



NCMEC Resources for Child Sexual Exploitation Cases

Child sexual exploitation is a significant problem which continues to evolve and grow, requiring a multifaceted response. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® is dedicated to helping families, victims, law enforcement, industry, and other professionals reduce child sexual exploitation and prevent future victimization. NCMEC will continue to work to ensure all child victims receive the help they need and deserve.

The CyberTipline

In March 1998, using hardware, software, and programming assistance donated by Sun Microsystems, NCMEC launched the CyberTipline® to further NCMEC's mission of helping to prevent and diminish the sexual exploitation of children. The CyberTipline provides the public and electronic service providers (ESPs) with the ability to report online (and via toll-free telephone) instances of online enticement of children for sexual acts, extra-familial child sexual molestation, child pornography, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking, unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child, misleading domain names, and misleading words or digital images on the Internet. NCMEC continuously reviews CyberTipline reports to ensure that reports of children who may be in imminent danger get priority. After NCMEC's processing of a report is complete, the CyberTipline report is made available to law enforcement for its independent review.

In furtherance of NCMEC's mission, NCMEC engages with the Internet industry on voluntary initiatives to help reduce the proliferation of child sexual abuse images online. NCMEC uses the information submitted to the CyberTipline to create and tailor NCMEC's safety and prevention publications that are provided to educators, parents and the public to help to prevent future victimization.

The CyberTipline staff can also provide technical assistance and resources on child sexual exploitation cases. To learn more, please e-mail ecuassistance@ncmec.org or call 1-877-446-2632, ext 6702. Any urgent requests outside of regular business hours may be called in to our 24-hour Call Center at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

The Child Victim Identification Program

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®, operates Child Victim Identification Program, which serves as the central repository in the U.S. for information relating to child victims depicted in sexually exploitive images and videos.

CVIP was launched in 2002 after NCMEC analysts repeatedly saw images of the same child victims in their reviews and began tracking which victims had been previously identified by law enforcement and which victims still were unidentified and in an abusive situation. Until these children are identified and located they may continue to be sexually exploited.

Today CVIP operates with multiple purposes to support NCMEC's mission. The program helps to:

- provide information concerning previously identified child victims;
- locate unidentified child victims featured in sexually abusive images so that they may be identified and rescued;
- help children and their private legal counsel seek restitution from offenders;
- provide assistance to children who have been sexually abused online

CVIP also hosts a victim identification lab in which law enforcement, prosecutors, and social service workers can access redacted and sanitized child sexual abuse images in an effort to help identify and rescue unknown child victims.

CVIP serves a clearinghouse role by analyzing statistical information concerning the dynamics of child pornography victimization and provide that research, analysis and data to key stakeholders, including Congress, courts, victims' attorneys, prosecutors, and the internet industry.

NCMEC knows that child sexual exploitation is a global problem. Collaboration is critical in successfully locating child victims and reducing child sexual exploitation material on the Internet. NCMEC has cultivated relationships with industry leaders, law enforcement agencies, private attorneys and nongovernmental organizations worldwide.

NCMEC exchanges information and sound practices with international partners to help achieve the mutual goal of reducing child sexual victimization in all countries.

For information about services and/or to request assistance, please contact CVIP at cvip@ncmec.org.

Sex Offender Tracking

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children provides technical assistance to help locate noncompliant sex offenders in advance of our mission to help find missing children and prevent future victimization by attempting to link information about noncompliant sex offenders to unresolved cases of missing and sexually exploited children.

NCMEC provide the following types of technical assistance:

- Conduct queries for noncompliant sex offenders through public record databases, online open-source sites and other systems.
- Provide comprehensive analytical reports to help locate noncompliant sex offenders.
- Produce timelines of offenders' histories including places of residence, employment and travel.
- Examine data regarding attempted abductions, online child sexual exploitation and child abductions for potential links with noncompliant sex offenders.

In addition to the technical assistance listed above, and as part of its clearinghouse role, NCMEC also provides the following resources:

- Conducts biannual surveys of sex offender registries and maintains a count of registered sex offenders in the United States.
- Makes available to the public the number of registered offenders for each state.

For more information or to request assistance in locating a noncompliant sex offender, please contact nsotc@ncmec.org.

Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, or advertising of a minor child for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Traffickers often prey upon a child's vulnerability and use psychological pressure and intimidation to control and sexually exploit the child for financial benefit. Purchasers and traffickers of children for sex encompass all racial, socio-economic and cultural statuses. Child sex trafficking has devastating consequences for its minor victims, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease or even death.

NCMEC provides specialized technical assistance, analysis and recovery services on cases involving child sex trafficking, including:

- reviewing CyberTipline reports relating to child sex trafficking;
- assisting on cases of missing children involved in, or at risk of, trafficking; and
- providing technical assistance and training to help with the identification, location and provision of recovery planning to victims of child sex trafficking.

NCMEC provides “Hope Bags” which contain necessities such as toiletries, shoes, snacks and a change of clothes that can be given to recovered victims.

NCMEC provides analytical data, recovery services, and technical assistance to civil attorneys representing victims of child sex trafficking, child welfare agencies, and law enforcement.

For more information or to request assistance please email CSTTreporting@ncmec.org. Any urgent requests outside of regular business hours may be called in to our 24-hour Call Center at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Victim and Family Support

Coping with the traumatic experiences of having a missing or sexually exploited child demands courage and determination from all involved. NCMEC provides a wide range of support services for victims and their families including peer support, reunification assistance, and mental health referrals. NCMEC is committed to addressing the long-term needs of survivors of child sexual abuse imagery (CSAI) by providing resources and avenues for the continuum of care after the abuse has stopped. Our hope is that this holistic approach will provide the continuing and ever-changing support survivors need in the years following the abuse.

Team HOPE

Team HOPE is a group of ordinary people who one day were forced to live every parent’s nightmare. They know the pain, fear, frustration and loneliness that comes with having a missing or sexually exploited child. With this knowledge and experience, they offer peer support to families of missing and sexually exploited children.

Team HOPE volunteers are mothers, fathers, siblings and extended family members who have had, or still have, a child who is missing, recovered or has been sexually exploited. These volunteers have demonstrated

the ability to turn their personal tragedies into vital lifelines of support for other families. Team HOPE volunteers are passionate about extending their hearts, time, experience, knowledge and wisdom to those who have a missing or sexually exploited child.

Victim and family members impacted by a missing, recovered or sexually exploited child can call 1-866-305-HOPE (4673) to be matched with a Team HOPE volunteer, or to learn more about becoming a volunteer and help others.

Family Advocacy Outreach Network

The Family Advocacy Outreach Network (FAON) connects victims and families with mental health service providers and other resources within their communities. FAON seeks the expertise of treatment professionals experienced in crisis management for family trauma who are willing to provide therapeutic services pro bono or at a low sliding scale fee to the families of missing and/or sexually exploited children when insurance cannot cover the family's needs.

For more information about our network, please contact ALewis@ncmec.org and visit <http://www.missingkids.org/ourwork/support>.