

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

October 13, 2015

What's Inside:

Human Trafficking
Reporting and Missing
Persons

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, FIELD SUPPORT MANAGERS,
CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND SUPERVISORS

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND REVISED
MISSING PERSON REPORT PROCEDURE

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide key information regarding human trafficking as it pertains to child welfare. The federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 requires states to develop policies and procedures to identify, document, and determine appropriate services for children who are at risk of becoming a sex trafficking victim or who is a sex trafficking victim.

Definitions

There are two general forms of human trafficking (also called trafficking in persons and modern day slavery):

1. **Labor Trafficking:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
2. **Sex Trafficking:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, **or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.**
 - **Any child involved in a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking. There does not need to be any evidence of force, fraud, or coercion.**
 - *Commercial sex act:* any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to, promised, or received by any person.

- *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)*: occurs when individuals buy, trade, or sell sexual acts with a child. The distinguishing factor of CSEC is that a third party profits from the commercial sex act. One of the most common examples of CSEC is child prostitution.
- *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)*: sex trafficking within the United States border of children who are citizens or legal residents of the U.S.

This memorandum will focus specifically on commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Prevalence

In 2014, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline identified nineteen (19) cases in Missouri involving children. It is difficult to determine the prevalence of CSEC due to lack of identification of victims and limited data collection. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), in 2014 one (1) in six (6) endangered runaways were likely sex trafficking victims. Of these, 68% were in foster care when they ran away.

Indicators

Indicators that a child is involved in CSEC include, but are not limited to:

- Frequent runaway episodes
- A heightened sense fear or distrust of authority
- Unable to identify where they were while they were gone
- Has money or material goods without a clear explanation of how they were obtained
- Physical injuries with no explanation of how they were received
- Has a sexually transmitted infection (STI) or a history of STIs
- Uses drugs and/or alcohol
- Reports sexual assaults by strangers
- Talks about a paramour, but does not provide their identity
- Frequent unexplained absences from school
- Involved in gang activity
- Appears fearful, anxious, depressed, tense, nervous, paranoid, or hyper vigilant
- Has multiple cell phones
- Has hotel keys or talks about staying in hotels
- Has suspicious tattoos or other signs of branding
- Child has inappropriate, sexually suggestive activity on social media, the internet, or cell phone apps
- Refuses to talk about their experiences while on runaway status
- Child associates and/or has relationships with age-inappropriate friends and/or paramours

Identification of CSEC

Identifying victims of CSEC can be challenging due to the following:

- They may not view themselves as victims.
- They may not trust adults due to trauma they have experienced.
- They may be concerned they will face legal consequences for their role in sex trafficking.
- Their trafficker may have made threats to harm the child, their family, and/or friends.

Trauma Bonding

Often referred to as Stockholm syndrome, traumatic bonding of the child to their trafficker is often an influential factor that interferes with self-identification as a victim and in severing the child's relationship to their trafficker. Traffickers use power and control tactics to make their victims increasingly reliant on them for emotional and psychological needs. Children who are emotionally vulnerable due to a history of abuse/neglect are especially vulnerable to the tactics of traffickers.

Revisions to Missing Person Report Procedures

The following procedures have been added to [Section 3, Chapter 4, Attachment D](#) of the Child Welfare Manual.

When a child is determined to be missing from their placement:

- The case manager must notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) within twenty-four (24) hours. This can be completed by calling 1-800-THE-LOST or by completing an online report to NCMEC. The website for online reporting is: <https://cmfc.missingkids.org/reportit>. Staff will be required to complete an online account prior to submitting a report.

When a child returns or is recovered from a runaway episode:

- The case manager should notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) of the child's return.
- Once a child is located, the case manager must talk to the child to determine the factors that led to the child's absence and their experiences while they were gone.

Questions to ask include, but are not limited to:

- What made you leave your placement?
- Where did you go when you left?
- How did you take care of yourself while you were gone?
- Did you have money? How did you get money?
- How did you eat?
- Where did you sleep?
- Who helped you while you were gone?
- Did you have to do anything in exchange for their help?
- Did anyone hurt you?
- Did you do anything that made you uncomfortable?

- Are you worried about anything that happened to you while you were away?
- If the child provides information indicating they were abused or involved in trafficking, the following must occur:
 - The case manager must immediately contact the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU) to make a report of child abuse and neglect. The case manager should inform the hotline of any suspicion of involvement in human trafficking.
 - The case manager should ensure that law enforcement is notified of the concern.
 - A referral to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) should be made for a forensic interview to further explore the child's experiences in care if there is an indication the child was abused or trafficked.
 - The case manager must contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or make an online tip report at www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/report-trafficking.
- Arrange for a medical examination of the child within twenty-four (24) hours of the child's return.

Chronic run away Youth

Children who have run away multiple times are at an increased risk for involvement in sex trafficking. It may be appropriate to make a referral to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) for a forensic interview of the child, even if they have made no disclosure or provided information about involvement in trafficking. Local county offices are strongly encouraged to work with their CAC to develop protocols for assessing these youth.

Human Trafficking Training

The federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 also requires all Children's Service Workers and contracted case managers to receive training on human trafficking. Children's Service Supervisors and Circuit Managers are strongly encouraged to complete training.

Cornerstones of Care is contracted to provide human trafficking training. Training will be provided to individual circuits. Circuits are encouraged to invite their multi-disciplinary partners. Information regarding scheduling of this training will be forthcoming. As training is scheduled, staff may enroll in the ELC under CD INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING – 210.

Staff can fulfill the human trafficking training requirement by attending training provided by community partners. A minimum of four (4) hours is required. Supervisors should ensure that attendance is documented in the Employee Learning Center (ELC).

<p>NECESSARY ACTION</p>

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. |
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3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:	
PDS CONTACT Kara Wilcox-Bauer 573-526-9707 Kara.B.Wilcox-Bauer@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Christy Collins 573-751-9603 Christy.Collins@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Section 3, Chapter 4, Attachment D, Missing Person Report Procedure	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A	
RELATED STATUTE N/A	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A	
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A	
PROTECTIVE FACTORS N/A	
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A	