PROVIDER CLINICAL SCREENING & SAFETY PROTOCOL

Adolescent Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Sex Trafficking (CSEC) Screening Tool

KLASEY CONSULTING

Trauma-Informed Purpose & Federal Definition: Under federal law, any minor (under age 18) induced to perform a commercial sex act—exchanging any sexual act or explicit content for anything of value (money, food, shelter, drugs, gifts, protection, or status)—is a victim of severe sex trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is apparent **(TVPA, 2000)**. Exploitation occurs across all genders and sexual orientations and may be perpetrated by strangers, peers, romantic partners, or family members. Youth rarely self-identify as "trafficked" due to shame, loyalty, grooming, or fear of retaliation. Screen through warm, conversational inquiry rather than interrogation **(Greenbaum et al., 2018)**.

Youth Name / Pronouns: _____	**Date / Screening Setting:** _____
Provider Name & Role: _____	**Private Space Confirmed:** _____

Part 1: Pre-Screening Safety & Inclusive Interviewing Standards

- **Ensure Strict Privacy & Never Assume Caregivers Are Safe:** Never screen in front of a companion, partner, or parent/guardian—traffickers may be romantic partners, peers, or family members. Separate the youth naturally (e.g., for vitals or an intake check-in) and ask *who* is safe before involving caregivers **(ACF, 2019)**.
- **Use Gender-Inclusive, Affirming Language:** Ask for and use the youth's chosen name and pronouns, avoid assuming the gender of partners or exploiters, and frame questions around survival, trades, or "getting by" rather than stigmatizing labels like "victim," "trafficking," or "prostitution" **(NCTSN, 2019)**.
- **Lead with Transparency & Mandated Reporting Limits:** Clearly explain confidentiality and its legal boundaries up front, recognizing that youth experiencing familial or street-based exploitation may fear child welfare placement, outing, or juvenile justice involvement.

Part 2: Conversational Screening Questions by Risk & Exploitation Domain

Ask questions gradually, starting with general safety and basic needs before moving to relational/familial control and sexual exchange. Check **Yes**, **No**, or **N/A (Declined / Unsure)** based on the youth's response or clinical observation **(Greenbaum et al., 2018)**.

Trauma-Informed Provider Prompt & Clinical Focus	Yes	No	N/A
Domain 1: Housing Instability, Identity Rejection, & Unmet Basic Needs			
1.1 "Have you ever stayed somewhere other than home, been kicked out, or felt unsafe at home—including because of who you are or your identity?" Assesses running away, couch-surfing, and LGBTQ+ family rejection driving survival-based exploitation.	☐	☐	☐

Trauma-Informed Provider Prompt & Clinical Focus	Yes	No	N/A
1.2 "When you're away from home or low on money, how do you usually get food, a place to sleep, rides, clothes, or things you need?" Explores survival trades and reliance on third parties for basic or gender-affirming needs without judgment.	☐	☐	☐
Domain 2: Familial Pressure, Power Imbalance, & Coercive Control			
2.1 "Are you spending time with someone older, or a 'chosen family' / mentor figure who buys you gifts, phones, or hotel rooms—or makes you feel like you owe them?" Identifies age-gap grooming, affirmation-based targeting of LGBTQ+ youth, and debt-bondage tactics.	☐	☐	☐
2.2 "Does anyone at home—like a parent, relative, or family friend—expect you to bring in money, pay household bills/rent, or 'help out' in ways you aren't comfortable with?" Directly screens for familial trafficking and adultified financial exploitation inside the home **(NCTSN, 2019)**.	☐	☐	☐
2.3 "Does anyone check your phone, control who you talk to, keep your ID or money, or get angry if you don't answer right away?" Screens for digital surveillance, isolation from safe peers/family, and coercive control.	☐	☐	☐
Domain 3: Travel, Street/Peer Coercion, & Unexplained Absences			
3.1 "Have you recently traveled to other cities, stayed in hotels/motels, or missed several days of school without a clear explanation?" Assesses trafficking circuit movement, chronic truancy, and sudden lifestyle or financial shifts.	☐	☐	☐
3.2 "Has a peer group, crew, or older person ever pressured you to do things to pay off a debt, prove loyalty, or stay safe—including things involving labor, theft, or sex?" Captures overlapping labor/gang coercion and sexual exploitation frequently experienced by male youth.	☐	☐	☐
Domain 4: Commercial Sexual Exchange & Online Exploitation			
4.1 "Have you ever felt pressured, asked, or needed to do anything sexual to get money, a place to stay, food, drugs, rides, protection, or gifts?" Directly screens for commercial sexual exchange using gender-neutral, non-stigmatizing phrasing **(Greenbaum et al., 2018)**.	☐	☐	☐
4.2 "Has anyone ever asked you to send sexual photos or videos online, or posted pictures of you on apps or websites for money or favors?" Screens for technology-facilitated CSEC, sextortion, and online recruitment across all genders.	☐	☐	☐
4.3 "Has a partner, family member, or someone you care about ever asked you to be with their friends, clients, or other people to 'help out' or cover a debt?" Identifies relational and familial exploitation where a trusted person acts as trafficker.	☐	☐	☐
Domain 5: Coercion, Threats, & Clinical/Behavioral Observations			
5.1 "Has anyone ever threatened to hurt you, share private photos, out your identity, get you arrested, or hurt someone you love if you didn't do what they asked?" Assesses psychological coercion, blackmail, fear of outing, and fear of juvenile justice/system retaliation.	☐	☐	☐

Trauma-Informed Provider Prompt & Clinical Focus	Yes	No	N/A
5.2 "Provider Observation: Any branding tattoos, untreated injuries, repeated STIs, unexplained cash/phones, frequent arrests, or intense defensiveness/hypervigilance?" Clinical observation item (complete via chart review and physical/behavioral assessment rather than direct query).	☐	☐	☐

Part 3: Immediate Response Protocol & Crisis Resources

Any single "Yes" response—or strong clinical red flags even when a youth denies risk—warrants warm connection to specialized, affirming support and adherence to state mandated reporting laws **(ACF, 2019)**:

Response Priority	Trauma-Informed Provider Action Steps
1. Validate & Restore Agency	Thank the youth for sharing, affirm that nothing that happened is their fault—regardless of gender, identity, or whether a family member was involved—and offer choices wherever possible so they do not feel re-traumatized by loss of control.
2. Assess Immediate Danger & Safe Contacts	Ask: *"Do you feel safe going home or leaving here today? Is anyone waiting outside or tracking your phone?"* Verify safe shelter (ensuring LGBTQ+-affirming placement when applicable) and medical/STI care before discharge.
3. Fulfill Mandated Reporting Transparently	If commercial sexual exploitation of a minor is suspected, fulfill state child welfare / law enforcement reporting duties. When familial trafficking is suspected, do not notify caregivers; inform the youth transparently and involve them in the call when safe **(NCTSN, 2019)**.
4. Connect to 24/7 Specialized Support	**National Human Trafficking Hotline:** Call **1-888-373-7888** or Text **"HELP" / "INFO" to 233733** (24/7 confidential) **The Trevor Project (LGBTQ+ Youth):** Call **1-866-488-7386** or Text **START to 678-678** (24/7 affirming support) **Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline:** Call or Text **1-800-422-4453** | **988 Lifeline:** Call or Text **988**

Provider Clinical Observations, Protective Factors, & Follow-Up Plan

Sources & Clinical References

1. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464 (2000) (codified as amended at 22 U.S.C. § 7102).
2. Greenbaum, V. J., Livings, M. S., Lai, B. S., Edinburgh, L., Baikie, P., Grant, S. R., Kondis, J., Petska, H. W., Bowman, M. J., Legano, L., Kas-Osoka, O., & Self-Brown, S. (2018). Evaluation of a tool to identify child sex trafficking victims in multiple healthcare settings. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 63(6), 745–752.
3. Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office on Trafficking in Persons. (2019). *Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool and Guide & SOAR to Health and Wellness Training Curriculum*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
4. National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). (2019). *Child Sex Trafficking: Trauma-Informed Screening, Assessment, and Care Guidelines*. National Center for Child Traumatic Stress / SAMHSA.

Partner with Klasey Consulting

Interested in trauma-informed CSEC identification trainings, youth-serving workforce workshops, or clinical protocol consultation? Contact us at **info@klaseyconsulting.com** to learn more about our trainings and consultation services.

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