

CSEC Caregiver Resource Guide 2023



Created in Collaboration
with the
Orange County
CSEC Steering Committee

COUNTY OF ORANGE CALIFORNIA
 Social Services Agency
Our Community, Our Commitment



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Introduction

Commercial sexual exploitation of a youth includes a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value, including monetary and non-monetary benefits.

While any child could become a victim, certain factors contribute to a child being at higher risk of commercial sexual exploitation and/sex trafficking. Children who have a history of abuse or neglect, especially sexual abuse, and youth involved in the foster care system are particularly vulnerable.

Purpose of this guide:

This resource guide is to assist caretakers in Orange County in navigating the unique needs and services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, commonly referred to as Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, or CSEC. In June 2014, Senate Bill 855 clarified that children who are victims of exploitation will be served by the child welfare system, which is designed to protect and serve abused and neglected youth. If you are concerned a child in your care is a victim, there are resources in the community to help. If a child in your care is at imminent risk for sexual exploitation, please contact local law enforcement and the Orange County Child Abuse Hotline at 714-940-1000 or 800-207-4464.

For more information:

Please read the County of Orange Social Services Agency's Annual Reports on CSEC at ssa.ocgov.com. For further information on human trafficking in Orange County, please visit ochumantrafficking.com.

General resources:

For caretakers and youth in foster care, the County of Orange Social Services Agency's comprehensive Resource Family Guide is available on oc4kids.com.

If a youth in your care

- Goes missing from care or runs away.
- Has new items (jewelry, clothing, purses, phones, etc.) and you don't know where they came from.
- Is involved with an older man or woman.
- Being secretive about what they are doing online.

You can support the youth by:

- Asking non-judgmental questions: Neither you nor the child is to blame.
- Being patient: Don't push a youth to talk before they are ready. Believe what they say when they do begin to talk.
- Seeking support: The resources in this guide are here to support you and the youth in your care.

General and Mental Health Resources

Project CHOICE

This drop-in center works to empower youth ages 11-21 to take back their power of choice through a survivor-centered and strength-based approach, prioritizing the health, safety and stability of each youth. Services include case management, safety planning, court support and advocacy, and medical, mental health and substance use support.

714-619-0212

orangewood4you.org/sex_trafficking_csec_services

Waymakers

This nonprofit helps victims of violence and crime find their way by alleviating the trauma they experienced.

1221 E. Dyer Road, Suite 120, Santa Ana, CA 92705

949-250-0488

waymakersoc.org

Brave Grace

Brave Grace offers trauma-informed equine-facilitated therapy, focusing on the horse-human connection as a pathway to building connected relationships.

25200 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630

bravegrace.com

Casa de la Familia – Right to Rise

Victims of human trafficking can receive psychological counseling services, case management, support groups and related services.

714-667-5220

casadelafamilia.org/human-trafficking

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's (NCMEC) mission is to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation and prevent child victimization. NCMEC works with families, victims, private industry, law enforcement and the public to assist with preventing child abductions, recovering missing children and providing services to deter and combat child sexual exploitation.

800-THE-LOST (843-5678)

National Human Trafficking Hotline

The National Human Trafficking Hotline connects victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking with services and supports to get help and stay safe. The hotline does not provide services directly to victims or survivors.

888-373-7888

Text: 233733

humantraffickinghotline.org

LGBTQ Center Orange County

Especially designed for gay men, lesbians, youth, the transgender community, the Spanish-speaking LGBTQ community, the bisexual community and LGBTQ families, the life-affirming programs focus on empowerment, while advocacy efforts focus on speaking out against hate and discrimination. The center provides health promotion, disease prevention and mental health programming that is affordable, accessible and culturally competent.

714-953-LGBT (5428)

lgbtqcenteroc.org

OC Links

This information and referral phone and online chat service is designed to help callers navigate OC Health Care Agency's Behavioral Health Services, including suicide prevention, crisis services, and counseling for children and adults.

855-625-4657 (OCLINKS)

ochealthinfo.com/oclinks

Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies (MECCA)

This collaborative is committed to creating a sustainable system of integrated health care delivery and human development among its members through education, outreach and advocacy in order to increase access and resources to diverse multicultural communities.

1505 E. 17th St., Suite 123, Santa Ana, CA 92705

ocmecca.org

GRACE (Generating Resources to Abolish Child Exploitation) Court

GRACE (Generating Resources to Abolish Child Exploitation) Court provides additional resources to meet the unique needs of the CSEC population under the jurisdiction of the Orange County Juvenile Court. This collaborative court meets frequently with CSE youth and a multi-disciplinary team that includes, but is not limited to, social workers, victim advocates, therapists, youth support specialists and the Orange County Department of Education, as well as the youth and their family. A youth may be referred to GRACE Court by their social worker, probation officer or attorney.

occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts

Housing

The following housing resources are for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) 18-24 years old and adults who are survivors of sex trafficking.

Crittenton's Stepping Stones Program

This transitional and independent living program focuses on lasting change to help break the cycle of homelessness and poverty among Southern California's transitional age youth.

714-680-9000

crittentonsocal.org/crittentons-stepping-stones-program-2

Radiant Futures

Formerly known as Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC), this center helps individuals and families escape the depths of domestic violence through shelter, supportive services and community education and advocacy.

877-531-5522 (Available 24 hours; bilingual)

radiantfutures.org

The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse is a survivor-centered, trauma-informed traditional housing program for women ages 18-22 who are survivors of sex trafficking.

714-619-0239

orangewood4you.org/sex_trafficking_csec_services/the-lighthouse

Thatiana's House

This is a 24-hour staffed emergency safe home for victims of sex trafficking in Orange County.

562-999-2248

orangecounty.salvationarmy.org/orange_county_ca/anti-trafficking-services-2

Training/Education

Anti-Human Trafficking Certificate

The Anti-Human Trafficking Certificate is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of anti-trafficking efforts and promising practices. Taught by practitioner-experts, the 13 courses provide the knowledge to identify roles and promising practices, and strengthen community efforts to combat all aspects of human trafficking and exploitation. Scholarships are available for survivors.

gcwj.org/aht-certificate

Ending Human Trafficking Podcast

The podcast episodes cover the full range of human trafficking issues, directly from the voices of experts in the field.

endinghumantrafficking.org
terminandoconlatrata.org

Ending The Game

Professionals and community members learn to understand psychological coercion in human trafficking and the powerful ways to support victims on their journey to overcome it.

endingthegame.com

Ensure Justice Conference

This annual two-day conference hosted at Vanguard University in March brings law enforcement, social services, health and medical professionals, teachers, students, parents and more together to learn and engage with subject matter experts on human trafficking prevention, protection, prosecution, partnership and policy efforts around the nation and the world.

gcwj.org/ensurejustice

My Life, My Choice

Skilled trainers, many of whom are survivor leaders, offer introductory and advanced trainings about commercial sexual exploitation. For service providers, law enforcement and youth-serving professionals, the training aims to increase victim identification, improve provider response to exploited youth and build a well-trained safety net for the most vulnerable youth.

mylifemychoice.org/training-advocacy

The Cool Aunt Series

This online prevention course guides youth through understanding human trafficking and provides resources and support throughout and after the curriculum. It is for all teens, “at-risk” preteens and the adults who care for them. Youth receiving services from the County of Orange Social Services Agency can speak with their social workers or their service providers for access.

www.thecoolauntseries.com

Truth-Based Relational Intervention

This attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children.

949-582-4884

Saddleback College’s Foster & Kinship Care Education Program

saddleback.edu/el/fkce

WestCoast Children’s Clinic

WestCoast Children’s Clinic offers free online training for parents, caregivers, and social work staff to assist with understanding how youth are groomed into exploitation, how best to support them through this experience, and setting boundaries using a trauma informed approach.

westcoastcc.org/new-dates-csec-caregiver-training-series

Word on the Street

The purpose of this prevention curriculum is to educate, equip and empower youth, and provide them with tools and opportunities for discussion to prevent them from unknowingly becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

nolabrantleyspeaks.org/nbs-blog/word-on-the-street

Substance Use Treatment

Phoenix House Adolescent Outpatient

This program offers substance use disorder treatment services for children ages 12-17, including outpatient, intensive outpatient treatment and medication-assisted treatment. Other services include individual and group counseling, family therapy, drug testing and patient education.

714-461-0158

Sanctuary Recovery Center

A six-bed, short-term residential treatment program for girls ages 15-17, this program provides healing and hope for clients who have a substance use disorder, offering individualized treatment. Funded through the OC Health Care Agency, Sanctuary Recovery Center is part of Vera's Sanctuary for Women, a subsidiary of The Teen Project Inc.

949-534-4715

srcadmissions@theteenproject.co

Twin Town Treatment Centers

Twin Town Treatment Centers provide outpatient drug and alcohol addiction treatment.

714-532-9295

705 W. La Veta Ave., Suite 208, Orange, CA 92868

twintowntreatmentcenters.com

Wel-More Psychology Group Inc.

Wel-More Psychology Group Inc. provides a variety of outpatient therapy and counseling options, including private individual, couples or family therapy, and group counseling at locations throughout Orange County.

714-540-9070

4120 Birch St., No. 121, Newport Beach, CA 9266

welmortreatment.com

Terms

You may encounter the following terms as you and the youth in your care receive services and support.

Child Abuse Services Team (CAST): Coordinated on-site services that enable social services, law enforcement, deputy district attorneys, medical providers and therapists to collaborate on investigations. A child may be referred to CAST via law enforcement or their assigned social worker.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS): Responsible for the oversight and administration of programs serving California's most vulnerable residents.

Children & Family Services (CFS): A division in the County of Orange Social Services Agency designed to protect children from abuse and neglect, providing services to at-risk families.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA): Volunteers who mentor children in foster care, advocating their best interests in the courtroom and other settings. A child may receive a CASA by way of a juvenile court order.

Extended Foster Care (EFC): Allows eligible youth in the child welfare and probation systems to remain in foster care until age 21. Youth may leave extended foster care and later choose to re-enter the program up to age 21.

Foster Family Agency (FFA): Organized and operated on a nonprofit basis and engaged in the following activities: recruiting, certifying and training resource parents, providing professional support to resource parents, and finding homes or other temporary or permanent placements for children who require more intensive care.

Institution for Mental Disease (IMD): A hospital, nursing facility or other institution of more than 16 beds that is primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment or care of persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care and related services.

Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC): For children and youth requiring in-depth treatment and behavioral supports, and/or who have special healthcare needs, while helping them remain in a home-based family setting.

Kin-Gap: Serves children leaving the foster care system and entering into guardianship with a relative.

Legal guardian: Adult legally responsible for the needs of a minor/youth appointed by the court. Responsible for the child's daily care and control.

Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs): A current dependent or ward of the Juvenile Court who satisfies all of the following criteria:

- Has reached 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement, but is less than 21

- years of age
- Is in foster care under the placement and care responsibility of Children & Family Services (CFS), OC Probation or an Indian tribe that entered into an agreement pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section (§) 10553.1
- Is participating in or intending/willing to participate in a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)
- Youths who voluntarily remain in foster care after the age of 18 until 21.

Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC): 24-hour emergency shelter care facility, operated and owned by the County of Orange Social Services Agency for children who have been abused, abandoned and/or neglected. OCFC is licensed by the California Department of Social Services as a temporary shelter care facility.

Protective custody warrant: A court order authorizing the removal of a child from the physical custody of the parent/guardian and it is considered the first order pertaining to the removal of the child from the home.

Relative: An adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings and all relatives whose status is preceded by the word “great” or the spouse of any of these persons, even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution.

Resource Family Approval (RFA): Caregiver approval process that combines elements of the foster parent licensing, relative approval and approvals for adoption and guardianship processes. Once approved, a caregiver is eligible to have children in foster care placed in their home.

Senior Social Worker (SSW): Social worker with the County of Orange Social Services Agency’s Children & Family Services. Several SSWs will be involved with the child, caretaker and family when involved with the Juvenile Court.

Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP): A 24-hour residential facility operated by a public agency or private organization that provides specialized care, support, supervision and treatment to children and non-minor dependents.

County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA): Operates under the policy direction of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the California departments of Social Services and Health Care Services and is responsible for planning, implementing and operating many of the social services programs provided by the County of Orange, including the Children & Family Services (CFS) division.

Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP): Placement opportunity for youth ages 16-18 years old. THPP helps participants emancipate successfully by providing a safe environment to learn skills that can make them self-sufficient.

Wraparound: A system of care where care coordinators and family partners work with eligible children ages 5-17 and their families on goals to help them be successful.

Who Do I Call?

Child at Imminent Risk

Local Law Enforcement
9-1-1

Child Abuse Hotline
714-940-1000
800-207-4464

Child Ran Away From Care

Local Law Enforcement
9-1-1

Assigned Social Worker

National Center for Missing &
Exploited Children (NCMEC)
800-THE-LOST (843-5678)

Nationwide Resources

National Human
Trafficking Hotline
888-373-7888

Advocate at Court

Waymakers
949-250-0488

Child at Risk of Exploitation

Project CHOICE
714-619-0212

Assigned Social Worker

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Child Abuse Services Team
UCI Medical Center
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Higher Ground
Irvine Police Department
Juvenile Defenders
New Alternatives, CRF
Office of Harold LaFlamme
Orange County Department of Education
Orange County District Attorney's Office
Orange County Juvenile Court
Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission
Orange County Public Defender
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Radiant Futures
Santa Ana Police Department
Sanctuary Recovery
The Raise Foundation
Waymakers

Notes

