



KERN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Policies And Procedures

TITLE: Human Trafficking/Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children		Article: 1618	
APPROVED: William Dickinson, Chief Probation Officer			
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POLICY

It is the policy of the Kern County Probation Department to establish and enforce guidelines and protocols for the handling of youth who fall into the category of Human Trafficking/Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (HT/CSEC).

PURPOSE

Human Trafficking (HT) is when a person deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services as defined in California Penal Code Section (PC) 236.1(a).

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a form of Human Trafficking and refers to the following: (1) The sexual trafficking of child, as described in PC 236.1 ;or (2) The provision of food, shelter, or payment to a child in exchange for the performance of any sexual act as defined in PC's 236.1(c) and 11165.1, and California Welfare and Institution Code Section 300(b)(2).

Legislation outlined in Senate Bills 794 and 855, chaptered in 2015, requires probation departments to be involved in the following activities: Identification of children involved in or at risk of becoming CSEC youth, documentation requirements to the appropriate child welfare agencies and law enforcement, determination of appropriate services to these youth utilizing a multidisciplinary team approach to case planning, participation in an interagency protocol with allied agencies and ensuring staff receive relevant training on CSEC Requirements.

PROCEDURE

- A. The process for handling HT and CSEC cases will be the same and for further details staff are directed to utilize the Probation Department HT/CSEC guide located at Z:\Common\DOCUMENT\CSEC\CSEC Guide.
- B. Identification
 1. The department will use the Kern County CSEC Screening Tool when a youth enters the Youth Detention Center, upon a change in placement and on initial contact with youth in the criminal justice system; or if there is reasonable suspicion or disclosure that a youth falls under the CSEC designation after initial entry into the justice system.
- C. Documentation

1. Whenever staff suspects a youth falls under the CSEC designation, staff shall complete and submit a Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR). A copy of the SCAR will be placed in the youth's probation file and staff will email the Department CSEC Liaison to ensure information is recorded in an internal log. An entry must be made in the youth's probation file with documentation of how the SCAR was processed and identify which agencies were notified of this event.
2. If a youth who has been classified under the CSEC designation runs away or absconds from supervision, staff must notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) by calling 1-800-THE-LOST. This contact must be documented in the officer's case management system notes.
3. There are specific documentation requirements for placement officers which are covered in more detail in the Probation Department HT/CSEC guide located at Z:\Common\DOCUMENT\CSEC\CSEC Guide.

D. Multidisciplinary Response

1. A three-tiered Multidisciplinary Response Team (MDT) method may be employed.
 - a. Immediate Crisis MDT will involve a rapid response and ongoing support through the first 72 hours of identification.
 - b. Initial MDT response will be initiated within 10 days to address the youth's needs when immediate safety risks may not be present.
 - c. Ongoing MDT will involve ongoing case planning and coordination of services with partnering agencies.
2. The purpose of the MDT process is to provide individualized case planning with multiple child-serving agencies to assist meeting the unique needs of this population of youth with a victim centered and trauma informed care approach.
3. For further details on the MDT process, staff are directed to access this information in the Probation Department HT/CSEC guide located in the "Z" Drive.

- II. Staff who work with youth will be required to attend departmentally approved four-hour training, which include the topics of CSEC identification and awareness.