

## Screening, Assessing, and Interviewing

### Potentially Sex Trafficked or Commercially Sexually Exploited Children/Youth

This guide will provide general information on each professional role in screening, assessing, and interviewing with potentially sex trafficked or commercially sexually exploited children/youth. These children and youth should receive appropriate services for their needs. If it is suspected that a child and/or youth in care may be trafficked, it is important to identify each professional role in working with the child and/or youth, and to try to limit the number of times that he or she tells his or her story regarding the trafficking situation.

For case management tips on how to implement these tools, please refer to **“Fast Facts: How to Engage Potential Survivors of CSEC/Child Trafficking”**

	Purpose	When should it be done?	Who should do it?
<b>Screen</b>	A standardized process using appropriate instruments to evaluate if a child and/or youth might be a survivor of child sex trafficking and/or commercial sexual exploitation and is thereby in need of services.	Should be used as part of the regular intake process and administered to all children and/or youth. The child and/or youth’s basic needs (food, clothing, sleep, etc.) must be met prior to screening. Depending on each agency’s protocol, intake may or may not be completed at the first contact of the child and/or youth. Note: A trafficked child and/or youth may not disclose trafficking upon intake. As rapport is built with the child and/or youth, screening questions should be included periodically to regular sessions/visits.	Direct service providers (often case managers).
<b>Assessment</b>	An evaluation of a child and/or youth (and possibly his or her family’s) needs, goals, strengths and safety concerns to guide case planning and service provision.	Should be completed during engagement to draft an initial service plan and revisited periodically throughout a child and/or youth’s case life.	Direct service providers (often case managers).
<b>Interview</b>	If necessary, based on the screening and assessment an <i>interview</i> may be conducted to determine whether the child and/or youth may be a crime	Should be done as soon as possible once child sex trafficking and/or commercial sexual exploitation is suspected, but not until the child	Forensic interviews should only be completed by professionals trained in child-focused forensic

	<p>victim. Forensic interviews should be used for this purpose whenever possible. Note: All questions asked should have a clear purpose; questions should never be asked solely out of curiosity.</p>	<p>and/or youth is safe and ready to answer challenging questions. This can vary based on the trauma history of each child and/or youth. Multidisciplinary teams should make determinations on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>interviewing in a Child Advocacy Center (or another child-friendly environment).</p>
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*This project was supported by Grant No. 2016-X1068-IL-TA, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*