

## Minnesota Safe Harbor Law

Under the Safe Harbor Law, any Minnesota youth under age 18 who trade sexual activity for survival or money are considered crime victims (regardless of if you agree to or are forced into the act).

Under the law, youth 17 and younger are protected from prostitution charges.

CMSAC is a state-funded Safe Harbor agency who provides services to **youth and adults of all ages.**

# CMSAC Services

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

**All services are  
FREE & Confidential  
for people of all gender identities**

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

Sexual Exploitation of Youth & Adults

My friend promised me her boyfriend would protect me and I would get drugs, designer brands, and stability.

I just wanted a better life.

He helped me out...

I felt like I owed him now.

I had no other way to survive.

If I was paid, was it still rape?

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 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 process of manipulation that an abuser uses to lower the defenses of a potential victim (and her/his community).

gaining trust • meeting a need • flattery • special favors • isolation • secrecy • boundary violations • obligation • threats • fear • control • intimidation

### Grooming Indicators & Red Flags

A groomer, recruiter, abuser, or trafficker...

- 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 partners 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 large amounts of cash and/or often has a lot of new, nice, expensive things
- controls who you hang out with, what you wear, where you go, etc.
- 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

### You may be experiencing exploitation if someone...

- Says, “I’ve done so much for you—you can’t do this one thing for me?”
- Arranges “clients,” dates, or people with whom you are asked to do sexual things
- Gives gifts/money, 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 sell drugs or steal for them
- Takes nude or sexual pictures/videos of you (they may also share them with other people or post 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
- Makes you feel like you will be punished or hurt if you leave

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, care for, or love.