

Section 19. Identification of a sex trafficking victim

As outlined in OAR 413-015-0415, 413-080-0054, 413-080-0053 all caseworkers, including CPS workers, must determine if a child or young adult is a victim or is at risk of being a victim of sex trafficking when either information gathered or observations made indicate a child or young adult may be a victim of sex trafficking or when a child or young adult has been missing and is located.

- If a determination is made that a child or young adult is a victim of sex trafficking the caseworker must:
 1. Report to a screener any new reports of child abuse or neglect;
 2. Identify appropriate services; and
 3. Identify the child or young adult as a sex trafficking victim in the Department's Electronic Information System.
- If a determination is made that a child or young adult is at risk to be a victim of sex trafficking the caseworker must identify and refer to appropriate services.

Procedure

A. Understanding sex trafficking

1. Understanding Sex Trafficking

- “Child” means a person under 18 years of age. *It is important to pay close attention to when “child” is used and when “young adult” is used.*
- “Coercion” means threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; any scheme, plan or pattern of intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to, or physical restraint against, any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.
- “Commercial sex act” means any sex act where anything of value is given to or received by any person.
- “Force” means the use of any form of physical force, including rape, beatings and confinement to control victims.
- “Sex trafficking” means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person under the age of 18 for the purpose of a commercial

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sex act or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person over the age of 18 using force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

- “Sexually explicit performance” means a live, recorded, broadcast (including internet) or public act or show intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the excessive sexual interests of customers.
- “Young adult” means a person aged 18 through 20.

2. Beyond the definitions

To be clear, sex trafficking of a child is child abuse regardless of force or coercion because a child, by law, can't consent. Sex trafficking of a young adult, however, does require force or coercion.

Also important to know is that sex trafficking is not limited to exchanging something of value for sex, but also for stripping and live sex shows (see the definition of sexually explicit performance). Something of value may be money, but it may also be food, drugs, shelter, or any other item that has value. Sex trafficking takes place in a variety of public and private locations including, but not limited to the street, brothels, residential homes, spas, massage parlors and strip clubs.

Pimps and traffickers (two words meaning the same thing) target vulnerable children/young adults and lure them into sex trafficking using psychological manipulation, drugs and/or violence. Any child/young adult may be vulnerable to such a person who promises to meet his or her emotional and physical needs. A trafficker/pimp's main purpose is to exploit the

child/young adult for monetary gain. Often traffickers/pimps will create a seemingly loving and caring relationship with their victim in order to establish trust and allegiance. This manipulative relationship tries to ensure the child/young adult will remain loyal to the exploiter even in the face of severe victimization. These relationships may begin online before progressing to a real life encounter.

Victims are:

- **Targeted**

Pimps are predators who seek out vulnerable victims, particularly runaways or children/young adults experiencing trouble at home (including in a foster home). They know these children/young adults have emotional and physical needs they perceive are not being met and use this to their advantage. Pimps find victims at a variety of venues such as in social networking websites, shopping malls, schools, on local streets or at bus stations. While pimps often target children/young adults outside of their family, a family member may also sexually traffic a child/young adult.

- **Tricked**

Pimps are willing to invest a great deal of time and effort in their victim to break

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down a victim's natural resistance and suspicion buying them gifts, providing a place to stay, promising a loving relationship before revealing their true intent. Frequently victims do not realize the deceptive nature of their trafficker's interest in them, viewing their pimp as a caretaker and/or boyfriend/girlfriend.

- **Traumatized**

A pimp's use of psychological manipulation (causing the child/young adult to truly believe the pimp loves and cares for his or her well-being) coupled with physical control (threats, violence, or drug addiction) can make a victim feel trapped and powerless. This "trauma bond" is difficult to break and long-term treatment and counseling for victims is required.

Barriers for victims:

- **Psychology of victimization**

Pimps may use force, fraud, or coercion to virtually enslave their victims. Victims have been controlled by threats of violence to their family; pornographic images taken and used for blackmail or stigmatization; physical, verbal, and sexual abuse. Young victims may be gang-raped to desensitize them to sexual activity prior to victimizing them in prostitution. Victims are taught to not trust law enforcement and may have experienced negative encounters with law-enforcement officers. Victims often remain with pimps out of fear of being physically harmed, having another victim endure physical harm, or a threat to their family members. Pimps have been convicted of plotting to murder cooperative victim witnesses and for the homicide of victims, further instilling fear.

- **Trauma bonding**

This is also common among young victims exploited for commercial sex. The child/young adult experiences a strong link to the pimp/exploiter based in what is perceived as an incredibly intense or important relationship, but one in which there has been an exploitation of trust or power. Emotional bonding is a learned tactic for survival and can be common between exploited children/young adults and the exploiter.

B. The process of identification

1. Awareness of what to listen and look for

When completing casework activities it is important to both listen and look for any indication that a child/young adult may be a sex trafficking victim or be at risk of being a sex trafficking victim. The indicators may be present when interacting with the child/young adult, but may also be realized when interacting with parents, substitute caregivers, providers or others working with him or her.

The following is an extensive, but not exhaustive list of possible indicators that a child/young adult may be a sex trafficking victim. Remember, these are possible indicators not

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determinative descriptors. The presence of one or even several indicators may not mean a child/young adult is a victim, but does mean it is important to take a deeper look. While there is some duplication in the list, multiple ways of expressing a similar behavior may provide a clearer understanding.

When indicators are present or there are other behaviors that indicate to the caseworker that a child/young adult may be a sex trafficking victim, the caseworker should use the Identification of a Sex Trafficking Victim form. The caseworker must use the form when a child/young adult who was missing is located.

Look and listen for the following about the child/young adult:

- Frequently “on the run” or regularly changes residence
- Is homeless
- Makes references to substance use/abuse
- Has heightened sense of fear or distrust of authority/law enforcement
- Exhibit behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, and/or nervousness
- Does not maintain family connections
- Identifies the street family as his or her mother or father.
- Doesn’t know what drugs he or she has taken
- Not allowed to speak to the caseworker alone and is controlled by another person (a boyfriend, other adult, or even same-age peer)
- Accompanied and transported by dominating or controlling person
- Cannot or will not speak on own behalf
- Inability or fear to make eye contact
- Excess cash
- Has money without a clear explanation of where it came from — “I gotta go take care of my finances.”
- Has a sudden change in attire, behavior, or material possessions (has expensive items, dresses provocatively or has unaccounted for money)
- Wearing expensive clothing and has hair and nails done regularly, though he or she has no income to pay for such items
- Has a cell phone but no apparent means to pay for it
- Age-inappropriate control over income or schedule
- Secrecy about whereabouts
- Unaccounted for time
- Keeping late-night or unusual hours

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- Works long hours
- Is paid very little or nothing for work or services performed
- Repeated curfew violations, keeps unusual hours, chronic truancy/tardiness from school or does not attend school
- Is not engaged in school or work, or has significant gaps in schooling
- Lying about age/false ID/no ID
- Not in control of documents
- Contradicting personal information
- Has unexplained injuries
- Has suspicious tattoos (branding tattoo)
- Has a “boyfriend” but does not know his name or only knows his street name.
- Presence of significantly older male/female or boyfriend/girlfriend who seems controlling
- Any mention of a pimp/boyfriend
- Refers to employer/boyfriend using slang such as “Daddy”
- Makes reference or is participating in an online relationship, and has not met the person face-to-face
- Self-disclosed or reported history of multiple and/or anonymous sex partners
- History of sexually transmitted disease(s)
- Is pregnant/a minor parent
- Frequent need for medical attention: STI/STDs, pregnancies, multiple ED visits
- Returns from being on the run and reports sexual assaults by strangers (e.g., rapes, gang rapes). He or she may make multiple reports of such abuse, especially if on the run regularly.
- “Picked up” from being on the run at a hotel, transit station, or other known location of prostitution
- Picked up from being on the run with adults that have a history of previous exploitation
- Has multiple hotel keys, saying, “Some guy got me this hotel.”
- Makes reference to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms
- Engages in sexually provocative behaviors, is promiscuous and/or has unprotected sex with multiple partners
- Uses or makes reference to the terminology of the commercial sex trade
- Depiction of sex industry in drawing, poetry or lyrics to sexually explicit music or songs
- Friend group includes other suspected or identified sex trafficking victims

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- Knows someone who has had sex for drugs, shelter, food, good, or money
- Contact with adults or juveniles in prison
- Criminal record/arrest history/juvenile probation
- Gang affiliation reported, suspected or confirmed (may hang out with gang members)
- Excessive frequenting of internet chat rooms or classified sites
- Has an explicitly sexual online profile via internet community sites, such as Facebook, Blackplanet.com, etc.
- Exploitation on the internet, online ads, posted sexually explicit material
- Stripping or dancing in a club
- Sexually explicit photos or videos.

The following actions may reveal indicators and at a minimum assist the caseworker in better understanding the child/young adult's circumstances:

- Ask specific questions to draw information out about possible sex trafficking involvement:
 - » What kind of support do you need?
 - » How do you get your money?
 - » So, when your boyfriend gives you money, is it because you have to work for it?
 - » Those bruises look like they hurt, do you remember how you got them?
 - » Did something happen?
 - » Sometimes people trade sex for money or because they have to survive/basic necessities, has that happened to you?
 - » I'm concerned about your safety, are there places that are dangerous for you to go? Are there people that are dangerous for you to be around right now?
 - » I'm worried about your safety. Do you feel safe? Can we talk about that?
 - » I'm concerned you are in the life. I will not judge you or judge anything you tell me. I'm here to listen if you ever want to talk or want support getting out.
- Increase attempts to find a child/young adult who frequently runs away or is regularly truant
- Learn about specific gang activity from local law enforcement (or from other children/young adults if it is safe for them to discuss)
- Ask about STI/STDs, pregnancy, and unexplained injuries and review medical records
- Observe communication patterns (who talks to whom, who doesn't talk, who is in control).

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When communicating with the child/young adult, listen for the terminology of the commercial sex trade. Being familiar with this language can help a caseworker identify a possible sex trafficking victim and can also assist in understanding his or her daily life.

The following terms are from Shared Hope International:

- **Automatic**
A term denoting the victim's "automatic" routine when her pimp is out of town, in jail, or otherwise not in direct contact with those he is prostituting. Victims are expected to comply with the rules and often do so out of fear of punishment or because they have been psychologically manipulated into a sense of loyalty or love. All money generated on "automatic" is turned over to the pimp. This money may be used to support his concession/phone account or to pay his bond if he's in jail.
- **Bottom/bottom bitch**
A female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operating as his "right hand," the Bottom may help instruct victims, collect money, book hotel rooms, post ads, or inflict punishments on other girls.
- **Branding**
A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.
- **Brothel (aka cathouse or whorehouse)**
These establishments may be apartments, houses, trailers, or any facility where sex is sold on the premises. It could be in a rural area or nice neighborhood. Most brothels have security measures to prevent attacks by other criminals or provide a warning if law enforcement are nearby. The security is two sided—to keep the women and children in, as well as robbers out. The places often are guarded (and open) 24 hours a day, but some have closing times in which the victims are locked in from the outside. Victims may be kept in this location for extended periods of time, or rotated to other locations every few days.
- **Caught a case**
A term that refers to when a pimp or victim has been arrested and charged with a crime.
- **Choosing up**
The process by which a different pimp takes "ownership" of a victim. Victims are instructed to keep their eyes on the ground at all times. According to traditional pimping rules, when a victim makes eye contact with another pimp (accidentally or on purpose), she is choosing him to be her pimp. If the original pimp wants the victim back, he must pay a fee to the new pimp. When this occurs, he will force the victim to work harder to replace the money lost in transaction. (See Reckless Eyeballing)
- **Circuit**
A series of cities among which prostituted people are moved. One example would be the West Coast circuit of San Diego, Las Vegas, Portland, and the cities between. The

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term can also refer to a chain of states such as the “Minnesota pipeline” by which victims are moved through a series of locations from Minnesota to markets in New York.

- **Daddy**

The term a pimp will often require his victim to call him.

- **Date**

The exchange when prostitution takes place, or the activity of prostitution. A victim is said to be “with a date” or “dating.”

- **Escort service**

An organization, operating chiefly via cell phone and the internet, which sends a victim to a buyer’s location (an “outcall”) or arranges for the buyer to come to a house or apartment (an “in-call”); this may be the workplace of a single woman or a small brothel. Some escort services are networked with others and can assemble large numbers of women for parties and conventions.

- **Exit fee**

The money a pimp will demand from a victim who is thinking about trying to leave. It will be an exorbitant sum, to discourage her from leaving. Most pimps never let their victims leave freely.

- **Family/folks**

The term used to describe the other individuals under the control of the same pimp. He plays the role of father (or “Daddy”) while the group fulfills the need for a “family.”

- **Finesse pimp/romeo pimp**

One who prides himself on controlling others primarily through psychological manipulation. Although he may shower his victims with affection and gifts (especially during the recruitment phase), the threat of violence is always present.

- **Gorilla (or guerilla) pimp**

A pimp who controls his victims almost entirely through physical violence and force.

- **John (aka buyer or trick)**

An individual who pays for or trades something of value for sexual acts.

- **Kiddie stroll**

An area known for prostitution that features younger victims.

- **Lot lizard**

Derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops.

- **Madam**

An older woman who manages a brothel, escort service or other prostitution establishment. She may work alone or in collaboration with other traffickers.

- **Out of pocket**

The phrase describing when a victim is not under control of a pimp but working on

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a pimp-controlled track, leaving her vulnerable to threats, harassment, and violence in order to make her “choose” a pimp. This may also refer to a victim who is disobeying the pimp’s rules.

- **Pimp circle**
When several pimps encircle a victim to intimidate through verbal and physical threats in order to discipline the victim or force her to choose up.
- **Quota**
A set amount of money that a trafficking victim must make each night before she can come “home.” Quotas are often set between \$300 and \$2000. If the victim returns without meeting the quota, she is typically beaten and sent back out on the street to earn the rest. Quotas vary according to geographic region, local events, etc.
- **Reckless eyeballing**
A term which refers to the act of looking around instead of keeping your eyes on the ground. Eyeballing is against the rules and could lead an untrained victim to “choose up” by mistake.
- **Renegade**
A person involved in prostitution without a pimp. (“Renegade” and “Independent” have the same meaning, but renegade is a negative term used by a pimp and independent is a term used by the child/young adult that he or she would not consider negative).
- **Seasoning**
A combination of psychological manipulation, intimidation, gang rape, sodomy, beatings, deprivation of food or sleep, isolation from friends or family and other sources of support, and threatening or holding hostage of a victim’s children. Seasoning is designed to break down a victim’s resistance and ensure compliance.
- **Squaring up**
Attempting to escape or exit prostitution.
- **Stable**
A group of victims who are under the control of a single pimp.
- **The game/the life**
The subculture of prostitution, complete with rules, a hierarchy of authority, and language. Referring to the act of pimping as ‘the game’ gives the illusion that it can be a fun and easy way to make money, when the reality is much harsher. Women and girls will say they’ve been “in the life” if they’ve been involved in prostitution for a while.
- **Track (aka stroll or blade)**
An area of town known for prostitution activity. This can be the area around a group of strip clubs and pornography stores, or a particular stretch of street.

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- **Trade up/trade down**
To move a victim like merchandise between pimps. A pimp may trade one girl for another or trade with some exchange of money.
- **Trick**
Committing an act of prostitution (verb), or the person buying it (noun). A victim is said to be “turning a trick” or “with a trick.”
- **Turn out**
To be forced into prostitution (verb) or a person newly involved in prostitution (noun).
- **Wifeys/wife-in-law/sister wife**
What women and girls under the control of the same pimp call each other.
(See Family/Folks and Stable.)

2. Determining and Documenting Sex Trafficking Victim Status

When information gathered or observations made indicate a child/young adult may be a victim of sex trafficking or a missing child/young adult in substitute care was missing and is located, the caseworker must determine and document the determination of sex trafficking victim status in OR-Kids.

NOTE: Pay close attention to the use of the words child and young adult to assure which questions are applicable. When identifying a victim of sex trafficking, force and coercion do not have to be present when a child engages in a commercial sex act, but are required to identify a young adult as a victim. If ANY of the questions in this section are marked yes, then the child/young adult is an identified sex trafficking victim.

Confirmed victim- If yes to one or more of the following

If the answer is yes to any of the above questions then complete the following two questions and the form is then complete:

If confirmed victim answer the following question

	Yes	No
Has the child self-reported engaging in sexual activity or sexually explicit performance for the monetary or in-kind benefit of another person?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the young adult self-reported being forced or coerced into sexual activity or sexually explicit performance for the monetary or in-kind benefit of another person?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has law enforcement confirmed through an investigation that the child or young adult has been sexually trafficked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the child self-reported “consensual” participation in a sexual act in exchange for shelter, transportation, drugs, alcohol, money or other item(s) of value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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If the answer is yes to any of the above questions then complete the following two questions and the form is then complete:

If Confirmed Victim answer the following question

	Yes	No
Is the child/young adult in substitute care?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
If yes, does the information support the first victimization was prior to entering substitute care and not in their family home? (Answer No if first victimization was while in substitute care)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the answer is no to all of the questions under the confirmed victim section then complete the below questions:

At risk - If yes to one or more of the following

	Yes	No
Does the child/young adult have a self-disclosed or reported history of multiple (one or more) and/or anonymous sex partners?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the child/young adult have a history of multiple (one or more)/ chronic sexually transmitted disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the child/young adult used the internet for posting sexually explicit material?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have there been confirmed or reported uses of hotels for parties or sexual encounters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the child/young adult have family connections to sex trafficking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has gang affiliation been disclosed, reported or suspected?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

At risk - If yes to two or more of the following

	Yes	No
Does the child/young adult have unaccounted for injuries or suspicious tattoos?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the child/young adult have a history of multiple (one or more) runs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the child/young adult been in possession of money, cell phone, hotel keys or other items that cannot be explained or accounted for?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the child/young adult in a relationship with a significantly older partner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the child/young adult unable or unwilling to provide information about a boyfriend/girlfriend or sex partners?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Identified victim

When a child/young adult is identified as a victim of sex trafficking (at least one question in the Confirmed Victim section is answered “yes”) then the caseworker must:

1. **Complete the Determination of Sex Trafficking Victim Status form**

It is important the caseworker complete the questions about whether a child/young adult was first victimized while in substitute care or prior to ever being in substitute care. It is understood that the information gathered and documented may change as the child/young adult develops more trust with the caseworker and is more comfortable sharing more details.

2. **Who needs to know (Screening, NCMEC if previously missing)**

- a. **Screener**

If it is determined that a child or young adult is a victim of sex trafficking the caseworker must report the determination immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours, to a screener.

- b. **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)**

When a caseworker identifies a child/young adult as a sex trafficking victim and the child/young adult has previously been missing then the information can be shared with NCMEC. This includes when the child/young adult is not currently missing. Because NCMEC has a file on a child/young adult previously missing, they can add that information to the file and be in a better position to assist if the child/young adult is missing in the future.

3. **Medical assessment**

The child/young adult should be seen by a medical professional.

4. **Services**

If enough yeses were marked to identify a child/young adult as at risk for being a victim of sex trafficking, the caseworker must identify and refer to appropriate services as outlined in the Procedure Manual Chapter 4, Sex Trafficking Services.

5. **Documentation**

- a. Document any additional information related to sex trafficking in OR-Kids case notes, category type “sex trafficking”.
 - b. Revise the case plan as indicated.

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D. Identified at risk

1. Services

If a determination is made that a child/young adult is at risk to be a victim of sex trafficking the caseworker must identify and refer to appropriate services as outlined in the Procedure Manual Chapter 4, Sex Trafficking Services, which applies to victims and those at risk of being a victim.

2. Documentation

- a. Document any additional information related to sex trafficking in OR-Kids case notes, category type “sex trafficking”.
- b. Revise the case plan as indicated.

E. Not identified victim or at risk

1. Next steps

If after completing the form the child/young adult is not an identified victim and is not identified as at risk for being a victim, consider the information that triggered the need to complete the form and whether any response to those behaviors is warranted. Despite the child/young adult not being an identified victim or at risk, it is important to continue to be looking and listening for the indicators. When additional indicators are present, again determine and document the determination of sex trafficking victim status in OR-Kids.

2. Documentation

Ensure the determination of sex trafficking victim status is documented in OR-Kids.

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