

Where Does Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Happen?

Everywhere:

- **ON THE INTERNET:** Ads for “adult services,” chat rooms, video chats, through social media and other websites.
- **IN PUBLIC:** Minors are taken advantage of through street prostitution or gangs. This can take place at truck stops, tourist attractions, etc.
- **IN PRIVATE:** Homes, apartments, hotels, or motels.
- **IN BUSINESSES:** Strip clubs, escort services, casinos, sporting arenas, conventions, massage parlors, or spas.



CSEC is a reality that is happening in New Jersey and all over the world.

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
www.acwc.org/dreamcatcher.htm

Want to learn more about preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?

Visit our website for more information about prevention programs in your area.
www.preventchildabuse.nj.org/human-trafficking
732-246-8060

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 (minors) in exchange for anything of value.

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

This includes but is not limited to:

- Sexually explicit or abusive videos/pictures of a minor.
- Selling a minor for sex acts.
- Having sex in exchange for food, clothes, or shelter.

Any minor involved in commercial sex is considered a victim of sex trafficking.



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

How Does Commercial Sexual Exploitation Happen?

Traffickers target victims to exploit them.

Traffickers can be:

- Pimps
- Family
- Partners
- Gangs

Traffickers control youth by making false promises, using threats or violence.

Traffickers look for youth who are vulnerable:

- Homeless or in need of basic care
- Have experienced abuse, violence, or neglect
- Are not fitting in or feel isolated

Multiple people may be involved in recruiting youth for CSEC.

Traffickers search for youth in places such as:

- Online
- Malls
- Parties
- Parks
- Transportation areas

Laws Protect Minors in Commercial Sexual Exploitation

It is illegal for any adult to be involved in CSEC. In every case of CSEC, the minor 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 minor for the benefit of themselves.
- **DEMAND:** People buy and sell sex. Our society sexualizes young people, and glamorizes violence and pimp culture.
- **UNREPORTED:** Although illegal, CSEC often goes unreported due to fear, shame, or feeling helpless.

There is NO excuse for abuse!