

⁺ ◦ Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approaches to Address Human Trafficking of Minors and Youth in Illinois

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- IL Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator (current)
- Dir. of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives, Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking (ICESAHT), and IPATH Taskforce Coordinator (2022-2024)
- 20+ years advocating for vulnerable populations in attorney, guardian ad litem, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), and human trafficking specialist roles

Education:

- JD, DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL
- BA, Political Science, Queens University, Charlotte, NC

My Reason Why:

I love building relationships and seeing people thrive



Presentation Objectives

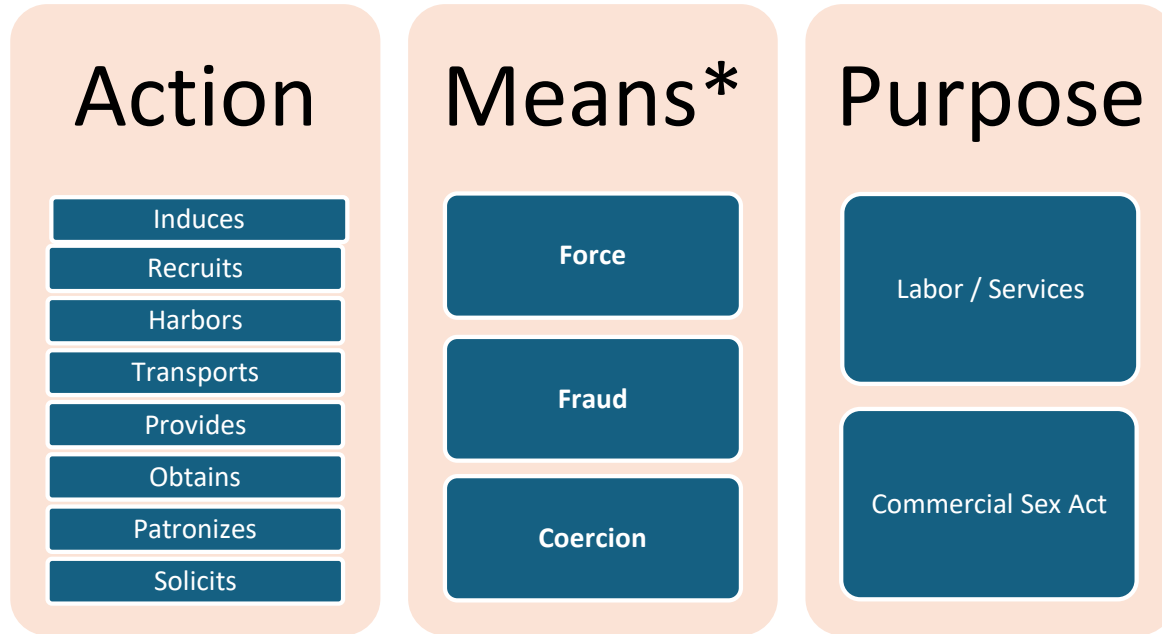
- Learn the evolution of statewide anti-trafficking efforts in Illinois
 - Define trauma-informed, victim-centered response and review the mandates of the IL Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act
 - Discuss the work of the Joint Human Trafficking Work Group
 - Understand OVC Improving Outcomes grant deliverables
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Federal Definitions of Human Trafficking

- **Sex trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the 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; (and)
- **Labor trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, 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.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S. Ch. 78; reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2017, 2018, and 2022

AMP Model: 3 Elements of Trafficking



*Do not need to be proven when minor is involved in commercial s

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA, 2000; Reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2013, 2019)

Illinois Human Trafficking Offenses

720 ILCS 5/10-9

Involuntary Servitude

A person commits involuntary servitude when he or she knowingly subjects, attempts to subject, or engages in a conspiracy to subject another person to labor or services obtained or maintained through any of the following means, or any combination of these means:

- 1) Causes or threatens to cause physical harm to any person;*
- 2) Physically restrains or threatens to physically restrain another person;*
- 3) Abuses or threatens to abuse the law or legal process;*
- 4) Attempts to or knowingly destroys, conceals, removes, confiscates, or possesses any actual or purported passport or other immigration document or any other actual or purported government identification document, of another person*
- 5) Uses intimidation, abuses a position of trust, authority or supervision in relation to the _____ through the use or deprivation of any alcoholic intoxicant or drug defined or used in the Illinois Controlled Substances Act or the Cannabis Control Act or methamphetamine as defined in the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, or exerts financial control over any person; or*
- 6) Uses any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that if the person did not perform the labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint.*

Illinois Human Trafficking Offenses (cont.)

720 ILCS 5/10-9

Involuntary Sexual Servitude of a Minor

A person commits involuntary sexual servitude of a minor when he or she knowingly recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means, or attempts to recruit, entice, harbor, provide, or obtain by any means, another person under 18 years of age, knowing that the minor will engage in commercial sexual activity, a sexually-explicit performance, or the production of pornography, or causes or attempts to cause a minor to engage in one or more of those activities and:

- 1) there is no overt force or threat and the minor is between the ages of 17 and 18 years*
- 2) there is no overt force or threat and the minor is under the age of 17 years; or*

Illinois Human Trafficking Offenses (cont.)

720 ILCS 5/10-9

Trafficking in Persons

A person commits trafficking in persons when he or she knowingly:

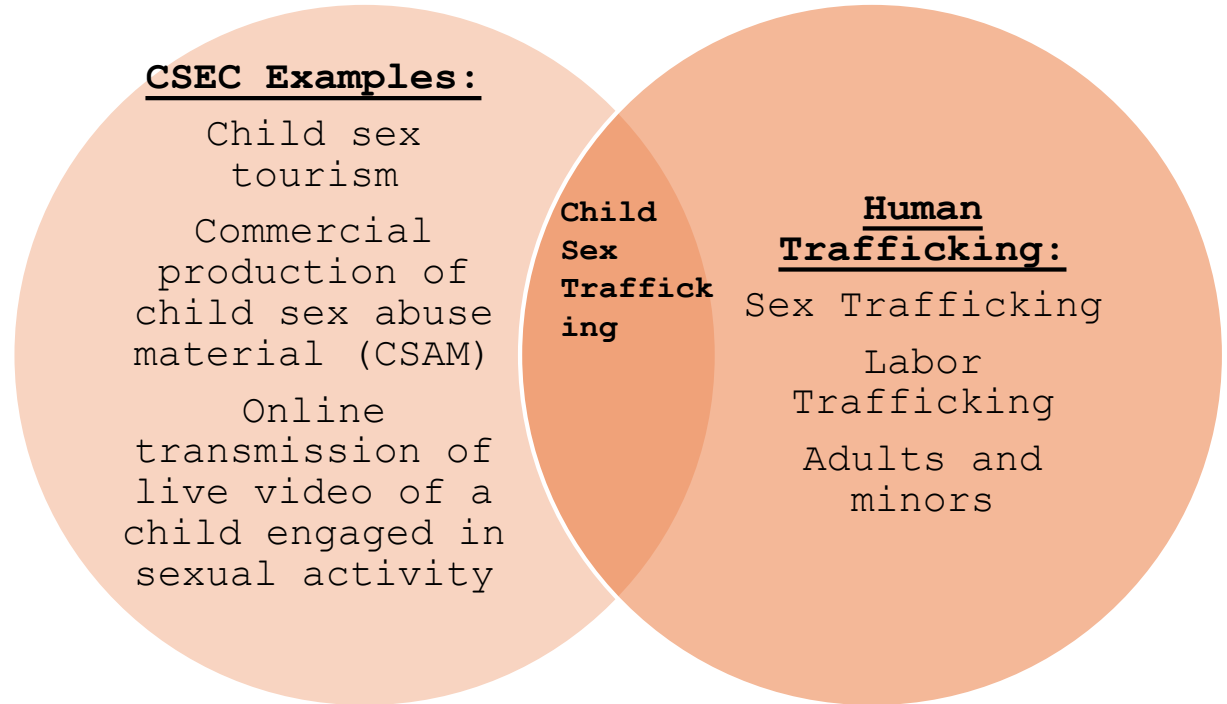
(1) recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means, or attempts to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means, another person, intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude; or

(2) benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that has engaged in an act of involuntary servitude or involuntary sexual servitude of a minor.

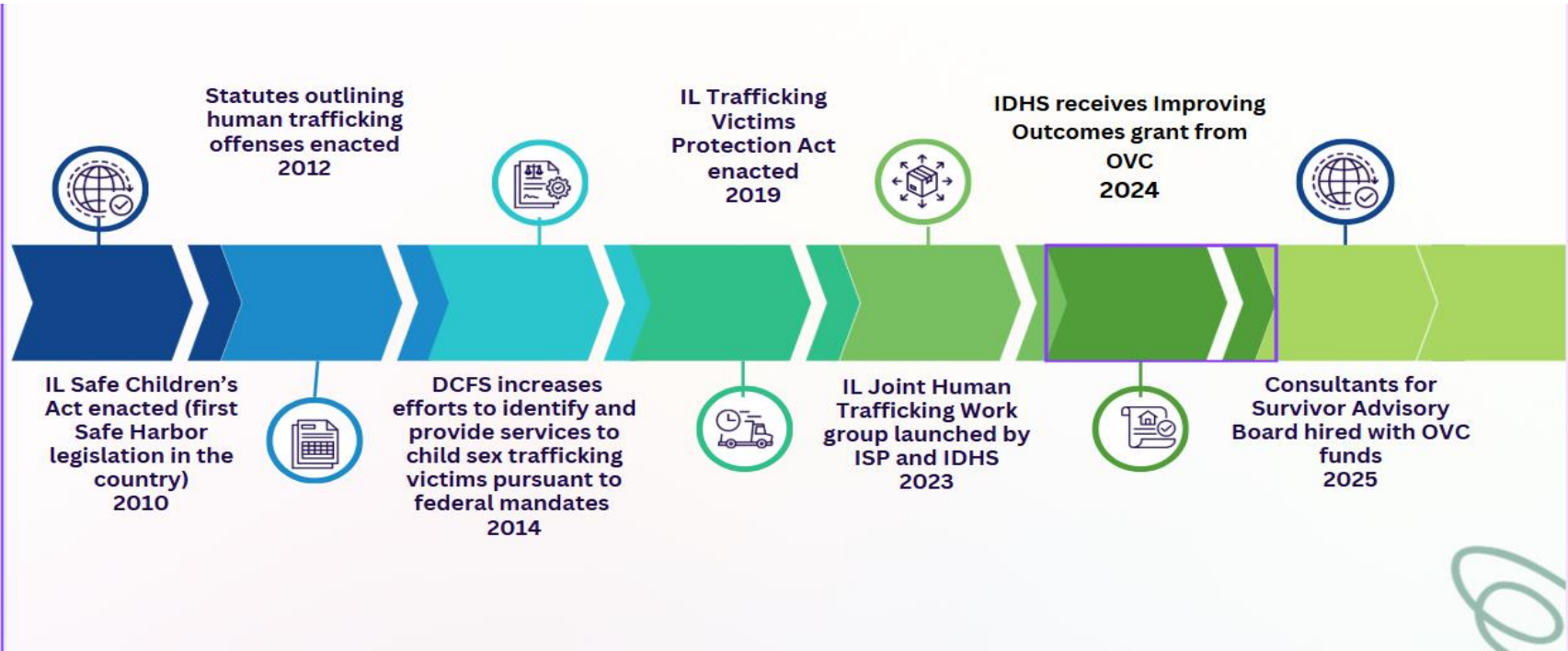
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) vs. Human Trafficking

"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) given or received by any person."

-- *Development Services Group, Inc. 2014. "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children/Sex Trafficking." Literature review. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.*
<https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreview/CSECSexTrafficking.pdf>



Evolution of IL Legislation and Statewide Efforts



Evolution of IL Legislation and Statewide Efforts (cont.)



IL Statewide
Trauma-Informed
Response to Human
Trafficking Act
enacted
2026

What is a Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Response?

- Recognizes impacts of trauma in staff, clients and others and reflects same in policies and procedures
- Restores survivor's sense of safety, choice, and control
- Places the victim's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work
- Safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize victims
- Non-judgmental assistance with emphasis on client self-determination where appropriate
- Ensuring that victims' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated when developing an implementing system- and community-based efforts

OVC's Achieving Excellence: Model Standards for Serving Victims of Crime [Model Standards], Glossary, Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Justice: [OVC Model Standards](#))



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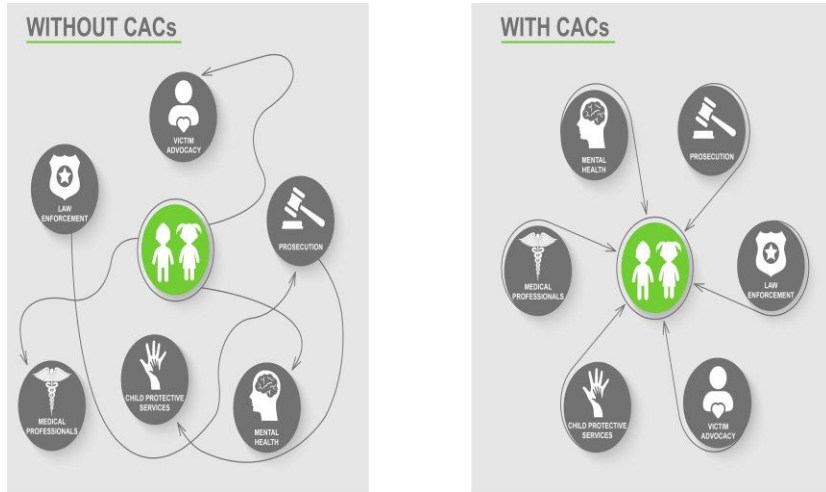
Mandates in IL Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act

55 ILCS 80/4 (b-1)

CACs:

- Ensure each county's MDT protocol includes response to allegations of human trafficking
- Increase capacity of each MDT to identify and serve trafficked children and youth
- Facilitate collaboration between the CAC, LE, child welfare agencies, healthcare providers, and other pertinent stakeholders to ensure a synchronized and trauma-informed response to trafficked children and youth
- Ensure all CAC employees and contractors treating, interviewing and coming into contact with victims receive trauma-informed, victim-centered training on sex and labor trafficking of minors
- Work with IDHS to establish standards for victim-centered trauma-informed training for CACs and members of MDTs

Importance of Utilizing Childrens Advocacy Centers (CACs)



Source: <http://nationalchildrensalliance.org>

- Best practice for child abuse and neglect cases: [Children's Advocacy Centers | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
- Human trafficking of a minor is child abuse in IL: [Illinois General Assembly - HUMAN NEEDS - CHILDREN](#)
- Multidisciplinary response necessary for addressing the complexity of human trafficking cases: [Anti-Trafficking Professionals | Human Trafficking | OVC](#)

Mandates in IL Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act (cont.)

20 ILCS 505/45.1 (new)

DCFS:

- Maintain a human trafficking unit to coordinate services, initiate prevention efforts, and provide access to resources for case-management staff to serve youth in care who have been determined to be victims of human trafficking or assessed to be at high risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking, as well as ensure timely response by the Department
- Ensure all youth in care are screened during initial assessment to identify those who may be at high risk of trafficking based on experiences of commercial sexual exploitation and other indicators of human trafficking and ensure those identified are provided specialized services
- Develop screening protocols in collaboration with IDHS
- Require victim-centered trauma-informed training for Department Employees and contractors providing specialized services to children and youth victims of human trafficking or are at high risk
- Require all alleged child victims of human trafficking to be referred to the local child advocacy center to coordinate and facilitate an MDT response
- Increase trauma-informed placement options for youth in care who have been determined to be victims of human trafficking
- On or before July 1, 2026, incorporate services for all child human trafficking victims into community -based services provided by the Department

Reporting

If you suspect a minor may be a victim of human trafficking, call the IL Dept of Children and Family Services hotline: **800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873)**

- Human trafficking of a minor is considered child abuse in IL
- The perpetrator can be anyone; they do not have to be a parent or caretaker (or 3rd party)

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, 325

ILCS 5/3:

<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/publicacts/view/102-0604>

Mandates in IL Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking (cont.)

50 ILCS 705/10.27 (new)

Local Law Enforcement:

- On or before July 1, 2027, every law enforcement agency shall develop, adopt, and implement written policies detailing procedures for victim-centered, trauma-informed detection, investigation and response to victims of human trafficking consistent with the guidelines developed under subsection.

Joint Human Trafficking Work Group

- Established in 2023 by ISP and IDHS
- Includes representatives from numerous state and local agencies, service providers, coalitions, child advocacy centers, local task forces, and survivor leaders
- Creating statewide trauma-informed, victim-centered responses

Investigations / Prosecutions / Courts

- Create written training plan on trauma-informed, victim-centered human trafficking response for law enforcement, including baseline training and advanced investigation training
- Identify existing training resources and best practices for prosecutors
- Analyze how data is currently collected on investigations and prosecutions to find gaps
- Identify trauma-informed best practices for courts and determine how to share materials statewide
- Develop multidisciplinary protocols in collaboration with partners to ensure child and youth victims get connected to appropriate services

Victim Response

- Create written training plan on human trafficking for youth workers (DCFS, service providers, CAC staff juvenile probation/detention, etc)
- Identify validated screening tool(s) for use in different settings and develop policies and protocols around same
- Assemble trauma-informed, survivor-centered service standards from national resources (OVC, Framework, etc) for vetting providers
- Draft training and technical assistance strategy to expand the capacity of non-specialized providers (homeless shelters / state continuum of care, dv shelters, rape crisis centers, etc., to respond to trafficked children and youth, particularly male and labor trafficked victims.
- Develop multidisciplinary protocols in collaboration with partners to ensure child and youth victims get connected to appropriate services

Public Education / Outreach

- Identify awareness and outreach materials designed and tailored to those working with children and youth victims of human trafficking
- Develop plan for sharing materials with target audience

Labor Trafficking

- Map vulnerable industries / populations in Illinois
- Identify existing labor trafficking training resources for different stakeholders and what may need to be tailored or created
- Determine what state agencies or providers are currently missing at the table for investigating cases and serving child and youth victims of labor trafficking
- Review labor-trafficking response models in other states for possible use in IL

OVC Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Grant

Lead Grantee:

- IL Department of Human Services (IDHS)
- Project Director: Erica Koegler, Bureau Chief of IDHS's DV/SA/HT Bureau

Key Partners:

- IL State Police (training budget)
- DCFS (provides match with service partner contract)

Subawardees:

- CACI (houses Statewide HT Coordinator)
- Reclaim 13 (direct services)

Grant Duration:

- Oct 1, 2024 - Sept 30, 2027



OVC Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Grant (cont.)

Grant Deliverables:

- Statewide Strategic Plan for multidisciplinary trauma-informed response to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking in Illinois
- Develop protocols and procedures among multidisciplinary actors to coordinate trauma informed, victim-centered service provision
- Create written training plan for Illinois stakeholders
- Develop plan for comprehensive data collection



Survivor Advisory Board

- Professionals with experience in facilitating trainings, managing MDT's, direct service, protocol development, and research
- Diverse histories of trafficking experiences
- Provide technical assistance on all phases of OVC project including training development, statewide strategies, and response protocols

State and National Resources

DCFS Human Trafficking Coordinator: Victoria Davis-Jones,
Victoria.davis-jones@illinois.gov

IL Trafficking Enforcement Group (IL State Police):

National Human Trafficking Hotline: **888-373-7888**; 24/7; 200 languages

National Children's Alliance (CSEC Resources, including child sex trafficking: [NCA Engage: CSEC/CSAM Resources](#)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) (free resources and investigation assistance): [Child Sex Trafficking](#)

Framework (OVC supported labor trafficking resources): [Framework - Tools to Combat Labor Trafficking](#)



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Thank You!