

6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH IN CORTLAND COUNTY

1 Are There Really Exploited Youth in Cortland County?

Yes. Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) occurs when any child under the age of 18 exchanges a sexual act in exchange for money, gifts, food, shelter, clothing or drugs.

CSEC is a criminal activity with recorded cases nationwide – even right here in Cortland County towns and villages.

3 Are There Common Clues To Identify Exploited Children?

Some of the warning signs that might indicate exploitation include:

- Visible signs of abuse such as unexplained bruises, cuts or marks
- Behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, tension, and/or nervousness
- Tattoos (“branding”) indicating ownership
- Signs of substance abuse
- Sudden change of behavior
- Frequent running away, skipping school
- Family dysfunction (family violence, history of child abuse/neglect, alcohol/drug abuse)

6 What Can I Do?

The Cortland County Child Advocacy Center Safe Harbour Program is networked with numerous agencies that can provide information and assistance 24 / 7.

2 What Does Exploitation Look Like?

CSEC occurs through a variety of methods including:

- Images of child sexual abuse
- Interfamilial pimping
- Prostitution
- Online commercial sexual exploitation
- Exotic dancing / stripping
- Trading sex for drugs
- Street peddling
- Pornography

4 What Is Typical Profile Of An Exploited Youth?

No child or youth is exempt from falling prey to the manipulative tactics associated with exploitation. Victims can be boys, girls, and transgender people of all races.

5 Why Don't Victims Ask For Help?

Due to the fear, coercion, and threats, youth who may have experienced exploitation, will generally NOT:

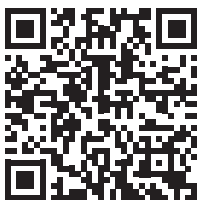
- Identify as a ‘victim’ or ‘survivor’
- Identify as a victim of sexual assault or human trafficking
- Disclose abuse during the initial contact(s)



WHERE TO GET HELP

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

If you know someone you believe may be a victim of exploitation, please reach out to the resources below.



LOCAL CALL: 607-753-5087

LOCAL TEXT: 607-345-3370

OFFICE HOURS M-F, 8:30AM-4:30PM

NATIONAL HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888

OR

TEXT "HELP" TO BEFREE (233733)

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR
MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

1-800-843-5678

STOPCHILDABUSEINCORTLAND.ORG



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