

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

- Contact the Child Advocacy Center at **(631) 439-0480** for assistance and referrals to services within Suffolk County. After five o'clock and on weekends, contact the Safe Harbour hotline number at **(631) 533- 5656**.
- If you suspect the child's parent or guardian is involved in the trafficking or is aware and failing to protect the child, call the New York State Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment at **1-800-342-3720**.
- 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.
- If the child is in immediate danger call **911**.

Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center
at The Pat & Mary Bagnato Place For Kids



**The Suffolk County
Child Advocacy Center at the
Pat & Mary Bagnato Place for Kids
84 Wheeler Road
Central Islip, NY 11722
(631) 439-0480
Fax (631) 512-4237
www.eacinc.org**

EAC Network is a not-for-profit human service agency with 70 programs throughout Long Island and the New York metro area and has been providing human service programs in the fields of aging, youth, families, education, and criminal justice since 1969.

**Lance W. Elder
President & CEO**

**Rebecca Bell
Executive Vice President & COO**

**Andrea Ramos–Topper, LMSW
Regional Director**

**For More Information on the Safe
Harbour Program, contact:**

**Shannon Speed, LMSW
Case Coordinator,
Safe Harbour Program
(631) 439-0480**



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



The Safe Harbour Program is administered by EAC Network in partnership with NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone and the Suffolk County Department of Social Services.

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What is the Safe Harbour Act?

The Safe Harbour Act of 2008 guaranteed that sexually exploited youth 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 18 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 or lateness
- Makes references to frequent travel
- Exhibits bruises or other physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, fear or hyper-awareness
- Cannot produce identification documents
- Appears to be hungry or malnourished
- Is inappropriately dressed
- Shows signs of alcohol or 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”
- Known to be engaging in prostitution
- Has HIV, STDs or a history of multiple pregnancies or miscarriages
- Hangs around strip clubs, hotels, or other known hotspots or recruiting grounds
- Makes references to sexual situations beyond age-specific norms
- Has knowledge of sexually oriented internet sites such as Facebook, Backpage, Craigslist, Zoosk
- Has a boyfriend that is noticeably older
- Appears to be afraid or under the control of another person who speaks on the child’s behalf
- Association with gangs or neighborhood groups
- Works excessively long hours; is physically exhausted
- Eats or sleeps separately from “family”
- Provides child or elder care or performs chores beyond the norm based on age

NOTE: A youth who has been a victim of sexual exploitation / trafficking may not show any of these signs. The presence of these indicators does not necessarily mean the child is a victim of sexual exploitation/ trafficking. 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 youth are vulnerable to sexual exploitation / trafficking, but these populations are at a higher risk:

- Homeless / runaway youth
- Children with a history of being abused
- Youth 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
- 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 / trafficking.