

# Teenage Prostitution: Helping Child Welfare Staff Recognize & Understand This Form of Child Sexual Exploitation

## Training Outline

The training is designed to educate participants on the overall issue of the sexual exploitation of children. This class will explore and focus on the sexual exploitation of children in the form of *child prostitution* and *child pornography*, as it is currently relevant to the **Bay Area** and **Northern California**. Participants will have an opportunity to look at best practices when interfacing and servicing sexually exploited children. Topics that will be addressed include identifying sexually exploited children, risk factors involved with sexually exploited children, profiles of exploiters, legal consequences suffered by exploiters, psychological implications sexual exploitation has on children, the shame factor, juvenile systems impacting sexually exploited children, current local trends of sexually exploited children and many more key areas.

Participants will discuss several anecdotal case studies in small groups. The trainer will present the four stages of recruitment that most children experience when being targeted for child sexual exploitation. The trainer will also present the statistics from the current program in the city of Oakland that specifically targets sexually exploited children. This training uses role-play, case review and analysis and Q&A to keep it interactive and maximize the potential for learning new skills.

## Target Audience

All candidates from support staff to supervisors could greatly benefit from this training (Child Welfare and others). Due to the fact that over the past three to four years this has begun to take place in epidemic proportions anyone who works with, comes in contact with or simply cares for children here in the Bay Area could benefit from training on this issue.

## Outcome and Objectives

- Staff will be able to more easily identify a child involved in or at high-risk for child sexual exploitation
- Staff will better understand how the Child Welfare and other Juvenile Systems impact sexually exploited children
- Staff will acquire tools to increase their success when interfacing with sexually exploited children
- Staff will have a better understanding of the overall needs of sexually exploited children
- Staff will have a good understanding of the overall issue of the sexual exploitation of children
- Staff will consistently begin to refer to these children as victims of sexual exploitation oppose to teenage prostitutes and the child's service plan will reflect this change of definition
- Staff will advocate for *child sexual exploitation* to be a type of reportable abuse **separate** from a report of *child sexual abuse* (sexual assault/ sexual exploitation).

## Before the training

Please review this executive summary with the staff that will participate in the training as well as advise them to goggle the subject of Teenage Prostitution on the Internet. Also please ask staff to review the symptoms of childhood sexual abuse in adolescents.

## After the training

Regularly do case studies with staff concentrating on cases of sexually exploited children to continue learning best practices. Develop a protocol with staff that may be used once a sexually exploited child is identified. That protocol should be greatly based on that child's status as a sexually "**exploited**" child.