

Case Management with Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Case managers working with vulnerable youth already provide important services. The information below provides additional suggestions specific to working with victims and survivors of CSEC and domestic minor sex trafficking.

Case management for minor sex trafficking survivors is similar to other forms of case management in that the provider and client partner to:

- assess the client's needs;
- define desired outcomes;
- obtain necessary services, treatments, and supports; and
- manage crises

In addition to the case management you already provide, the following additional elements should be incorporated when working with trafficked or exploited youth¹ :

- Establish a trusting relationship with the youth;
- Educate the survivor about his or her rights as a victim of crime;
- Liaise with law enforcement as necessary;
- Establish safety plans for the survivor and staff; and
- Explain the legal protections and entitlements available to youth survivors of trafficking.

Although important in all case management relationship, the following are especially critical when working with young survivors of trafficking:

- Consider power dynamics (gender, age, race, profession, etc.);
- Introduce yourself, explain what you do and your relationship to the client, including what you can and cannot do;
- Avoid victim-blaming attitudes, statements, and body language;
- Avoid reactions that convey judgment, disdain, or disgust;
- Be a consistent source of support throughout the process of recovery, despite possible setbacks that may occur; and
- Maintain cultural humility by educating yourself about the culture and beliefs of clients and displaying a willingness to learn more.

The importance of survivor-informed services

A number of survivors of CSEC and human trafficking have gone on to create or inform service provision for other survivors. Service providers should partner with local survivor-led or survivor-informed organizations when developing their internal response to child trafficking.

Above all, the need for trauma-informed care supersedes. Whether or not specialized services anti-trafficking or CSEC services are available, staff should adhere to the standards of trauma-informed care to allow for survivor self-determination and choice in their healing and recovery.

¹ National Association of Case Management. (2014). NACM Definition of Case Management & Service Coordination. Retrieved from http://www.yournacm.com/membership/what_cm_sc.html