

Child Trafficking Tip Sheet

What is Child Sex Trafficking?

- Under the age of 18
- A sexual act in return for a fee or other item of value:
- Trading sex for basic needs: food, clothing or a place to stay (“Survival Sex”)
- Trading sex for desired items
- Stripping, exotic dancing, escort services, adult book/video store, sex parties, online sex
- Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) (sexual abuse images)
- filmed or photographed nude in a sexual context and/or performing or engaging in sexual acts
- “Child Pornography”
- Arrested for a “prostitution offense” as per penal law
- “Child Prostitute”
- Force/Fraud/Coercion NOT Required for Under 18

Which Children are Vulnerable to Traffickers?

ALL children are vulnerable to traffickers, but populations noted to be highly vulnerable include:

- Runaway or homeless youth
- Foster Care
- Juvenile Justice
- History of physical abuse, maltreatment, neglect, and especially sexual abuse
- Substance abuse
- Disabilities (developmental, physical)
- Mental illness
- LGBTQ
- Refugees, immigrants, non-English speaking

How and Why Do Children Become Trafficked?

- Force (aggression), Fraud (trickery), Coercion (threats)
- Psychological Manipulation
- Fear
- Family
- Peers
- Gangs
- Survival
- Culture

- Vulnerability for an affirmational relationship (possibly due to insecure attachment in early years)

What Language Should NOT be Used?

- Child Prostitute
- Child Sex Worker
- Child Pornography
- CSEC Child
- Prostituting
- **Never identify a person by the trauma they have experienced**

What Language Should Be Used?

- Trafficked
- Exploited
- Survivor
- Victim (less empowering)
- Words of affirmation
- Words to help identify strengths

Important Points to Remember When Working With a Trafficking Trauma Survivor

- Trafficking = Trauma, often Complex Trauma, often repeated endlessly, sometimes interspersed with love bombing (aka Trauma Bonding), gaslighting, other manipulation

Tips For Working with Trafficking Survivors:

- Maintain Trauma Sensitivity
- Maintain Cultural & Gender Sensitivity
- Do not take their reaction personally
- Do not ask unnecessary questions
- Be mindful not to be intrusive (asking for details may re-traumatize)
- Appear non-judgmental (be very mindful of your facial expressions and body language)
- Do NOT say “I Understand” or “Calm Down”
- Refer to an agency or program that has expertise in working with trafficked youth, which provides **lived experience mentors**.
- Email questions to Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov

Who To Notify for a Youth Who Has Experienced or Is High At-Risk For Trafficking

- If the child is in NYC: The Administration for Children’s Services’ Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) at Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov
- The National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or Text to 233733
- If the child is trafficked and missing: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678), or use their Cyber Tipline at www.missingkids.com
- If the child has been labor trafficked: The New York State Department of Labor Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs, via phone at 877-466-9757, or email at trafficking@labor.ny.gov for further guidance and information.
- If the trafficker is a parent or person legally responsible, or has contributed to the situation through which the child was trafficked: The NY Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment at: 1-800-342-3720, or the registry for another state if not NYS. If NYS, tell the operation this is a **High Priority 14 (Sex Trafficking Allegation)** and/or **High Priority 15 (Labor Trafficking Allegation)**