



Safe Harbour Act and ChildRight: New York

In January 2013, New York State Office for Children and Family Services (OCFS) received funding in the New York State Budget to support the Safe Harbour Legislation. The New York State Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act protects sexually exploited children by guaranteeing that children will be treated as victims, and offered services that pave the way for better outcomes.

Through this funding, OCFS launched and implemented ChildRight: New York, a statewide child welfare-based response to child commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) and trafficking. OCFS contracted with International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA) to adapt their ChildRight model for New York and craft a statewide response. OCFS currently funds eight pilot project areas: Nassau, Suffolk, Erie, Monroe, Onondaga, and Westchester counties, New York City, and the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation.

Key elements of ChildRight: New York include:

- Development of a statewide blueprint with key stakeholder input, which will guide a comprehensive and sustainable statewide response to CSEC and child trafficking;
- Developing a *Building Child Welfare Response Handbook* to guide service providers as they respond to the needs of CSEC and trafficked children and youth;
- Developing and integrating a rapid screening CSEC and child trafficking tool into existing OCFS and local social service system protocol;
- Developing a regional- and county-based action plan to enhance or create specialized services for child victims of CSEC and trafficking;
- Training child welfare professionals and key responders on child trafficking; and
- Providing technical assistance to all training participants and their agencies on identifying, assessing, and referring child and youth CSEC and trafficking victims.

Through this coordinated, statewide response, ChildRight: New York aims to increase identification of CSEC and trafficking victims and provide services through New York's child welfare system.

For more information on ChildRight: New York contact Project Director Madeline Hannan at mhannan@iofa.org.

For non-emergency child trafficking questions, you can also contact the child trafficking shared mailbox: ocfs.sm.sppd.child.trafficking.questions



What is the ChildRight?

The International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA) and the Center for Human Rights of Children at Loyola University created the ChildRight model to create a comprehensive, long-term strategy for state child welfare agencies to address child trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) and labor trafficking. First launched in Illinois, ChildRight guides child welfare professionals in building an effective statewide response to child trafficking.

What should I do if I suspect a minor is a victim of CSEC or human trafficking?

- If a child is in immediate danger, call **9-1-1**.
- If you suspect a minor is being trafficked or otherwise abused, neglected, or maltreated by the minor's parent, guardian, or a person otherwise legally responsible for his or her well-being, call New York's Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) at **1-800-342-3720**.
- If you need additional services, support, or referrals, or have additional questions, you can call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at **1-888-373-7888** or text BeFree (**233733**), for free and confidential assistance.

How can I learn more about CSEC and Child Trafficking?

For more information about human trafficking, including child sex and labor trafficking, visit the following websites:

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services: www.ocfs.ny.gov/main/humantraffic
- New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance: www.otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/trafficking.asp
- International Organization for Adolescents: www.iofa.org
- National Trafficking Resource Center/Polaris Project: www.polarisproject.org
- ECPAT-USA www.ecpatusa.org