



Guide to California Child Abuse Reporting Law: The Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Edition

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Commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) have largely gone unreported to child protection hotlines. CSEC are often seen as child “prostitutes” rather than victims of abuse. In addition, underreporting results from:

- 1) lack of clarity around the role of child welfare in CSEC cases;
- 2) lack of systematic identification of CSEC; and
- 3) lack of guidance around what activity constitutes a reportable offense.

SB 855 clarifies that child welfare systems may have jurisdiction over CSEC cases, and encourages counties to develop a process to identify CSEC. The forthcoming Guide seeks to address the third issue referenced above, by providing the field with clear guidance on the legal requirements on mandated reporting and CSEC.

Specifically, the Guide will provide information on:

- Federal and state definitions of trafficking
- What is reportable in the context of CSEC
- Mechanics of reporting
- Implications of reporting
- Trauma-informed approaches to reporting

Additionally, the guide will include information relevant to specific stakeholders including Health Professionals, Educators, and Law Enforcement.

CHILDREN
are **not** for sale

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