

San Luis Obispo County CSEC Collaborative Response Team

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

SCREENING TOOL USER GUIDE

1. Absences may include long periods of time of frequent, unexcused and excused absences and leaving school early.

Example Questions:

- Are you currently enrolled in school? If so, where do you go to school?
- How many days a week do you go to school?
- Have you ever ditched school? If so, why?
- Have you been SARB'd at school?

2. This can include homelessness, "couch surfing", or a transient youth. This youth may be expressing a desire to leave home and live with someone else. They may have already run away and not stating they did – consider their appearance in clothing.

Example Questions:

- When was the last time you saw your parent(s) or guardian?
- How are the conditions at home? Or in Foster Care? Group Home?
- Have you ever been kicked out of your home? Currently?
- Was it your choice to leave home?
- What caused you to leave home?

3. The CSE youth may make reference to moving or coming from areas such as Fresno, Madera, Bakersfield, San Francisco (Bay Area), Los Angeles, San Diego, or Sacramento. This may include attending big events in these areas, such as sporting events, concerts, and parties.

Example Questions:

- What was the most exciting thing that happened at the event?
- That's my favorite team, how did you get to go to that event?
- Who did you go with to these events?
- How did you afford to travel/attend these events?
- Where did you stay, and how long were you there?

4. This may include having survival sex in exchange for receiving shelter, food, or money. Has the youth made reference in engaging in these types of situations due to not having money for food, etc?

Example Questions:

- Have you ever felt that you owed your friends for helping you?
- Do you have a job?
- Do you have someone you can count on when your need money?
- What do you do for money when you need to buy food/ or need shelter?

5. Use your judgment based on the youth's age and mental maturity. The youth may be dating someone who is not much older, but if the youth is mentally at a much younger age, this needs to be considered. Uses term "in the life" or referring to a boyfriend as "daddy."

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6.

Example Questions:

- Where does your boyfriend/girlfriend go to school?
- Does your boyfriend/girlfriend drive or have a car?
- When did they graduate?
- Did you meet him/her in school?
- Did you meet this person online? If no, where did you meet them?

7. Be aware if the person they reference is someone they have not met in person and how invested the youth is in the relationship. If they indicate they are in “love” with the person but have not met them and do not know the information given seems unusual.

Example Questions:

- Where did you meet online?
- Are you boyfriend/girlfriend with them, or what is your relationship status?
- Have you met the person face to face?
- Have you gotten to Facetime or Skype with the other person on-line yet?
- Have you given out your personal information, such as your phone, address, email, social security number?
- Have they sent you any pictures of themselves alone, with their friends?
- Do they have any social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vine, Snapchat, Tumblr, etc)?
- Are they friends with people you know (mutual friends)?

8. Inquire about the youth’s arrest or criminal record. Have they ever been involved in Juvenile Probation and if so, why? Do any involved, running away, possible prostitution, drugs, or theft? Include generational history from family.

Example Questions:

- Have you ever had law enforcement contact?
- Are either of your parents on probation, parole or in jail?
- Are you currently on probation or have you been in the past? If so for what?

9. Habits include behaviors such as wearing same clothing colors or type or have similar tattoos/piercings. The youth may display gang pride or numbers on their shoes or clothing. Include generational history from family.

Example Questions:

- Who do you hang out with? Are they involved in a gang?
- Are you in a gang? Do your family members have any gang involvement?
- Do you know any people who are in gangs?

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10. Some youth currently may be in Foster Care or were at one time, and may now be back with their parents. Note: this may include runaways from a Foster Care home or Group Home. Include generational history from family.

Example Questions:

- Have you ever lived with anyone other than your parent(s) or guardian?

11. Be sensitive to the needs of the youth and address them with a victim-centered approach. Sexual abuse could have occurred in their past or it may have recently happened. It may have occurred once or habitually. The youth may show signs of being over sexualized or afraid of sex. **If sexual abuse is disclosed, or you have reasonable suspicion, then a SCAR is needed.**

Example Questions:

- Did anyone ever touch you in a way you didn't like to be touched?
- Do you feel safe with your boyfriend/ girlfriend?

12. Be aware of bruises that are in places that are not common, such as the neck, thighs or arms. The youth may not want to participate in sports or "dressing-down" at school for PE. If the youth tells you a story on how they got the injury, does it sound correct? The youth may have difficulty sitting or complain of backaches, sore limbs, etc.

Example Questions:

- Do you play sports?
- How did you get injured? When did it happen?
- Did you have to go to the doctor or hospital?
- Have you ever had any fractures or similar injuries in the past?

13. The youth may appear unengaged, unresponsive, or lack of interest in participating in groups with their peers. The youth can show signs of low-self esteem, anxiety, poor hygiene and sleep deprived.

Example Questions:

- How many hours of sleep do you get each night?
- Do you sleep in a bed?
- Do you wake up in the middle of the night? If so, for what reason?
- What do you do when you can't go to sleep?
- If you feel anxiety, what do you feel anxious about? Why?

14. Be aware if the youth has ownership of his or her own driver's license or identification card. See the youth's reaction when asked if they are kept safe or if someone else has them. Be sensitive to the fears of an undocumented person. If they are from another country, do they have a passport or permanent resident card? If so, where are they kept and stored?

Example Questions:

- Who keeps your documents for you?
- Do they feel comfortable with the person who is holding them for you?

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15. Notice if the youth looks relatively thin or malnourished. Have you known of them ever having any eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia? Ensure you know the difference between no foods in the refrigerator vs. not having the food they want in the refrigerator.

Example Questions:

- When was the last time you ate, and are you hungry right now?
- How many times do you eat at home?
- What type of food do you like to eat? Do you have enough food at home?

16. Has the youth suddenly changed their appearance or clothing? Notice if this particular youth went from wearing a certain type of clothing, to very expensive clothing, new jewelry, or in beauty/ grooming (manicures). Is the youth wearing inappropriate clothing for the type of weather conditions such as short skirts and dresses when it's cold and rainy?

Example Questions:

- Do you currently have a job?
- Where did you purchase your clothes/ jewelry?
- Did someone buy them for you? Was it a gift? Was it given for a special occasion?
- Where did you get your new cell phone? Was it a gift?

17. Has the youth ever disclosed a history of substance abuse in the past or currently (such as drugs, alcohol or prescription medications) in the past? Do they have a family history of substance abuse in their family? Check for markings in their arms for needle marks.

Example Questions:

- What type of drugs have you used in the past? Who did you start using with?
- What made you stop using and did you seek help?
- What are you using now? Do you need assistance in getting a referral for Drug & Alcohol?

18. The youth makes references to being in or knowing of sexual situations from either themselves or their friends/ siblings. They discuss that they or their friends stay out late at night with people they don't know and may have been in a compromised situation. Make note if they are under 14 years old and already engaging in sexual acts with someone beyond their age. Does the youth have a disability, if approached with intercourse, or inappropriate touching, that they may not be able to stop it or make an informed decision about it? **If sexual abuse is disclosed, or you have reasonable suspicion, then a SCAR is needed.**

Example Questions

- Where are your friends going late at night? Have they asked you to go?
- Are they going to parties with people they just met?
- Did you feel safe going to party? Did you want to be there? Do you think your friends are safe?
- For someone with a disability: How did you know or learn about that?

19. The youth makes reference to CSEC terminology such as, "pimp, daddy, tricks, stable, johns, track, the life."

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Example Questions:

- Where did you learn those terms or hear that language?
- Do your friends or family speak to you in this language?

20. Be sensitive and aware that just if they disclose being LGBTQQI does not make them a primary target for CSE youth. If they are homeless, or exhibit any other stressors such as low self-esteem, depression, isolation, or struggling financially, then perhaps they could be a potential target.

Example Questions

- Have you recently runaway or are homeless?
- Do you have a network of friends to hang out with at school or home?
- Is there a positive adult role model in your life that you look up to? If so can you trust this person to help you and assist you with your needs?
- If you do not trust this person, why?

21. Note the type of tattoo markings that the youth has on their body particularly in areas such as: neck, back, chest, and shoulders. Be aware if the youth is trying to hide the tattoo or if they are proud to show them off. Look for key words: “name of pimp”, “references an area code”, or “bar codes.”

Example Questions:

- What do the tattoos mean to you?
- Why did you get it and who is the person behind the name?
- Did you have parental consent to get the tattoo? Was it a clean tattoo and did it heal well?

22. Open the conversation with the youth by complimenting their artwork. Be aware of certain relevant drawings related to sex, money, any broken hearts, or biblical scriptures. Ask the youth to explain what they mean or if they simply are doodles.

Example Questions

- What does that drawing mean to you?
- Do the symbols mean anything in particular?
- How did you learn to draw like that?

23. Be aware if the youth has the child with them or if they frequently make reverence that they have a child but you have never seen the child.

Example Questions:

- How many children do you have?
- How old were you when you had your first child?
- Who is caring for the child now?
- Who is the father of the child?
- When was the last time you saw the child?
- Have you ever terminated any unplanned pregnancies?