

All County Letter 20-105

November 13, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-105

The purpose of this All County Letter is to provide counties the attached document developed by the California Department of Social Services as a resource to assist in the development of model policies, protocols and procedures to meet the needs of exploited children and youth, as mandated by Assembly Bill 2207 (Chapter 757, Statutes of 2018).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

November 13, 2020

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-105

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 2207: RESOURCE GUIDE OF MODEL POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES TO IDENTIFY, DOCUMENT, DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SERVICES, AND LOCATE A YOUTH WHO IS AT-RISK FOR, OR A VICTIM OF, COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL 2207 \(CHAPTER 757, STATUTES OF 2018\)](#); [PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT \(PUBLIC LAW 113-183\)](#); [SENATE BILL 794 \(CHAPTER 425, STATUTES OF 2015\): CHILD WELFARE SERVICES](#); [SENATE BILL 855 \(CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014\)](#); [THE CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED CORE PRACTICE MODEL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES](#); [ASSEMBLY BILL 2083 \(CHAPTER 815, STATUTES OF 2018\)](#); [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 16501.35](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER 16-85: STATEWIDE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER 16-15: YOUTH WHO ARE MISSING FROM FOSTER CARE](#)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide counties with a resource guide of model policies, protocols and procedures developed in accordance with the statutory requirements of [Section 16501.35](#) of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 2207](#) amended [Section 16501.35](#) to require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to develop model policies, protocols and procedures to assist counties

in identifying and serving children who are at-risk for, or a victim of, commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Attached to this ACL is an infographic and resource guide to provide counties with links to the model policies, procedures and protocols, as well as additional guidance and resources.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, key provisions of the federal [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act \(Public Law 113-183\)](#), were codified into California law via [Senate Bill \(SB\) 794](#). The [SB 794](#) requires county child welfare and probation departments to identify children receiving child welfare services who are at-risk for, or a victim of, CSE and to document this information, determine appropriate services for the children identified, and to develop a protocol to assist in locating and effectively engaging commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) that are missing from care. In 2016, the CDSS released [ACL 16-85](#) containing the statewide policies and procedures for counties to implement and meet these requirements. The attached infographic provides a link to [ACL 16-85](#) and other guidance released by the CDSS, in order to serve as a resource to ensure counties have the necessary information and tools to meet both the federal and state requirements. The resources included within the attached infographic were developed in consultation with various partners including county child welfare and probation agencies, advocacy organizations, placement providers, and state departments that provide supportive services to children and youth who are at-risk for, or a victim of, CSE.

Prior to the enactment of [SB 794](#), the California legislature passed [SB 855 \(Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014\)](#), establishing the CSEC Program in 2014. The [SB 855](#) requires county child welfare and probation agencies electing to opt-in to the CSEC Program to utilize an interagency protocol and multi-disciplinary team approach to serve children who are at-risk for, or a victim of, CSE. Counties choosing to opt-in to the CSEC Program may use the allocated funding to support the development of interagency protocols and procedures to serve exploited youth. These interagency protocols and teaming approaches are critical to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable populations. In circumstances where a youth is at-risk for, or the victim of exploitation, agencies are not expected to, nor will they be effective in, working in silos or carrying the burden independently. The [California Integrated Core Practice Model \(ICPM\) for Children, Youth, and Families](#), emphasizes the importance of a systemic teaming approach. As counties continue to implement and improve policies, procedures and protocols, CDSS encourages child welfare and probation departments to coordinate and collaborate with various partners to ensure children, youth, and families receive timely, effective, and comprehensive care. The effectiveness, timeliness, and quality of that care is largely dependent on interagency partnership. The passage of [AB 2083 \(Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018\)](#), and the requirement for a local System of Care Memorandum of

Understanding between all youth serving agencies, further reinforces that addressing the youth's needs cannot occur in the absence of the partnerships with schools, mental health departments, law enforcement, or other community partners.

INFOGRAPHIC

As counties update policies, practices and procedures, the resources within the attached infographic are available to better assist counties in their efforts towards continuously improving practice, services and support for youth who are at-risk for, or a victim of, CSE. The CDSS has created the attached infographic to assist counties in retrieving materials that support the development and implementation of such policies, procedures and protocols.

The attached infographic has been divided into four categories: identification, documentation, determination of appropriate services and processes to expeditiously locate a youth missing from care. Included within each category are resources such as ACLs, All County Information Notices, manuals, websites and other documents intended to assist counties in the development of individual policies, protocols and procedures. The infographic includes hyperlinks to policy and protocol development guides, such as, the CSEC Action Team's Updated Model Interagency Protocol Framework, Statewide Policies and Procedures to Prevent Child Sex Trafficking, and Resources to Support Tribal Youth. These resources are available to ensure policy and protocols are in place to meet the provisions of federal and state requirements.

Additional resources such as Safety Organized Practice tools and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths – CSE assessment have been included to support efforts towards improved engagement strategies; a key component of the [ICPM](#). The federal resources listed can also be used to support counties in the implementation of protocols and procedures.

COLLABORATING WITH TRIBES IN SERVING YOUTH WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED EXPLOITATION

It is imperative counties partner with tribal governments in the development and implementation of policies and protocols pertaining to exploited youth. Counties should seek the active participation of local tribal service providers, Indian Health Clinics, tribal law enforcement, tribal courts, and other branches of tribal government. Further, it is essential that county policies and protocols address the need to obtain culturally appropriate services for Indian youth who are identified as at-risk for, or a victim of, CSE.

In the event an Indian child is identified as missing from care, local law enforcement, including Tribal Police, must be notified immediately. In addition, the social worker or probation officer must also contact the youth's parents, attorney and tribal representatives, which may include but is not limited to, Tribal Chairpersons, Tribal social workers, and Indian Child Welfare Act advocates. The [ACL 16-15: Youth Who Are Missing From Foster Care](#) provides further information regarding required notification policies and procedures.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance in updating current policies and protocols to improve services and supports for youth who are at-risk for, or a victim of, CSE contact the Child Trafficking Response Unit within the Child Welfare Policy and Program Development Bureau at (916) 651-6160 or at CSECPprogram@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: County Welfare Directors Association
Chief Probation Officers of California

Attachment

Resource Guide for CSEC Policy and Protocol Development

The California Department of Social Services has created the following infographic to assist counties in the effort to help identify, document, determine appropriate services and locate youth missing from care that are at-risk for, or a victim of, commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).



Identify

A screening guide to identify youth at-risk for, or victims of, CSE.

- [ACL 16-85](#): Statewide Policies and Procedures to Prevent Child Sex Trafficking
- Westcoast Children's Clinic Matrix of Screening Tools: <https://www.westcoastcc.org/>



Document

To document youth that have been identified as at-risk or a victim of CSE, consider these resources:

- [ACL 16-49](#): CSEC Documentation in the CWS/CMS
- [ACL 18-61](#): New Mandates Regarding Case Plan Documentation and Training Related to Reproductive and Sexual Health Care Needs and Rights of Foster Youth



Determine

To determine appropriate services for at-risk or victims of CSE, consider the following guides:

- Harm Reduction Series:
 - [ACIN I-59-18](#): Introduction to Harm Reduction Strategies Series Regarding CSEC
 - [ACIN I-28-19](#): Harm Reduction Series – Social Worker
 - [ACIN I-50-19](#): Harm Reduction Series – Probation Officer
 - [Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\)](#)



Locate

Resources to assist in expeditiously locating a child missing from care:

- [ACL 16-15](#): Youth Who are Missing From Foster Care

Protocol Development Guides:

- [ACIN I-83-16](#): Updated Model Interagency Protocol Framework
- [ACL 16-08](#): Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act
- [Resources to Support Tribal Youth](#)



Additional Resources

- [California Health Programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#)
- [CalSWEC Safety Organized Practice Toolkit](#)
- [CDSS Healthy Sexual Development Project Website](#)
- [Collaborating with Youth-Serving Agencies to Respond to and Prevent Sex Trafficking of Youth](#)
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- [National Crime Information Center \(NCIC\)](#)

- [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)
- [Office on Trafficking In Persons: An Office of the Administration for Children & Families](#)
- [ACL 18-140](#): Tribal Access to Child Welfare Case Records

Allowable Expenditures

- [ACL 17-71](#): CSEC Program FY 17-18 Allocation Methodology and County Plan Instructions
- [Special Programs Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program](#)