

## ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM

Although all children are vulnerable, previously identified cases of CSEC suggest that the following populations are at a higher risk:

- ◇ Runaway and homeless youth
- ◇ Children within the foster care system
- ◇ Children with histories of abuse
- ◇ Children with histories of substance abuse
- ◇ Children with disabilities
- ◇ Youth in the juvenile justice system
- ◇ LGBTQ youth
- ◇ Refugees, immigrants, and non-English speaking persons



**He promised me a place to stay,**

**Then he forced me to work as a prostitute**

## SAFE HARBOUR CONTACTS

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National Human Trafficking 24/7 Hotline  
**1-888-373-7888 or 211**  
Text "Help" to BeFree (233733)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
**1-800-843-5678**

Survivors Hotline  
**1-888-261-3665**

Department of Homeland Security Tip Line  
**1-866-DHS-2-ICE or 1-888-347-2423**

Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual  
Violence Center 24-hour Hotline  
**(518) 447-7716**

Hubbard Hall Shelter 24-hour hotline  
**(518) 437-6523**

Albany Medical Center Emergency Room  
**(518) 262-3131**

St. Peters Health Partners Sexual Assault and  
Victim Assistance Hotline  
**(518) 271-3257**

**ALBANY COUNTY**  
*Cares* about our community

Albany County does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, gender, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, genetic information, veteran status or marital status in its programs and activities.

## Safe Harbour Program of Albany County



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**Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)**  
260 South Pearl Street  
Albany, NY 12202  
**(518) 447-2525**

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Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Albany County Safe Harbour Program provides case coordination and advocacy for youth who have been the subject of commercial sexual exploitation.

Assistance is provided to access services including: medical care, mental health counseling, financial assistance, emergency shelter and other basic living and safety needs. The program also provides community education and conducts public awareness campaigns on the issue.

The goal is to address the immediate life and safety issues of identified youth and to reduce the risk of continued sexual exploitation and abuse by providing access to needed resources.

## WHAT IS THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN?

The **commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)** occurs when any child under the age of 18 years old exchanges a sexual act or performance in exchange for anything of value including: money, gifts, shelter, food, clothing or drugs. The commercial sex industry victimizes girls, boys, and transgendered youth.

Any child under the age of 18 who is induced to perform a commercial sex act is considered a **sex trafficking victim**.

## WHAT DOES CSEC LOOK LIKE?

Children may be subjected to human commercial sexual exploitation in a variety of ways. Common examples include:

- ◇ Images of child sexual abuse
- ◇ Intra-familial sexual exploitation of children and youth
- ◇ Prostitution on the streets or in a private residence, club, hotel, spa, or massage parlor
- ◇ Online commercial sexual exploitation or cyber enticement (e.g. backpage.com)
- ◇ Exotic dancing/stripping
- ◇ Trading sex for drugs
- ◇ Street peddling or begging
- ◇ Domestic sex trafficking of minors

## COMMON RED FLAGS

- ◇ Child runs away from home frequently and/or for significant periods of time
- ◇ Disconnection from social supports such as church, family, friends, teachers, medical providers, community
- ◇ Over-sexualized behavior
- ◇ Multiple sexually transmitted infections, abortions or anonymous sexual partners
- ◇ Signs of sexual, physical or mental abuse, depression or suicidal tendencies
- ◇ Tattoos expressing ownership
- ◇ Malnourishment or poor personal hygiene
- ◇ Untreated injuries
- ◇ Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- ◇ Has a significantly older partner/spends a lot of time with a controlling person or older adult
- ◇ Uses street slang for sex work
- ◇ Explanations inconsistent with injuries
- ◇ Describes a stalking situation
- ◇ Reluctant to discuss how they make money, where they live, how or when they came to the US
- ◇ Minor is working more than they are in school
- ◇ Scared of consequences to a degree greater than the situation warrants
- ◇ Fearfulness, anxiety, trauma symptoms

