

DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING IS AGAINST THE LAW

Under federal and Connecticut law, children under the age of 18 are considered victims of human trafficking, not criminals. There are federal and state statutes creating strong criminal penalties for traffickers, pimps and johns. There is no need to prove fraud, force or coercion in cases of trafficked juveniles.

Connecticut Criminal Statutes

Gen. Stat. §53a-192a
Gen. Stat. § 53a-192
Gen. Stat. § 53a-86
Gen. Stat. § 53a-83
Gen. Stat. § 53a-83a
Gen. Stat. §54-36p

Federal Criminal Statutes

18 U.S.C. 1591
18 U.S.C. §1584

CONTACT INFORMATION

Anyone under the age of 18 engaged in prostitution in CT is a **sex trafficking victim** & must be referred to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) by **calling the DCF Careline at 1-800-842-2288**.

Sex trafficking of children is a federal crime. In addition, traffickers may have violated other federal criminal laws, including child pornography, tax laws and racketeering. If you believe a child has been trafficked across state lines to participate in the sex trade, **contact the FBI, at 203-777-6311 or the United States Attorney's Office at 203-821-3700.**

WHO IS A DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM?

- **Sex trafficking** is forced prostitution or other types of sex work
 - Anyone under the age of 18 engaged in prostitution in CT is a **sex trafficking victim** & must be referred to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) by **calling the DCF Careline at 1-800-842-2288**
 - **Domestic minor victims of sex trafficking** are victims, often U.S. citizens, who are trafficked *within the U.S., between/within state lines*
 - Traffickers are friends, family members, boyfriends/girlfriends, husbands/wives, organized criminal groups/gangs; pimps/madams, adult entertainment industry providers, massage parlor operators
- Call DCF Careline at 1-800-842-2288 if you **suspect** you've encountered a **minor sex trafficking victim**

- **LOOK FOR:** Physical enslavement, isolation from public/family/age group, confiscation of ID documents or false ID documents, use/threat of violence or abuse, creation/perpetuation of fear of law enforcement, debt bondage, control of victim's money, moving victim to different locations, psychological/emotional dependency
 - **LOOK IN:** murder, kidnapping, prostitution, assault & battery, false imprisonment, domestic violence, shoplifting, arms/drug trafficking, street gangs/ organized crime, money laundering; brothels, massage parlors, pornography production, prostitution, strip clubs; runaway /homeless youth/missing persons cases
- Call DCF Careline at 1-800-842-2288 if you **suspect** you've encountered a **minor sex trafficking victim**

TIPS FOR INVESTIGATING DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING AND INTERVIEWING VICTIMS

Investigating:

- All evidence is important. In addition to speaking with live witnesses, look for computers, telephones, records, motel keys and other paperwork.

Interviewing:

- Conduct the interview in a non-threatening environment and make sure victims are

comfortable.

- Have patience if victims are reluctant to answer questions or lie at the outset of the interview.
- Ask non-threatening, less sensitive questions first.
- Bring in the assistance of a person who specializes in trauma or working with child witnesses.

RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

Victims frequently need access to services and assistance, including medical care, mental health counseling, food and shelter, legal and immigration services, income assistance and safety.

The following hotlines may be helpful places to contact or direct victims to in order to learn more about the resources available:

Connecticut Office of the Victim Advocate: 860-550-6632
National Human Trafficking Resource Center: 888-373-7888