

Innovations in Addressing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



Jessica Heldman, JD

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego
School of Law, San Diego

Melanie Delgado, JD

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego
School of Law, San Diego



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Key Foundation: Knowledge!

[Pollev.com/jessicaheldm594](https://pollev.com/jessicaheldm594)



Question 1

When was the first formal definition of commercial sexual exploitation of children developed?

- a. 1926
- b. 1946
- c. 1976
- d. 1996



Question 2

In how many states has Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) of children been found to occur?

- a. 25
- b. 30
- c. 45
- d. 50



Question 3

National statistics establish that the prevalence of CSE of children is:

- a. 11,500 each year
- b. 50,250 each year
- c. 79,000 each year
- d. 100,000 each year
- e. None of the above



Question 4

The average age that girls are first exploited:

- a. 10-12
- b. 12-14
- c. 14-16
- d. 16-18

The average age that boys and transgender youth are exploited:

- a. 9-11
- b. 11-13
- c. 13-15
- d. 15-17



Question 5

Which of the following are potential warning signs of child sex trafficking?

- a. Indications of physical abuse (e.g. burns, marks, bruises)
- b. Having an older boyfriend
- c. Displaying expensive clothes or accessories
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above



Question 6

1 in 6 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were found to be likely victims of child sex trafficking. What is the % of those in the care of the child welfare system when they went missing?

- a. 28%
- b. 48%
- c. 68%
- d. 88%



Question 7

Under federal law, sex trafficking of children requires force, fraud or coercion.

- a. True
- b. False



Question 8

Since exploited children are considered victims under federal law, states no longer arrest and prosecute children for prostitution.

- a. True
- b. False



Key Foundation: Language!

"Child Prostitute" →

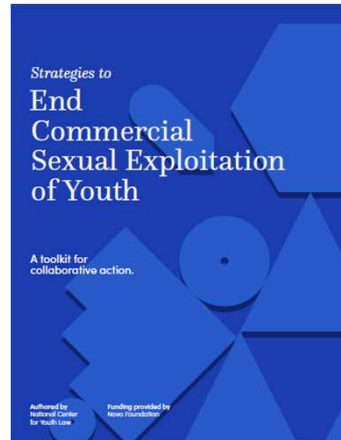
"Pimp" →

"A CSEC" →

"Bed" →

"Placement" →

"AWOL" →



<https://youthlaw.org/publication/strategies-to-end-commercial-sexual-exploitation-of-youth/>



INNOVATIONS IN ADDRESSING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

LEGAL LANDSCAPE: FEDERAL LAW



Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA):

DEFINITIONS:

SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS:

1. **Sex trafficking** in which commercial sex act induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such an act **has not attained the age of 18**.
2. (Labor Trafficking) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery



Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

DEFINITIONS:

Sex Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Coercion: (a) Threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; (b) any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or (c) the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

Commercial Sex Act: Any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.



Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

PREVENTION

PROTECTION

PROSECUTION

PARTNERSHIP



PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING & STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT

STATE REQUIREMENTS

- Develop policies and procedures to identify, document, screen and determine appropriate services for children under the child welfare agency's care and supervision, who are victims of, or at risk of, sex trafficking.
- Child welfare agencies must immediately report children in their care identified as sex trafficking victims to law enforcement.
- Child welfare agencies must report the numbers of children in their care identified as sex trafficking victims to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Child welfare agencies must report missing youth to law enforcement, within 24 hours, for entry into the National Crime Information Center and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- Child welfare agencies must develop and implement protocols to locate children who runaway or are missing from foster care, determine the child's experiences while absent from care, develop screening to determine if the child is a sex trafficking victim, and report information to HHS



POLL

Are you aware – is your state complying with these requirements

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) I don't know



INNOVATIONS IN ADDRESSING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

LEGAL LANDSCAPE: STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVANCEMENTS



Legislative Advancements in the States

What legislative advancements related to CSEC has your state made in recent years?



Decriminalization

Decriminalization:

Laws that provide immunity to minors or make penal provisions of the law related to prostitution inapplicable to anyone under the age of 18.

Diversion:

Laws that create programs to divert CSEC from the juvenile justice system into programs created to provide services and supports specific to their needs. These laws do not necessarily create any immunity for CSEC victims.

Decriminalization + Diversion:

Many states have created laws that provide some immunity for CSEC and provide diversion to programs that provide services and supports as well.

- California SB 1322 (2016)



Victim Supports and Services

Required Services:

State laws set requirements for the types of services survivors receive. These can be mental health services, medical treatment, housing, etc.

Training:

Requiring training social workers, police officers, attorneys and judges how to interact with survivors, including trauma informed training

Victim Assistance Funds:

Funds from fines and forfeitures that are used to provide victim services and supports.



Criminal and Civil Penalties to Reduce Trafficking Demand

Graduated Penalties:

Penalties increase for each offense.

Increased fines and criminal penalties:

Many states have substantially increased fines and incarceration time for sex trafficking crimes involving children.

Asset Forfeiture:

Authorities have the ability to seize traffickers' assets.



Practice Innovations

SCREENING TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS AND THOSE AT RISK



The Importance of Screening

Screening provides vital information:

- Often, CSEC will not disclose they are being exploited. Screening helps to identify children and youth who are CSEC or are at risk of being exploited.
- It helps to ensure appropriate services and supports are available to vulnerable children and youth.
- It helps state and county agencies to provide appropriate services and supports to the youth's family.
- It facilitates accurate communication between the agencies with which the youth and their family are involved.



Key Considerations when Developing a Screening Process: The Tool

1. Evidence-Based:

- Who created the tool?
- Has the tool been used before? Is it validated?
- Has it been used to screen CSEC?
- What obstacles were encountered?

2. Cross-Agency:

- Will Multiple agencies need to implement and understand the screening tool?
- The tool should provide a standard, reliable measurement for all agencies accessing it

3. Length: How will the length of the tool impact the reliability of the results?

4. Timing: Is the tool used to screen before signs of exploitation are obvious?

5. Sources of Information: Where will the screener get the information? (from interviews, from county records...)



Key Considerations when Developing a Screening Process: The Training

- Which agencies will come into contact with CSEC youth: child welfare, probation, education, mental health?
- Which professionals in those agencies will need to be trained in the screening process?
- How can professionals across agencies be trained to ensure the tool is used in a standardized way across agencies?
- With which populations does your agency come into contact? Training should include cultural competency training
- Professionals should be trained to perform the screening using a trauma informed approach, particularly when interviewing and interacting with survivors.



Key Considerations when Developing a Screening Process: The Process

- What triggers a screening?
- What is the age range of children that will be screened?
- Which agency / agencies will provide initial screening?
- How will agencies conducting screening coordinate with one another to avoid duplication of screening?
- If only one agency is conducting screening, how will other agencies coordinate to ensure all identified children are screened?
- After the screening is completed, what next?
- How are you going to evaluate the success of your screening tool and process?



Multidisciplinary Response (protocol): The necessity of building a multidisciplinary response

- CSEC survivors come into contact with child welfare, probation, mental health, education and other systems. It is important for these systems to communicate and coordinate in their response.
- CSEC survivors may require a wide range of services: medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and housing assistance, among other needs.
- A multidisciplinary response, including multidisciplinary team approach, can better assess and provide for the needs of the youth and their family.
- Multidisciplinary response leverages local expertise to comprehensively address the issue of CSEC on a local level.



Multidisciplinary Response (protocol): Key considerations

Multidisciplinary Planning:

- Again, which agencies potentially come into contact with CSEC?
- Take steps to ensure all of those voices are at the table

Protocol Development

- Look at model protocols and protocols from other jurisdictions
- What considerations are unique to your jurisdiction, how can those be addressed?



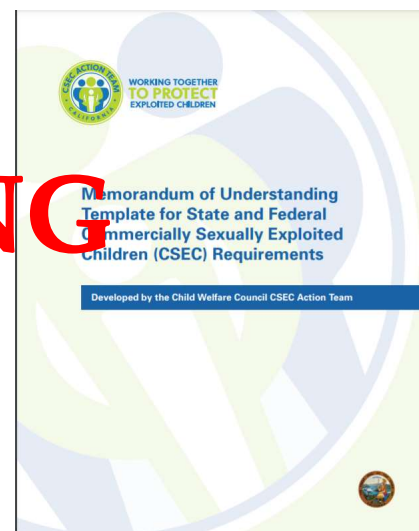
Multidisciplinary Response (protocol): Key considerations (continued)

Key Practices

1. Immediate Crisis Response:

Put in place protocols for crisis situations: some questions to consider:

- In crisis situations, who responds?
- Is there a 24 hour number or a contact for law enforcement (for example) utilized?
- Are there survivor peer responders available to respond?
- Do responders have access to crisis resources and know how to use them?
- Who else is contacted? When? What are the timelines?
- Where is the CSEC victim taken upon discovery? How?

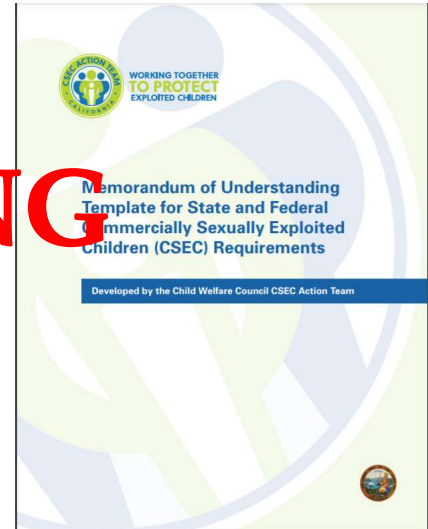


Multidisciplinary Response (protocol): Key considerations (continued)

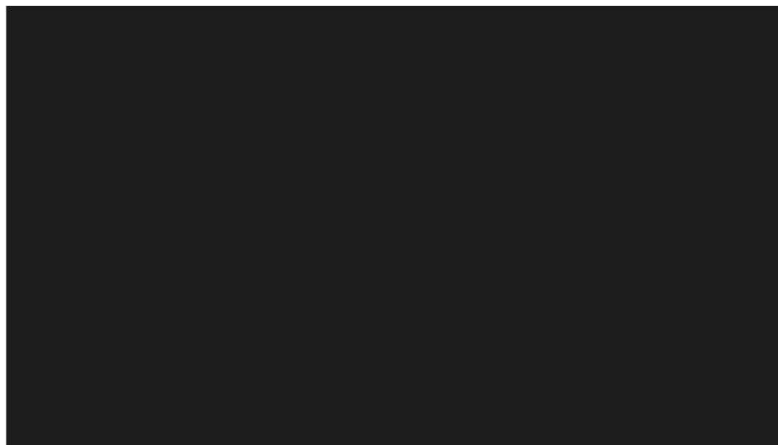
Key Practices

2. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings

- Multidisciplinary teams build on a youth's strengths and address the youth's needs in a coordinated manner.
- Considerations:
 - Who should be on the MDT?
 - How to ensure the youth's voice is heard
 - Timing and frequency of meetings?
 - When should meetings be in person?
 - What are the responsibilities of the MDT as a whole?
 - What are the responsibilities of each member of the MDT?



Multidisciplinary Response (protocol): San Diego CSEC Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Leaders



Specialty Courts - Delinquency

HISTORY

- Juvenile Court history
- Adult specialty courts
- Juvenile specialty courts

MODELS

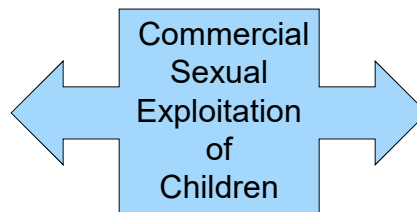
- Pre-adjudication
- Post-adjudication
- Mix



Two Paths to CSEC Courts - Delinquency

Girls Court

- Hawaii Girls Court
- New Mexico PEG



CSEC-Specific Court

- STAR Court
- RISE Court
- CARE Court



Dependency Court Model



HISTORY

- Awareness and Reframing
- Legislative Changes
- Program Support

EXAMPLES

- DREAM Court
- GRACE Court



CSEC Courts – Fundamental Components

- Identification and Screening
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration/community collaboration
- Assessment and treatment planning
- Non-adversarial approach
- Frequent meetings/hearings
- Trauma informed training, environments, and services
- Incentives for progress/completion
- Continuing resources and support

TRAINING



CSEC Courts - Assessment

Girls Courts

- Some evidence of reducing youth leaving care
- Some evidence of reduced re-arrests and detentions
- Some evidence of improved educational outcomes

CSEC Court

- STAR Court evaluation



Los Angeles Specialty Courts

STAR (Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience) Court
-delinquency court

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYiUiz9peSU>

**DREAM Court Dedication to Restoration through Empowerment,
Advocacy, and Mentoring**

-dependency court



RISE Court San Diego

- Development Process (working group to launch)
- Mission
 - RISE Court is a *collaborative*, engaged, and *trauma-informed* court that uses a multidisciplinary approach to address the needs of youth who may have a history of, or may be at risk for, commercial sexual exploitation.
- Program Eligibility Criteria
- The RISE Court team
- How it works



CSEC Innovations Self-Assessment

