

What do you do if you suspect a child is being trafficked and/ or sexually exploited?

- If the child is in immediate danger **call 911.**
- If you suspect a child is being sexually exploited **contact your local law enforcement agency.**
- If you suspect the child's parent or guardian is involved in the trafficking or is aware and failing to protect the child, call New York State Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment at **1-800-342-3720.**
- Contact the Child Advocacy Center at **(631) 439-0480** for information and referrals to services within Suffolk County.
- If you need additional support or services call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at **1-888-373-7888** for assistance and referrals.
- Text INFO or HELP to **BeFree (233733)** for assistance.



The Safe Harbour Project is a partnership with NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone, and Suffolk County Department of Social Services Commissioner John F. O'Neill.



EAC Network is a non-for-profit human service agency with over 70 programs throughout Long Island and New York City and has been providing human service programs in the fields of aging, youth, families, education, and criminal justice since 1969.

Lance W. Elder
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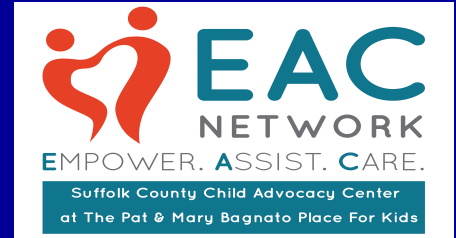
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Safe Harbour

*Human Trafficking, Child
Sexual Exploitation, and
Labor Trafficking*

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Safe Harbour

What is the Safe Harbour Act?

The Safe Harbour Act of 2008 guaranteed that sexually exploited children would be treated as child victims and be offered services that could reduce trauma, hasten rehabilitation and pave the way for better outcomes.

Prior to the enactment of the Safe Harbour Act, sexually exploited youth did not receive the protection of family court and were instead prosecuted criminally, which did little more than further traumatize the victims.

What does “Sexually Exploited Child” mean?

The NYS Safe Harbour Act for Exploited Children defines a “sexually exploited child” as any person under the age of eighteen who has been subject to sexual exploitation because he or she has engaged or offered to engage in sexual acts for a fee (prostitution), has loitered or solicited for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act, is a victim of the crime of compelling prostitution or is a victim of the crime of sex trafficking and has been provided with drugs or alcohol to impair their judgment, been physically assaulted or threatened, had their freedom of movement restricted, or has otherwise been coerced into engaging in sexual acts.

How to Identify a Victim of Child Sexual Exploitation and/ or Trafficking? “Red Flags”

A victim of child sexual exploitation / trafficking can show these signs:

- Chronically runs away from home
- Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis and/ or has unexplained absences
- Makes references to frequent travel
- Exhibits bruises or other physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, or fear
- Cannot produce identification documents
- Appears to be hungry or malnourished
- Is inappropriately dressed
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Has excess amounts of cash or goods without obvious means or a plausible explanation
- Possession of hotel keys
- Lying about age
- Inconsistencies in story
- Mention of a pimp or “daddy” or being in “the life”
- Engaging in prostitution
- Makes references to sexual situations beyond age – specific norms
- Has a boyfriend that is noticeably older
- Appears to be under the control of another person who speaks on the child’s behalf
- Works excessively long hours

NOTE: A child who has been a victim of sexual exploitation may not show any of these signs. The presence of these indicators does not necessarily mean the child is a victim of sexual exploitation. These indicators serve as clues to help assess the situation along with other information provided.

Who is at risk of being Sexually Exploited and / or Trafficked ?

All children are vulnerable to sexual exploitation but these populations are at a higher risk of being exploited:

- Homeless/ runaway youth
- Children with a history of being abused
- Children with a history of out-of-home placements
- Children with disabilities
- Lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender & questioning (LGBTQ) youth
- Refugees, immigrants and non– English speaking children
- Females

Services offered by the Child Advocacy Center for Children who have been Sexually Exploited or a Victim of Trafficking :

- Referrals for residential placement and counseling
- Case management and planning services
- Medical and mental health assessment
- Crisis intervention
- Advocacy and accompaniment
- Bilingual services to assist Spanish speaking families
- CAC provides community outreach and education
- Other community-based services

The Child Advocacy Center provides a safe, child– focused setting for interviewing and examining child victims of sexual exploitation.