

# Exposing Exploitation

Parent Edition

*Your Guide to becoming enlightened on the issues surrounding child exploitation.*

Exposing Exploitation by Topizia Ivey

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## **OVERVIEW**

Child sexual exploitation is a topic that often goes unaddressed in families until after a child has already been exposed to the lifestyle. At which time, parents and caregivers are forced into learning all that encompasses such a horrific yet silent epidemic. This guide was designed as a part of The Chosen One's, Inc. effort to help expose the issues surrounding child exploitation before it occurs. We have answered many of the questions most often asked by parents and caregivers and included other useful information intended to educate parents and caregivers on a wide array of topics relating to child exploitation. Our hope is by providing parents and caregivers with this guide they will become more knowledgeable about child sexual exploitation, as well as be able to identify the warning signs which could indicate their child is at-risk of being exploited or may have already been victimized.



## WHAT IS COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)?

*By definition Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is the sexual abuse of children and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life, and/or money. Sexual exploitation also includes involving children and youth in creating pornography and sexually explicit websites.*

### OTHER INTERCHANGEABLE TERMS USED TO DESCRIBE CSEC:

***Prostitution** - An adult (male or female) who willingly engages in sexual activity in exchange for money or something of value.*

***Human Trafficking** - Forcing a person to perform labor or engage in prostitution through force, fraud or coercion.*

***Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)** - The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where the person is a U.S. citizen under the age of 18 years old.*

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*The Trafficking Victims Protecting Act (TVPA) states that any child/youth under the age of 18 years old who is used for the purpose of exploitation through sexual servitude (prostitution), regardless of the absence of economic leverage, manipulation, fraud, coercion, threats, force and violence is considered a **VICTIM** of CSEC.*

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## STATISTICS

- *The average age of a CSEC victim is 12 through 14.*
- *There is an estimated 100,000 - 300,000 CSEC victims in the U.S.*
- *244,000 American children and youth are estimated to be **at-risk** of child sexual exploitation.*
- *41% of suspected or confirmed cases of CSEC are from runaways and unaccompanied minors.*
- *CSEC victims is almost equally divided between boys and girls.*
- *According to the FBI, Atlanta is one of 14 cities in the United States with the highest incidence of prostitution involving children and today a growing number of children are exploited for profit or for basic needs of life: food, shelter or clothing.*
- *The Schapiro Group conducted another survey in 2010 and found that 12,400 men pay for sex with young females in any given month in Georgia; and more than 27,000 men pay for sex with young females in Georgia multiple times per year.*
- *Georgia Cares has had 151 instances of CSEC involvement from DeKalb County, either via referrals from youth living in DeKalb County, or instances of exploitation occurring in DeKalb County”.*
- *Atlanta has an international trafficking problem; minors are transferred to other counties and states*



# RISK FACTORS

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*According to a report done by the Georgia Governor's for children and families, "there are several risk factors that have been identified for victims of commercial sexual exploitation, but the primary factor of vulnerability is age (Smith, et al., 2009). Age has been identified as a primary risk factor because pre-teen and adolescent girls are often more susceptible to the calculated tactics used by traffickers and pimps.*

*Other main risk factors that have been identified include:*

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- ***Childhood sexual abuse** - Children who have been sexually abused are 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution at some point in their lives (Smith, et al., 2009).*
- ***Conflict in the home** - Research has demonstrated that negative home life experiences are a significant predictor for prostitution (Priebe & Suhr, 2005). Conflict in the home can be caused by parental neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse, parental drug use, housing instability, and violence (Priebe & Suhr, 2005).*
- ***Being a runaway or throwaway** - Each year, there are approximately 1.7 million runaway/throwaway episodes in the U.S., and about 90% of runaways become involved in the sex trade industry (Priebe & Suhr, 2005).*
- ***Psychological or emotional problems** - Victims who have experienced emotional and psychological difficulties are at a greater risk for being sexually exploited (Priebe & Suhr, 2005). These girls often experience isolation from peers and have problems in school (Priebe & Suhr, 2005).*

# WARNING SIGNS



*Below are list of warning signs which should raise a red flag for parents/caregivers; especially if they appear out of the blue.*

- *Hangin*g with older friends
- *Unexplained* large (or small) sums of money
- *Skipping* school
- *Dressing* inappropriately
- *Running* away
- *Visible* signs of abuse
- *Multiple* cell phones or pre-paid phones
- *History* of multiple sexually transmitted infections or diseases
- *Visible* signs of abuse
- *Unexplained* and/or suspicious injuries
- *Appears* exhausted
- *Appears* malnourished
- *Loss* of interest in previous activities
- *Blistered* feet
- *Has* an adult “boyfriend” whom she refers to as her “Daddy”
- *New* clothing, hair, nails
- *Presence* of an older girl/boyfriend
- *Tattoo’s* that are hard to explain or associated with CSEC (ex. Barcodes, dollar signs, etc.)
- *Unaccounted* for time/frequent absences
- *Frequently* travels to other cities, counties, states or countries
- *Pre-paid* credit cards
- *Explicit* social media postings
- *Hotel/motel* room key cards
- *Excessive* amounts of cash on hand
- *Social* media accounts or frequents known social media or internet sites for escort or companion services

# MYTHS

*These are list of common myths and misconceptions surrounding CSEC.*



***Myth:** Recruitment is only done by adults.*

***Truth:** Recruitment is also done by other teens who befriends unsuspecting individuals.*

***Myth:** Recruitment is done by males.*

***Truth:** Recruitment is also done by females who often times have gained the trust of their female counterpart.*

***Myth:** Only females are victimized.*

***Truth:** Research has shown, boys are being victimized equally as much as girls.*

***Myth:** CSEC is not widespread.*

***Truth:** CSEC is widespread and is happening in local hotels, neighborhoods (upscale and poverty stricken), truck stops, etc.*

***Myth:** Only children whose parents are poor, abusive and/or addicted to drug and alcohol are likely to become victims.*

***Truth:** Any child can become a victim of exploitation.*

## **WHERE DO PREDATORS LOOK FOR VICTIMS TO RECRUIT?**

*Below are just a few of the places predators are known to seek out youth in an effort to lure them into a life of sexual exploitation.*

- *Malls*
- *Bus/Train station (MARTA)*
- *Schools*
- *Facebook and other social media sites*
- *Amusement parks*
- *Other places children are known to congregate*

## **POPULAR WEBSITES**

*Below is a list of websites predators use to search for unsuspecting teens and solicit sex in the websites dating section.*

- *Backpage.com*
- *Craigslist.com*
- *GoTinder.com*
- *Pof.com*
- *Mocospace.com*

## **METRO ATLANTA AREAS KNOWN FOR PROSTITUTION**

*Below are a list of some of the areas in Metro Atlanta known for prostitution.*

- *Fulton Industrial Blvd*
- *Cleveland Avenue*
- *Truck Stops*
- *Metropolitan Avenue*
- *Candler Road*

# RECRUITMENT TACTICS/CHARACTERISTICS OF PERPETRATORS

## *Recruitment Tactics*

- *Purchases expensive items*
- *Befriend/develop relationship*
- *Physical and mental abuse*
- *Shame, guilt, embarrassment*
- *Separate from family and friends*

## *Characteristics of perpetrators*

- *Manipulative*
- *Deceitful*
- *Controlling*
- *Violent*
- *Jealous*
- *Charming*

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*On occasion, girls are cut off from family and friends and often view the pimp as their boyfriend and a source of love even though they are being terrorized and held in captivity. They may also try to convince the child they are unwanted and unloved.*

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## COMMON STAGES OF CSEC:

- *Recruitment of vulnerable children*
- *Seduction through offers of gifts, support, friendship, love*
- *Isolation from others who may stop the exploitation*
- *Coercion into actions such as street prostitution and pornography*
- *Violence to retain control*
- *Grooming (or teaching the child how to prostitute)*

## THE “LIFE” TERMINOLOGY

**Automatic** - A person who continues to work for their pimp while the pimp is out of town or in jail.

**Bottom/Bottom bitch** - A person who is most trusted by a pimp and is appointed by the pimp to supervise the other prostitutes. This person also collects money, and often helps inflict punishment.

**Branding** - A tattoo on a victim indicating ownership by a trafficker/pimp.

**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 because typically 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 as a result of her actions.

**Circuit/Track/Blade/Bully** - Areas known for prostitution.

**Daddy** - What pimps require their victims to call them.

**Date/Lick/Elbow** - Another term used to describe prostitution. \*\*\*When services are solicited on websites such as Craigslist or backpage, they are advertised under the dating section. It is not illegal to pay for a date, therefore perpetrators have found a way to manipulate the system. One of the ways to identify sexual services are being solicited is by noting if a fee is required for “time”, etc. See below for a list of popular websites sexual services are being solicited.

**Exit Fee** - The fee required by a pimp from a victim who wants to leave.

**Family or folks** - A group of victims under the control of the same trafficker/pimp.

**Finesse/Romeo Pimp** - A pimp who controls his victims without using violence. Instead he uses charm, gifts and flattery.

**The Game/Life** - Terms used to describe pimping and the life that is associated with it.

**Gorilla Pimp** - A pimp who controls his victims through the use of violence.

**In Call** - When clients (John-see below) goes to the prostitutes/victims location for a “date”.

## THE “LIFE” TERMINOLOGY (CONTINUED)

*John* - A paying client.

*Out Call* - When the prostitute/victim goes to the clients (John) location for a “date”.

*Out of Pocket* - A disobedient prostitute/victim.

*Quota* - The Amount of money a prostituted victim must earn and give to their pimp every night.

*Squaring Up* - An attempt to escape or exit prostitution.

*Turn Out* - To be forced into prostitution (*verb*) or a person newly involved in prostitution (*noun*).

*Wife/Wifey* - What prostituted victims under the control of the same pimp call one another.

# PARENTING 101

*As noted in the risk factor section of this guide, running away is one of the things which puts a child at risk of being sexually exploited. This section is designed to provide parents and caregivers with valuable insight on what to do if their child ever runs away, and /or what to do if they suspect the child is being sexually exploited.*

## *What to do if your child runs away?*

- *Don't panic*
- *Call 911 and file a missing person's report*
- *Search child's room for clues such as phone numbers, passwords, etc.*
- *Notify school*
- *Call friends, classmates, and other acquaintances*
- *Check your child's social media sites*
- *Post fliers (only if it is safe to do so) - be careful when including your personal contact info, you may receive bogus calls*
- *Contact the local news/radio stations*
- *Perform a google search of your child's phone number*
- *Post on social media (don't be afraid, ashamed or embarrassed to ask for help)*
- *If running away becomes habitual, you may need to consider filing a delinquent /unruly petition with the court. (more details on this below)*
- *If the child is being sexually exploited, you may receive a call from them stating they don't want to return home. This is a tactic often used by pimps to try stopping a parent from searching for their child. You may also receive a call stating the child is dead, which is another tactic used to get parents to back-off. These tactics will leave the child feeling trapped and alone.*



## PARENTING 101 CONTINUED...

### *Do's and Don'ts when your child returns home*

- *Don't hound your child*
- *Do notify necessary parties your child has been located.*
- *Do allow her to eat, shower and rest (you don't know what your child been through)*
- *Don't use inappropriate forms of corporal punishment. This could result in you being arrested and charged with a felony.*
- *Do know your child may have been sexually exploited*
- *Do know there is a possibility your child was exposed to drugs and/or alcohol*
- *Do know there is possibility your child may have developed a sexually transmitted disease or may be pregnant*
- *Do expect negative attitude, depression, promiscuity, and other changes in your child*
- *Do realize there is a possibility your child may run away again*
- *Do expect the child to blame you for their actions*
- *Don't expect the child to provide details*
- *Do allow your child to gain entry to your home. Failing to do so could result in abandonment charges.*

### *What to expect after learning a child has been exploited*

- *Support/Criticism from family and friends*
- *Extensive involvement with Juvenile Court system*
- *Visits to Juvenile Department of Corrections if your child has been detained*
- *Referral to Department of Family and Children Services (possible referral to counselors)*
- *Meeting(s) with School/Department of Education*
- *Referral to detox facility (if exposed to drugs/alcohol)*
- *Hospital/clinic visit(s)*
- *Missed work*
- *Child returning to the lifestyle*
- *Strained relationship(s)*

## PARENTING 101 CONTINUED...

*What is a Delinquent/unruly petition? A Delinquent/unruly petition is a petition filed with juvenile court for the purpose of stating the child is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation because of his/her actions. (There is no cost to file)*

*When should you file a delinquent/unruly petition? You should file a delinquent/unruly petition if your child becomes a danger to themselves or others as a result of his or actions. Running away is a danger to the child and others.*

*Why should you file a delinquent/unruly petition? You should file a delinquent/unruly petition to protect yourself from any legal issues resulting from the child's behavior. This petition is also a means of obtaining access to much needed services and programs.*

*Where to file a delinquent/unruly petition? To file a delinquent/unruly petition, contact the local juvenile court in your area.*

# MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Who is required to report child abuse?

*Individuals who work with children and have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused, you must make a report, immediately but no later than 24 hours, to your local DFCS office or law enforcement and are subject to criminal penalty for failing to do so.*

## *What is Child abuse?*

- *Sexual exploitation of a child*
- *Sexual abuse of a child*
- *Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker thereof by other than accidental means; provided, however, that physical forms of discipline may be used as long as there is no physical injury to the child;*
- *Neglect or exploitation of a child by a parent or caretaker thereof;*



- *See page 10 for a list of indicators which should raise suspicion and alert parents/caregivers to begin documenting behaviors that may warrant further investigation.*
- *Parents/caregivers are required to report suspected or confirmed CSEC.*

## RESOURCES / WHERE TO GET HELP: (LOCAL)

### *Georgia Crisis & Access Line*

1(800)715-4225

<http://www.mygcal.com>

*The Georgia Crisis & Access Line is staffed with professional social workers and counselors 24 hours per day, every day to assist those with urgent and emergency needs.*

### *Georgia Cares*

1-844-8GA-DMST

[www.GaCares.org](http://www.GaCares.org)

*The single, statewide coordinating agency connecting services and treatment care for child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking up to the age of 18. Georgia Cares serves any and all youth who have been victimized in the state of Georgia.*

### *Covenant House*

1559 Johnson Rd NW

Atlanta, GA 30318

404-589-0163

[www.covenanthouse.org](http://www.covenanthouse.org)

*Covenant House Georgia is a 46-bed crisis shelter where youth are given the opportunity to achieve stability, work with a case manager and develop a plan for the future.*

### *Atlanta Legal Aid*

<http://www.atlantalegalaid.org/>

54 Ellis Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(404) 524-5811

Cobb - (770) 528-2565

South Fulton/Clayton - (404) 669-0233

Gwinnett - (678) 376-4545

DeKalb - (404) 377-0701

*Atlanta Legal Aid Society helps low-income people meet basic needs through free civil legal services.*

- *Not sure whom to call in Georgia? 1-800-Georgia (1-800-436-7442) is a toll-free service for citizens who are seeking state services but don't know who to call.*

## RESOURCES/WHERE TO GET HELP (NATIONAL):

### *National Suicide Hotline*

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

*The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

### *The Center for Search & Investigations (CFSI)*

[www.cfsimissing.com](http://www.cfsimissing.com)

*The Center for Search & Investigations (CFSI) assists & trains families and communities in facilitating the search and location of missing children worldwide in order to safeguard children from abduction, child trafficking & exploitation.*

### *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*

1-800-The-Lost (1-800-843-5678)

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

*The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization.*

### *National Runaway Safe line*

1-800-RUNAWAY

SMS: 66008

[www.180orunaway.org](http://www.180orunaway.org)

*Youth and family members connect to the 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline or 1800RUNAWAY.org online crisis services to work through problems and find local help from social service agencies and organizations.*

### *National Human Trafficking Hotline*

1-888-373-7888

SMS: 233733 (Text "HELP" or "Info")

[www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)

### *Safe Place*

SMS: 69866 (text the word Safe)

[www.nationalsafeplace.org](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org)

- *Dial 911 immediately if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited!*
- *Please note, The Chosen One's, Inc. is not in any way affiliated with the resources names above.*

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

*Now that you have reviewed this guide, please take a moment to test your knowledge. Answers are on the following page.*



1. Child exploitation is a form of child abuse?  
True or false
2. There are no warning signs a child may be being exploited or at-risk? True or False
3. Child abuse (remember sexually exploitation is a form of child abuse) must be reported within 24 hours. True or False
4. Child sexual exploitation is legal if the child consents? True or False
5. Children in poverty stricken areas are the only children who are exploited? True or false
6. Pornography and/or stripping perform by youth under the age of 18 is not a form of exploitation. True or false
7. Child exploitation is an epidemic which only affects foreign countries? True or False

# ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. False







## CITATIONS/REFERENCES

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*Please contact The Chosen One's, Inc., if you are interested in learning more about some of the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation.*

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