

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, DMST Introduction and Definitions

Introduction: DMST occurs in urban and rural communities within the Diocese of Atlanta. There are many resources for victims of sex trafficking and those who intervene in their circumstances. The first intervention is to increase your awareness of DMST and to look for warning signs in youth in your community.

Definitions: Both the terms of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (**DMST**) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (**CSEC**) refer to the issue of Child Sex Trafficking. This is a subset of the Human Trafficking issue as a whole around the world. Both terms of DMST and CSEC are used synonymously.

Definition of DMST: "The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years," (Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000).

Definition of CSEC: Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value or promise thereof, to the child or another person. In this situation, the child is being treated as a commercial sexual object. Per Georgia Law, CSEC is a form of violence and abuse against children. (O.C.G.A. 19-7-5(B)(11)).

Warning Signs & Risk Factors for Youth

Warning Signs: There are many "red flag" behaviors for youth which may indicate a number of traumas or types of abuse. Combinations of these signs might indicate they are a victim of sex trafficking, but some victims do not exhibit any of these behaviors. This list is a very general guide to potential warning signs in youth behavior.

Warning Signs of trafficking:

- Significantly older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Chronic runaway
- Explicitly sexual online and social media profile
- In company of older male or person who is not legal guardian
- Special marked tattoo, or "branding"
- New clothes, shoes, jewelry, or cell phone that can't be accounted for
- Sudden change in appearance/behavior
- Multiple sexually transmitted diseases/infections
- Family history in the commercial sex trade

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Risk Factors: There are many factors that put some youth at a higher risk of being recruited, groomed for, or forced into sex trafficking.

Risk Factors:

- Expelled from home
- Homelessness
- LGBTQ youth
- Foster care
- Poverty
- History of physical, emotional or sexual abuse/signs of previous abuse
- Substance abuse
- Hunger
- Unstable home environment
- Domestic violence
- Online dialogue with persons unknown to legal guardians
- Vulnerable immigrant communities

If the age of an individual has been verified to be under 18 and the individual is in **any way** involved in the commercial sex industry, he/she is a **victim**.

Resources for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, DMST, Diocese of Atlanta
<https://www.episcopatlanta.org/Parish-Support/human-trafficking-commission/>

Georgia Cares, state coordinating agency
www.gacares.org

Rotary Clubs/End Human Trafficking Now
<http://roswellrotary.club/end-human-trafficking-now/>

Interfaith Children's Movement
<http://www.interfaithchildrensmovement.org/>

If you would like to learn more, please contact the diocesan Commission on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (formerly the Commission on Human Trafficking, website above) or contact Georgia Cares, the coordinating state agency for information and resources. The Commission is committed to ending the trafficking of minors and can provide speakers and trainings in your parish, community, or convocation. (Website above)

If you suspect a youth is a victim of sex trafficking, **YOU MUST ACT**. The state of Georgia has a hotline for reporting and referring trafficked youth under the age of 18. Please call their hotline **1-844-8GA-DMST**.