**What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)**

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is violence against children. CSEC is sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor, 17 and under, for “payment” or promise of money, goods or services to the child or a third person(s). CSEC occurs through a variety of methods including interfamilial pimping, street prostitution, pornography, stripping, erotic/nude massage, escort services, private parties, truck stops, gang-based prostitution, and forms of Internet-based exploitation. *CSEC disproportionately affects youth of color, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) youth, and girls.*

**Indicators of CSEC**

The following are common indicators that may help in identifying children/youth who are at-risk of or are being commercially sexually exploited. *A child exhibiting these indicators may not be a victim of CSEC.*

|  |
| --- |
| *Possible indicators in identifying sexually exploited children/youth* |
| * Visible signs of abuse such as unexplained bruises, black eye(s), cuts or marks * Behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension and/or nervousness * Behaviors such as “hyper-vigilance” * Tattoos (“branding”) typically on wrist, shoulder blade or chest * Sexually exploited children/youth often express interest in or are in relationships with older men or adults * Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships * Possession of multiple cell phones, hotel room keys * Frequent running away, skipping school (truancy) * Indicators that child/youth is lying about their age or name, fake ID , no ID * Family dysfunction (family violence, history of child abuse/neglect, alcohol/drug abuse) |

**Identification and disclosure of CSEC**

Due to the fear, coercion, threats and exploitation of multiple vulnerabilities by perpetrators, children and youth who may have experienced sexual exploitation, will generally NOT:

* identify as a “victim” or “survivor”
* identify as a victim of sexual assault or human trafficking
* disclose abuse during the initial contact(s)

**Services Available to Victims of CSEC**

The following is a list of services and resources available in Washington. Support and assistance is available to individuals who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation, their parents, families and caregivers, by contacting the Crime Victim Service Center or Community Sexual Assault Program in your area. *Advocacy services are free of charge.* Services include:

* Access to a victim advocate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week,
* Support and assistance aimed at meeting the self-determined needs of youth,
* Support and assistance for parents, caregivers and adults impacted by CSEC,
* Assistance with safety and support planning,
* Assistance and support with accessing medical care related to CSEC,
* Assistance and support with accessing additional resources,
* Assistance with understanding the legal system, the rights of victims as well as other government agencies and services.

|  |
| --- |
| **State and National Resources** |
| **Washington State**  **The Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN)**  Victim Assistance Line: 206-245-0782 |
| **Washington State**  **Office of Crime Victims Advocacy**  Hotline: 1-800-822-1067 (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm)  www.ocva.wa.gov |
| **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**  24-Hour Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Child and/or adult Victims of Human Trafficking**  The following agencies have expertise in providing services to children and youth  who have experienced, or who are at-risk of being victims of commercial sexual exploitation | |
| **King County** | |
| **Seattle**  Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse  Phone: (206) 568-7777 | **Seattle**  YouthCare  **CSEC Hotline:** 855-400-2732 |
| **Seattle**  Real Escape from the Sex Trade (REST)  Serving Young Adults 18-24  24-Hour Hotline: 206-451-7378 | **Seattle**  Organization for Prostitution Survivors  Serving Adults 18 and over  Victim Advocate: 206-850-8258 |
| **Pierce County** | **Thurston County** |
| Oasis Youth Center  Serving LGBTQ Youth and Young Adults 14-24  Phone: (253) 671-2838  Hotline: 253-988-2108 | **Olympia**  Community Youth Services  1-888-698-1816 (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm) |
| **Snohomish County** | **Thurston County** |
| **Everett**  Providence Intervention Center for Abuse and Assault  Human Trafficking Hotline: 425-258-9037 | Thurston  Partners in Prevention Education (PIPE)  Serving LGBTQ Youth and Young Adults 13-30  Phone: (360) 357-4472 |
| **Spokane County** | **Yakima County** |
| **Spokane**  Sexual Assault and Family Trauma (SAFeT)  Response Center  Phone: (509)747-8224  24-Hour Hotline: 509-624-7273 | **Yakima**  Comprehensive Mental Health  509-575-4824  **24-Hour Hotline:** 1-866-523-6468 |