

Where Does Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Happen?

Anywhere:

- **ON THE INTERNET:** Ads for “adult services,” chat rooms, video chats, through social media and other websites.
- **ON THE STREET:** Children and teens are picked up on the street or involved in street prostitution or gangs.
- **IN PRIVATE:** Homes, apartments, hotels, or motels.
- **IN BUSINESSES:** Massage parlors or spas, strip clubs, escort services, or casinos.

CSEC is a reality that is happening all over the world and here in NJ.



Help and Resources for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

If you are a victim of CSEC, you are not alone. There is help available.

National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-3737-888

www.polarisproject.org

New Jersey Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-855-END-NJ-HT or 1-855-363-6548

www.njhumantrafficking.gov

National Runaway Safeline:

1-800-RUNAWAY or 1-800-786-2929

1800RUNAWAY.org

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

1-800-THE-LOST or 1-800-843-5678

www.missingkids.com

New Jersey Child Abuse Hotline:

1-877-NJ-ABUSE or 1-877-652-2873

www.state.nj.us/dcf/reporting/hotline

New Jersey Dream Catcher:

1-800-286-4184

<http://www.acwc.org/dreamcatcher.htm>

For more information about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and the prevention programs from Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey, please contact our Human Trafficking Prevention Program:

Phone: 732-246-8060

Website: www.preventchildabuse.nj.org

Understanding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Teens



COMMERCIAL: Buying or selling

SEXUAL: Sex acts

EXPLOITATION: Taking advantage of someone



Prevent Child Abuse
New Jersey™

What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is when a person buys, sells or trades sexual acts (including pictures or videos) of children and teens under the age of 18 in exchange for anything of value.

The child is treated as a commercial and sexual object for profit.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Child pornography: sexually explicit videos or pictures of a child.
- Child prostitution: selling a child for sex acts.
- Survival sex: having sex in exchange for food, clothes, or shelter.

Any child under 18 years of age involved in commercial sex is considered a victim of sex trafficking.

CSEC can happen to anyone of any gender no matter what their sexual preference is.

How Does Commercial Sexual Exploitation Happen?

Traffickers, often called pimps, target young victims and exploit them because they are more vulnerable, less experienced, and may be influenced more easily than adults. They often search for youth in malls, parks, transportation areas, or parties.

These traffickers/pimps look for youth who:

- Are homeless or runaway from their home.
- Have experienced abuse or violence.
- Are not fitting in or don't feel confident about themselves.

Traffickers/pimps use these situations to take advantage of youth who are in need of love, food, shelter, or clothes. Sometimes multiple people are involved in recruiting the youth to participate in CSEC. Traffickers control the youth by making false promises, using threats, or using violence to force them to participate.

Laws Protect Children in Commercial Sexual Exploitation

It is illegal for any adult to be involved in CSEC. In every case of CSEC, the child is a victim and has the right to protection and services under the law.



Why Does Commercial Sexual Exploitation Happen?

It's hard for many people to understand why this happens. Here are some reasons:

- **MONEY:** Usually someone profits from the exchange.
- **POWER:** CSEC is used as a form of control. Someone abuses their power over a child for the benefit of themselves. Some victims may be exposed to CSEC by their family or an abusive partner.
- **"SEX SELLS":** People buy and sell sex. Our society sexualizes people, normalizes commercial sex, and glamorizes pimp culture.
- **UNREPORTED:** Although illegal, CSEC often goes unreported due to fear, shame, or feeling helpless.

There is NO excuse for abuse!