



[www.norfolkadvocatesforchildren.com](http://www.norfolkadvocatesforchildren.com)

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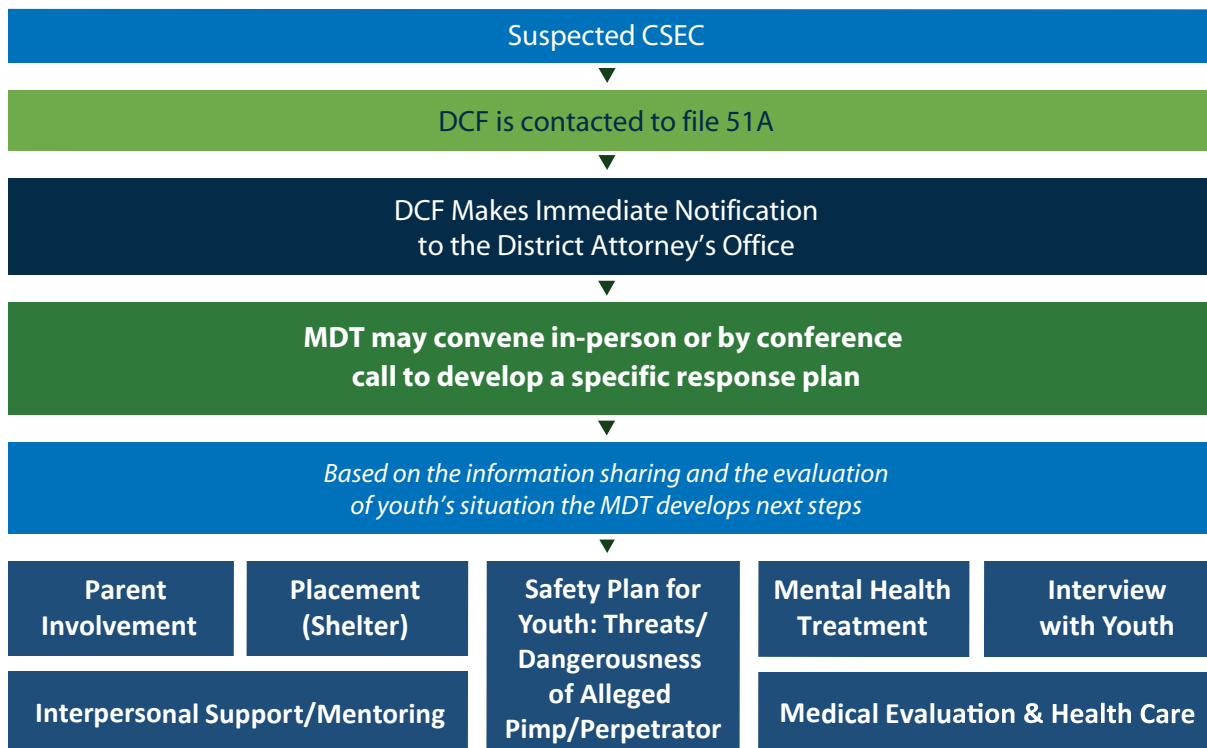
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### Norfolk County's Multidisciplinary

**Response for CSEC** MDT Members: DCF, DA, DYS, DMH, Police, Probation, Victim Witness Advocate, Attorney for Youth, SANE Nurses, Mentor, School, Parent, and the Youth.



# Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)



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## Norfolk Advocates for Children Supports CSEC Youth

### What is CSEC?

- CSEC is a child under 18 participating in a sex act for money, shelter, drugs, food or anything of value.
- CSEC is not a choice, it is a form of child sexual abuse and those who exploit youth have committed a crime.
- Youth are exploited in every community throughout Norfolk County and Massachusetts. Youth can be any gender. The average age a youth is first exploited is age 13.
- Exploiters can be anyone: family, friends, strangers, adults, peers. Exploiters can be any gender. What exploiters have in common is their power and control over the youth. Exploiters force and manipulate youth to participate in sex, pornography, stripping, phone sex, escort services, and drug trafficking. Exploiters use social media and other digital means to recruit, intimidate and surveil youth.

### How can we intervene?

- Youth need safety and support. Address basic needs such as food, shelter and medical care first.
- Treat youth as victims and survivors not as offenders or criminals.
- Remember some youth are not even aware that they are being exploited.
- File a 51A with DCF if you suspect CSEC.



## Potential Indicators of CSEC

The presence of one or more indicators could mean the youth is being trafficked.

- Multiple reports of running away
- New clothes, phones, and accessories without explanation
- Change in physical appearance or behavior
- Visible signs of physical abuse
- Branding, tattoos, burn marks, scarring
- Chronic truancy
- Multiple cell phones, large amounts of money, hotel keys
- Use of lingo. For example, training, Daddy, bottom, trick, the life, or the game.
- Relationship with a male who is older
- Relationship with persons who are gang affiliated
- History of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) or pregnancy
- Youth says they are 18 years old when they are not
- Youth frequently getting into cars with adults who are unknown to caretakers
- Youth is overly protective of their exploiter
- Use of dating apps
- Youth is sending nude photos
- Unexplained amounts of money
- Substance use
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms
- Youth is overly exhausted

## Mandated Reporting

Per MGL c. 119 s.51A, reports of confirmed and/or suspected sexual exploitation of a child under the age of 18 must be filed with DCF.

A 51A should be filed immediately by phone and followed by a written report.

All CSEC filings will be screened in by DCF and referred to the District Attorney's office for the MDT response.

If the youth is in immediate danger, contact your local police department immediately.

### Norfolk County's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Response to CSEC

Norfolk County's MDT is a collaborative effort by a group of individuals from various professions with diverse skills and experiences. The MDT members can help collectively plan next steps for the youth, assess their safety, and help them access services and resources, while holding offenders accountable.

The MDT approach is youth-centered, trauma informed, and minimizes the amount of times a youth is interviewed regarding CSEC concerns.

The MDT may include members from DCF, DA, DYS, DMH, Police, Probation, Victim Witness Advocates, Attorney for Youth, SANE Nurses, Mentor, School, Parent, and the Youth.

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Norfolk Advocates for Children is a program of the Norfolk District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the NAC, a 501(c)(3).

The services provided at the Norfolk Advocates for Children are free of charge.