles:

- A. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
 - 1. Must be understood as child abuse and reported as such.
 - 2. Minor victims of CSEC should not be criminalized.
- B. Responses to CSEC should be:
 - 1. Victim-centered.
 - 2. Trauma-informed.
 - 3. Strengths-based.

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4. Developmentally appropriate.
 5. Culturally, linguistically; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning (LGBTQ) competent and affirming.
 6. Committed to active efforts that engage CSEC early and often.
 7. Multidisciplinary, individualized, flexible, and timely.
 8. Data and outcome driven.
- C. Agency Policies and Procedures should:
1. Ensure and track cross-system collaboration at the system and individual case level.
 2. Incorporate mechanisms to identify and assess CSEC at key decision points.
 3. Address the unique physical and emotional safety considerations of CSEC.
 4. Address unique physical and emotional safety considerations, including vicarious trauma of staff, caregivers, and other relevant support persons.

WHEREAS, the parties agree to form a CSEC Steering Committee to provide ongoing oversight and support to ensure the county agencies and partners effectively collaborate to better identify and serve victims of commercial sexual exploitation and children at risk of becoming exploited through the Interagency Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree to form a multidisciplinary team (MDT), pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16524.7(d)(2) for CSEC, to build on a youth's strengths and respond to his/her needs in a coordinated manner; and

WHEREAS, California Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 18960-18964 states a county may establish a child abuse multidisciplinary personnel team (MDT) within the county to allow provider agencies to share confidential information in order for provider agencies to investigate reports of suspected child abuse or neglect pursuant to Penal Code (PC) §11160, 11166, or 11166.05, or for the purposes of child welfare agencies making a detention determination; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that the information they receive from other parties concerning a child that is obtained during the identification and assessment process or during a MDT meeting shall be used solely for prevention, identification, and treatment purposes and shall otherwise be confidential and retained in the files of the entity performing the screening or assessment. Such information shall not be subject to subpoena or other court process for use in any other proceeding or for any other purpose pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18961.7(c); and

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WHEREAS, the parties, as defined by law, must comply with mandatory reporting guidelines as defined by California Penal Code Sections 11164 – 11174.3 and report known or suspected child abuse and neglect, which includes sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, this MOU defines the mutually agreed upon Interagency Protocol and the responsibilities of each of the parties under the CSEC Program pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16524.7. This MOU is not intended to establish legal duties or otherwise alter the respective responsibilities of the parties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties of this MOU set forth the following as the terms and conditions of their understanding:

I. STEERING COMMITTEE

- A. In order to ensure Merced County effectively implements the CSEC Program, the parties agree to form a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will provide ongoing oversight and leadership to ensure the county agencies and partners effectively collaborate to better identify and serve youth who are at risk of or have been commercially sexually exploited, specifically:
 - 1. Developing the Interagency CSEC MOU (hereinafter MOU).
 - 2. Implementing the MOU.
 - 3. Overseeing implementation of the MOU.
 - 4. Collecting and analyzing aggregate data related to the MOU.
 - 5. Recommending revisions of the MOU as needed on an ongoing basis.
 - 6. Assessing the sufficiency of CSEC-specific resources in the county.
 - 7. Identifying necessary training and ensuring such training occurs.
 - 8. Providing an annual report to the State in compliance with State and Federal requirements.

- B. The following parties agree to participate in the Steering Committee and fulfill the responsibilities defined in this MOU:
 - 1. Child Welfare – Lead
 - 2. Probation
 - 3. Mental Health

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4. Public Health
 5. Juvenile Courts
 6. District Attorney
 7. Victim Advocate
 8. Educational representatives
 9. Law enforcement
- C. Each participant will fulfill the following responsibilities as part of its work on the Steering Committee under this MOU:
1. Appoint director or designee empowered to make decisions on behalf of the party to participate.
 2. Attend regularly scheduled meetings and participate collaboratively in committee.
 3. Report on successes, barriers to providing services, and areas for improvement, including recommendations for adapting the Protocol and training needs/gaps at quarterly meetings.

II. IDENTIFICATION

- A. The following parties are responsible for screening youth to identify whether they have been commercially sexually exploited, are being commercially sexually exploited, or are at risk of becoming commercially sexually exploited:
1. Child Welfare Department
 - a. Emergency response investigators
 - b. Case carrying social workers
 2. Probation Department
 - a. Juvenile Hall intake staff
 - b. Deputy Probation Officers
 3. Merced County Office of Education
 - a. Foster Youth Services Liaison
 - b. Student Advocates

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4. Mental Health
 - a. Clinicians
 5. Public Health
 - a. Nurses
 6. District Attorney
 - a. Deputy District Attorney
 - b. Victim Witness Advocates
 7. Victim Advocate
 - a. Advocates
 - b. Student Advocates
- B. In order to identify youth at risk of or having been commercially sexually exploited, the parties agree that youth will be screened as follows:
1. Child Welfare Department
 - a. All youth age 10 and older entering foster care.
 - b. All youth currently in foster care who are exhibiting high risk behavior associated with trafficking.
 2. Probation Department
 - a. All youth ages 10 and older entering the juvenile justice system.
 - b. All youth currently in out-of-home placement who are exhibiting high risk behavior associated with trafficking.
 3. Merced County Office of Education
 - a. Any youth identified who is exhibiting high risk behavior associated with trafficking.
 4. Mental Health
 - a. Any youth identified who is exhibiting high risk behavior associated with trafficking.

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5. Public Health

- a. Any youth identified who is exhibiting high risk behavior associated with trafficking.
- C. The CSEC Screening Tool will be administered as a screening instrument as described in this MOU. All parties have received and reviewed a copy of the CSEC Screening Tool, including an overview of the tool and a user guide, and understand the training required for use. A copy of the tool overview and guide are attached as an appendix to this MOU.

III. ASSESSMENT

- A. The above parties agree that an assessment of an exploited youth's needs and strengths must take place upon identification and on an ongoing basis. Further, the parties agree that it is in the youth's best interest to limit unnecessary and or duplicative assessments. Accordingly, the parties will coordinate to ensure that assessments are streamlined and limited when appropriate.
- B. Once a youth has been identified as possibly being commercially sexually exploited or screened and determined to be at high risk of being commercially sexually exploited, the parties agree to the following process in order for an assessment to be completed:
 1. If a crime is currently in progress, call 911; and
 2. Immediately call the Merced County Child Welfare 24-hour hotline at (209) 385-3104, and report the allegations of exploitation; and
 3. File a written report within 36 hours using the *Suspected Child Abuse Report*, Form SS 8572, and fax the report to the Merced County Child Welfare Department at (209) 354-2518. If applicable, include the completed CSEC Screening Tool.
- C. The Department of Child Welfare will be responsible for:
 1. Determining response time of referral.
 2. Determining disposition of referral.
 - a. Open new case
 - b. Refer to services as needed and close referral
 3. Conducting a complete bio-psychosocial assessment of the youth by the CSEC Social Worker and with the assistance of the CSEC advocate whenever possible.

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4. Tracking CSEC referrals and cases in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).
 5. Arranging MDT meetings as appropriate.
 6. Providing aggregate data on identified CSEC including the numbers identified and the services accessed by those youth.
- D. For youth who have engaged in serious and/or violent criminal behavior who must be served through the juvenile justice system, the Department of Probation will enter the CSEC Special Project code in CWS/CMS for all sexually exploited youth in placement.
- E. Before determining the disposition of the referral, the information obtained will be staffed with the CSEC MDT to determine any service needs. All parties agree to confidentiality laws as outlined in this MOU and all assessment information will be entered in CWS/CMS.

IV. MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESPONSE

- A. The parties agree to provide staff to participate in MDT meetings who have been trained in the prevention, identification, or treatment of child abuse and neglect, and are qualified to provide a broad range of services related to child abuse and CSEC and those at risk for such exploitation. In order to sufficiently address needs from immediate identification through ongoing stabilization, MDT meetings will be held as follows:
1. Regular monthly meetings for ongoing cases.
 2. Within 72 business hours of a new placement in foster care or juvenile hall.
- B. The following parties agree to participate in the MDT meetings pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16524.7 and fulfill their responsibilities as defined in this MOU:
1. Child Welfare – Lead
 2. Probation
 3. Mental Health/Alcohol and Other Drug
 4. Public Health

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- C. Additional parties, including but not limited to the following, may participate in the MDTs, as needed:
1. Youth
 2. Caregiver/placement provider
 3. Minor's Attorney
 4. County Counsel
 5. District Attorney
 6. Public Defender
 7. Law Enforcement
 8. Education provider
 9. Survivor advocate or mentor
 10. Valley Crisis Center
 11. Local CSEC provider(s)
 12. Peer Mentor/Consumer Assistance Worker (CAW)
 13. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- D. The parties participating in the MDT meetings are responsible for, but not limited to, the following:
1. Assessing and addressing immediate needs.
 2. Assessing and addressing long-term needs.
 3. Coordinating, monitoring, and adjusting service plan to achieve desired outcomes for youth.
 4. Identify trauma triggers.
 5. Developing safety plan.
 6. Engaging youth and caregiver(s).

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7. Involve youth in planning and decision-making when appropriate.
8. Provide individual case-by-case collaboration with multiple child-serving agencies.
9. Placement consultation.
10. Developing action plan in the event a youth is Absent Without Leave (AWOL).
11. Report runaways to law enforcement and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

V. ADULT VICTIMS

- A. The above parties recognize the need to provide services to adult victims of human trafficking. Therefore, when an adult victim comes to the attention of any of the above agencies, that agency may refer adult victims to:
 1. Valley Crisis Center, (209) 725-7900.
 2. Merced County Adult Protective Services, if applicable, (209) 385-3105.
 3. Other agencies as appropriate.

VI. CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. Each Department and Agency shall maintain the confidentiality of all records including, but not limited to County records and client records in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, ordinances, and directives regarding confidentiality.
- B. Each Department and Agency shall comply with all applicable laws pertaining to confidentiality. This shall include, but is not limited to, the confidentiality provisions of Section 827 and Section 10850 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code and California Department of Social Services Manual of Policies and Procedures Division 19, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191 (“HIPAA”), Section 13402 of Title XII of Division A and Title IV of Division B, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (“HITECH”) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5), the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Cal. Civ. Code 56 et seq. (“CMIA”); and Health and Safety Code section 123100 et seq, among others, as applicable, which require to the parties to protect and safeguard both child abuse and patient medical information and prevent unauthorized access to such information.
- D. Each department shall maintain the confidentiality of all reports, information and data received, prepared or assembled pursuant to this Agreement and will work to prevent

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re-disclosure of such information except as required or permitted by law, including but not limited to the Public Records Act, Government Code 6250 et seq. Records and information includes, but is not limited to any information regarding a child or family who has received services from either Child Welfare or Probation that becomes known to any other department during the course of providing services to the child or family.

- E. Any breaches or suspected breaches of confidentiality will be cross-reported immediately to each impacted department so there is no delay in the impacted department's ability to meet its statutory reporting obligations. Such breaches or suspected breaches, to the extent it is legally permissible to do so, shall be reviewed by the impacted department and the Merced County Human Services Agency, and the department and/or departments will work together to develop and implement a corrective action plan.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

- A. This MOU shall become effective from the date of its signature and shall remain in effect for a period of 12 months, automatically renewable for equal periods, unless any of the Parties gives written notice to the Other Parties of its intention of not renewing it, at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the current effective period.
- B. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Agreement, the parties hereafter, by mutual consent, may agree to amend this Agreement. No alteration or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto.
- C. Any party may terminate this MOU at any time, by providing a 90-day written notice to the other Parties.

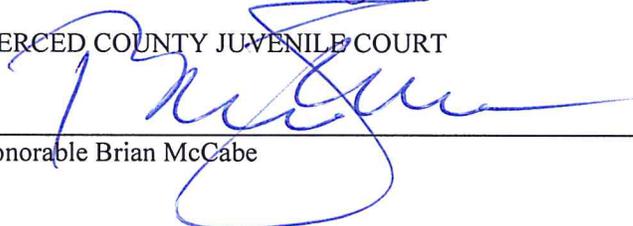
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In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed this MOU. Where applicable, the undersigned state that this MOU has been reviewed by their legal counsel and such legal counsel has approved the MOU as to form and legality.

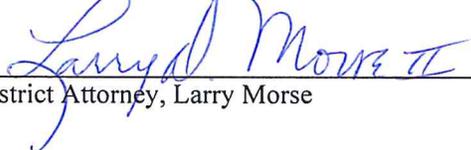
MERCED COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

>  9/30/15
Interim Director, Scott Pettygrove Date

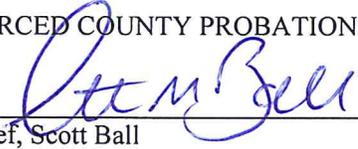
MERCED COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

>  9.23.15
Honorable Brian McCabe Date

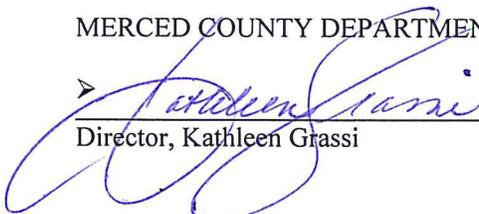
MERCED COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

>  9.29.15
District Attorney, Larry Morse Date

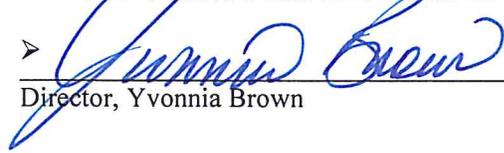
MERCED COUNTY PROBATION

>  9/24/15
Chief, Scott Ball Date

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

>  9.25.15
Director, Kathleen Grassi Date

MERCED COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH/DRUG AND ALCOHOL

>  9/23/15
Director, Yvonnia Brown Date

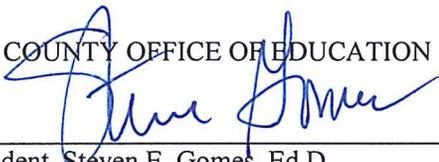
VALLEY CRISIS CENTER

>  9.29.15
~~Interim Director, Chee Yang~~ Date
Executive Director, Alison Tudor

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MERCED COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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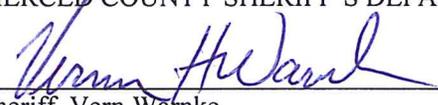


Superintendent, Steven E. Gomes, Ed.D

9/23/15
Date

MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

➤



Sheriff, Vern Warnke

9-24-15
Date

Attachments:

Exhibit A: CSEC Screening Tool

Exhibit B: CSEC Screening Tool User Guide



Exhibit A

COMMERCIAL SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC)

CSEC SCREENING TOOL

Screening Date: _____ Screener Name: _____
 Client Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Questions 1 through 6—"Yes" answer indicates score of 3 (High Risk)	Yes	No
1. Makes references to travel to other cities.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Knows someone who has had sex for shelter, food, goods, drugs, or money.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Change in attire, behavior, or material possessions.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Makes reference to terminology of the commercial sex industry.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Another person controls his/her comings and goings, and important documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Makes reference to social media sites known for trafficking.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments: _____

Questions 7 through 12—"Yes" answer indicates score of 2 (Moderate Risk)	Yes	No
7. Chronically runs away from home/placement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Has an older boyfriend/girlfriend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Has tattoos, specifically names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Makes references to sexual situations that are beyond developmental norms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Does youth have abnormal sleeping patterns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Does youth appear malnourished or reference hunger?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments: _____

Questions 13 through 18—"Yes" answer indicates score of 1 (Low Risk)	Yes	No
13. Has unexplained absences from school for an extended period of time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Does youth have promiscuous dress or behavior?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Victim of sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Exhibits bruises or other forms of physical trauma, including self-inflicted (cutting)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Exhibits psychological stressors: withdrawn behavior, low self-esteem, depression, fear, substance use, and evidence of self-harm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Criminal history and affiliations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments: _____

Total Score: _____ *(The sum of all the items is used to determine the level of potential/current risk.)*

17 to 36 = Very High/High Risk (Automatic Suspected Child Abuse Report [SCAR] to Child Welfare)

0 to 16 = Moderate/Low Risk

Overrides to be considered for increased level of risk:

- References terminology of the commercial sex industry.
- Has been identified by law enforcement or another service provider as active in human trafficking.
- If youth has three or more items checked "Yes" in items 1 through 6.

Referral made to Child Welfare: No Yes—Referral Date: _____

Referring Agency: _____

CSEC SCREENING TOOL USER GUIDE

This user guide helps clarify questions and give examples of questions that can be asked to the youth in order to determine if they are, have been, or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). The youth should be aware that the purpose of this screening is to determine CSE. The information they provide may not be confidential. Any disclosure of child abuse or suspected child abuse will be reported to the child abuse hotline. Any disclosures that lead to a High Risk ranking will be referred to the CSEC Response Team.

Upon screening, inform the youth that you will be asking several questions that could be difficult to answer or they may not want to answer. Let the youth know they are in a safe position to answer honestly, and reassure them as to how they are safe. Additionally, let the youth know a social worker may talk to them if there are concerns about their safety.

Once completed, the Screening Tool becomes part of the youth's case file within your agency. Any referrals to the CSEC Response Team will include a copy of the Screening Tool.

Questions 1 through 6 – “Yes” answer indicates score of 3 (High Risk)

1. Makes references to travel to other cities.

CSEC youth may make reference to moving or traveling to other areas such as Fresno, Bakersfield, Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, etc. This may include attending events such as sporting events, concerts, and parties.

Example Questions

- How did you afford to travel?
- Where did you stay, and how long were you there?
- Who did you go with?
- What did you do there?

2. Knows someone who has had sex for shelter, food, goods, drugs, or money.

CSE youth generally have friends or family members who have also been sexually exploited. Has the youth made references to knowing others who are being sexually exploited? This may include survival sex in exchange for receiving shelter, food, or money. Has the youth made references in engaging in these types of situations due to not having money for food, etc.?

Example Questions

- Have you ever felt that you owed your friends for helping you?
- What do you do when you need money or food?
- Do you have someone you can count on when you need money?

3. Change in attire, behavior, or material possessions (multiple cell phones, expensive items, heavy make-up, stuffing bras, credit cards/gift cards).

Has the youth suddenly changed their appearance or clothing? Notice if the youth went from wearing a certain type of clothing too expensive or provocative clothing, new jewelry, or changes in beauty/grooming (manicures). Is the youth wearing inappropriate clothing for the type of weather conditions such as short skirts and dresses when it is cold and rainy?

Example Questions

- Where did you purchase your clothes/jewelry?
- Did someone buy them for you? Was it a gift?
- Where did you get your new cell phone?

4. Makes reference to terminology of the commercial sex industry (the game, the life, daddy, dates, johns, bottom b*h, get to the bottom).**

The commercial sex industry has very language specific to trafficking. Does the youth use this language in regular conversation?

Example Questions

- Where did you learn that term?
- Do you have friends or family who speak like this?

5. Another person controls his/her comings and goings, and important documents.

CSEC often do not have control over their lives or documents. Be sensitive to the fears of an undocumented person.

Example Questions

- Can you leave when you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Are there locks on your doors or windows so you cannot get out?
- Do you have access to important documents (driver's license, social security card, passport, etc.)?
- Who keeps these documents for you?

6. Makes reference to social media sites known for trafficking.

CSE is often done via the internet. These websites can change frequently. Youth may also make references to modeling jobs or work in massage parlors. Common websites for trafficking include Craigslist, Backpage, Tumblr, and Tindr.

Example Questions

- Do you have any social media accounts?
- How often are you on the internet?
- Have you given out personal information over the internet?

Questions 7 through 12 – “Yes” answer indicates score of 2 (Moderate Risk)**7. Chronically runs away from home/placement.**

Youth may reference being homeless, transient, or couch surfing. Chronically runs away is defined as four or more times in a given year if 13+ years old **OR** one or more times in a given year if 12-years old.

Example Questions

- What caused you to leave home/placement?
- When was the last time you saw your parents/guardian?
- Have you ever been kicked out of your home?

8. Has an older boyfriend/girlfriend.

Use your judgment based on the youth's age and maturity. The youth may be dating someone who is not much older, but if the youth is cognitively functioning at a much younger age, this needs to be considered. Pay attention to terminology (see question 4).

Example Questions

- Where does your boyfriend/girlfriend go to school?
- Does your boyfriend/girlfriend have a car?
- When did they graduate?
- Where did you meet this person?
- Did you meet this person online?

9. Has tattoos, specifically names.

Pay attention to the type of tattoo and location, such as the neck, back, chest, and shoulders. Key words include the name of their trafficker, references to area codes, or bar codes.

Example Questions

- What do the tattoos mean to you?
- Why did you get the tattoo and who is the person behind the name?
- Where did you get the tattoo?

10. Makes references to sexual situations that are beyond developmental norms.

The youth makes references to being in or knowing sexual situations from either themselves or friends/siblings. They discuss that they or someone they know stays out late at night, maybe with people they do not know, and maybe in a compromising situation. Make note if they are under 14 years old and already engaging in sexual acts with someone beyond their age. Does the youth have the ability to stop sexual advances or make informed decisions regarding sex? **If sexual abuse is disclosed, or you have a reasonable suspicion, then a Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) is needed.**

Example Questions

- Where are you or your friends going late at night?
- Do you go to parties with people you just met?
- Do you know what that means (in regards to sexual situations)?

11. Does youth have abnormal sleeping patterns?

Does the youth appear or act as if extremely tired or fatigued?

Example Questions

- Where do you sleep?
- Do you ask permission to sleep?
- When do you go to bed and wake up?

12. Does youth appear malnourished or reference hunger?

Does the youth look thin? Does the youth ask about food or water?

Example Questions

- What do you eat?
- Have you ever been deprived of food or water?
- When was the last time you ate, and are you hungry right now?

Questions 13 through 18 – “Yes” answer indicates score of 1 (Low Risk)**13. Has unexplained absences from school for an extended period of time.**

Absences may include long periods of time of frequent, unexcused or excused absences, or leaving school early. Often these youth have not been enrolled in school for an extended period of time.

Example Questions

- Are you currently enrolled in school? If so, where?
- How many days a week do you go to school?
- Do you ever ditch? Why?

14. Does youth have promiscuous dress or behaviors?

Sudden changes in dress or behavior can be an indicator of trafficking. Collateral sources may be able to tell if their dress or behavior changes are resent.

Example Questions

- Where did you get that outfit?
- Was it a gift?

15. Victim of sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse could have occurred in their past or recently happened. The youth may show signs of being over sexualized or very traumatized about sex. **If sexual abuse is disclosed, or you have a reasonable suspicion, then a SCAR is needed.**

Example Questions

- Did anyone ever touch you in a way you didn't like?
- Do you feel safe with your boyfriend/girlfriend?

16. Exhibits bruises or other forms of physical trauma, including self-inflicted (cutting).

Be aware of bruises that are in places that are not common, such as the neck, thighs, or arms. Youth may have difficulty sitting or seem sore. **If physical abuse is disclosed, or you have a reasonable suspicion, then a SCAR is needed.**

Example Questions

- How did you get injured? When did it happen?
- Did you go to the doctor or hospital for the injury?
- Have you ever had any fractures or similar injuries in the past?

17. Exhibits psychological stressors: withdrawn behavior, low self-esteem, depression, fear, substance abuse, and evidence of self-harm.

Youth may appear unengaged, unresponsive, or lack interest with peers. Youth may also appear very angry or experience a rapid shift in moods.

Example Questions

- How are you feeling?
- Is there something or someone that you are afraid of?

18. Criminal history and affiliations.

Does the youth have any arrests, current or past probation, or gang affiliations? What are the charges for?

Example Questions

- Have you ever had law enforcement contact?
- Have you ever been to juvenile hall? How come?
- Are you currently on probation or have you been in the past? For what?