

## Minnesota Safe Harbor Law

Under the Safe Harbor Law, any Minnesota youth age 17 and younger who engage in (regardless of whether they agree to it or are forced) the exchange of sexual activity for money or "something of value," are considered crime victims. Under the law, youth 17 and younger will not face prostitution charges.

Although CMSAC is funded by the State of MN to provide Safe Harbor services to youth 24 and younger, **we serve people of all ages and gender identities.**

# CMSAC Services

- 24-hour crisis phone line
- Individual support counseling
- Safety planning
- Accompaniment to, and support during, law enforcement interviews, court, and sexual assault exams
- Support groups
- Referrals to supportive services
- Training for professionals & community education

**All services are FREE &  
Confidential**

If You or Someone You Know  
Would Like to Talk More...

**Central MN Sexual Assault Center**

15 Riverside Drive NE  
Saint Cloud, MN 56304

**320-251-4357** (available 24/7)

# Trading Sex

Grooming • Survival • Exploitation



CENTRAL  MINNESOTA  
**Sexual Assault Center**  
15 Riverside Drive NE • Saint Cloud, MN 56304-0435

**Exploitation** occurs when a more powerful person benefits/profits from the unfair or abusive treatment of another.

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation:** Any *sexual activity* that is traded or exchanged for *something of value* (or the promise of something of value), often for survival.

- *Sexual activity* also includes survival sex/prostitution, nude or sexual pictures, pornography, stripping, exotic dancing, escorting, erotic massage, sugar daddy arrangements, webcamming, internet and street-based exploitation.
- *Something of value* includes, but is not limited to – money, a place to stay, food, clothes, rent, transportation, drugs, alcohol, medication, protection, diapers, a job, or survival.

**Sex Trafficker:** Any person who recruits, drives, aids, facilitates, or profits from the commercial sexual exploitation of another person.

**Grooming:** A set of manipulative behaviors used by an abuser to prepare a victim for abuse.

gaining trust • meeting a need  
boundary violations • isolating  
normalizing abuse • threats • fear  
control • secrecy • obligation

A person may be grooming you for sexual exploitation/The Life/industry if they/he/she...

- tries to get you to have sex with other people
- promises you money, protection, a job and/or a better life if you are with them
- has multiple girlfriends or “wives”
- pressures you to get a tattoo to remind you of them
- is secretive and doesn’t want you looking at their phone
- has a lot of cash on hand and/or often has a lot of new, nice, expensive things
- controls who you hang out with, what you wear, where you go, etc.
- is a gang member, deals drugs, or is in The Life or sex industry themselves
- lives in a motel/hotel
- gets serious about your relationship with them too quickly
- pressures you to do sex acts that make you feel uncomfortable
- tells you to call them “Daddy” or “Mama”
- makes you walk behind them

**How do I know if I am being exploited/trafficked?**

- Arranges “clients”, dates, or people with whom you are asked to do sexual things
- Gives gifts, promises to take you shopping, or buys you things after you do what they say (sexually) with them or other people
- Takes all or some of the money you earn
- Makes you hustle drugs or steal for them
- Takes nude or sexual pictures/videos of you and shares them with other people or puts them up on the Internet
- Coaches you on what to say or tells you to lie about your age or other personal information
- Uses you, takes advantage of you, intimidates, scares, or makes you feel you can’t say no to them

A trafficker can be a family member, spouse, friend, date, employer, professional, person in an authority position, or a stranger!

**A trafficker can be anyone...** but often is someone you know, trust, and love!