



Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team

Greetings,

Summer is upon us and off to a great start! The Texas Legislature concluded its session in June with the passage of significant anti-trafficking legislation. We are pleased to report that among these new laws are provisions that enhance protections for children and strengthen the state's overall response to human trafficking.

On August 28, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT), in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, will present the August installment of the CSTT webinar series. This session will provide a comprehensive legislative update focused on human trafficking. Please be on the lookout for your invitation to register.

This spring, new Care Coordination Teams launched statewide to support children and youth at risk of, or experiencing, commercial sexual exploitation or sex trafficking. In this newsletter we highlight the official launch of Care Coordination in McLennan County and celebrate with them that children and youth in their community have access to a robust system of care as they heal and seek justice.

Summer is a great time to embark on training and we are providing you with information about several training opportunities. We encourage you to consider training in these areas and to share the resources listed in this newsletter with your network.

We hope to see you at a conference – please be sure to say hello and pass along any new research and best practices!

We wish you a great summer!

Texas is grateful for you,

The Child Sex Trafficking Team

June is Internet Safety Month

As technology continues to evolve, so do the tactics used by traffickers to exploit children and youth online. Social media platforms, messaging apps, and other digital spaces are increasingly being used to target vulnerable individuals for exploitation and extortion.

Addressing these risks begins with education. By promoting internet safety, equipping families with the tools to recognize potential threats, and encouraging safer digital practices, we can help protect children and youth in online environments.

Below is a list of free, accessible resources designed to support online safety for children, youth, and their families.

- [NCMEC NetSmartz](#) | NetSmartz is an online safety education program that provides age-appropriate videos and activities to teach children to be safer online.
- [Take It Down](#) | Take It Down is a free service that assists individuals to remove sexually explicit images from the internet that were taken when under the age of 18.
- [Internet Safety - ICAC](#) | The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program has found high quality and effective internet resources which will help you and others get better informed about the current dangers and challenges in your effort to protect children across this country every day.
- [Department of Homeland Security: Blue Campaign](#) | DHS' Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking. DHS offers several safety tips to keep in mind when using the internet, including social media.
- [Safe Online Surfing Internet Challenge](#) | This FBI website offers a free and interactive way for children in grades three through eight to learn about cybersecurity. Through engaging games, it covers essential topics ensuring kids become savvy digital citizens while navigating the latest online threats.
- [CyberTipline](#) | This tip line is the nation's centralized reporting system for the potential or suspected online exploitation of children. Members of the public and electronic service providers can make reports of child sexual exploitation by submitting an online form or by calling 1-800-THE-LOST.



Community Spotlight



Left to right: Child & Adolescent Crisis Programming with Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network Director Kelli Guerrero, McLennan County Juvenile Probation Director Collin Coker, Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children Executive Director Aleigh Ascherl, Unbound Now Waco Executive Director Kristi Hayes, Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children Care Coordinator Sarah Hopping, McLennan County District Attorney Josh Tetens, Robinson PD Chief of Police Danny Smith

Through dedicated efforts and strong community collaboration, McLennan County has successfully [launched Care Coordination](#). Rooted in the [Texas Model of Care Coordination for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth \(CSEY\)](#), the program promotes sustainable autonomy, healing, justice, and stability for children and youth at risk of or recovering from exploitation.

McLennan County's Care Coordination Team's shared vision is to have a high-quality community model where every exploited child/youth is recognized, supported, protected, and receives justice. This vision will be accomplished through their mission to recognize, recover, protect, restore and bring justice to commercially sexually exploited and at-risk children/youth through collaborative response and long-term support.

The program brings together a coordinated network of trauma-informed providers to deliver tailored and holistic support. This launch marks a significant step toward protecting and empowering vulnerable youth in McLennan County.

Child Sex Trafficking Team Webinar Series



Child Sex Trafficking Team June Webinar: The Collaborative Nature of Prevention

A21

June 26, 2025 | Virtual

Join us for an insightful session exploring the global and local realities of human trafficking and online exploitation through the lens of A21's work. This webinar will dive into the importance of prevention education for key stakeholders working in the counter-trafficking space, whether in education, healthcare, non-profit, business, tech, law enforcement, or

local government. Each part of the community plays a role in either perpetuating vulnerability or becoming part of the solution. This is why it is essential for a united and holistic community response, with an emphasis on why prevention must be at the forefront of the fight against trafficking and online exploitation. Discover how prevention, education and awareness, alongside proactive cross-sector collaboration and engagement, can disrupt the cycle of victimization and bring lasting change.

Child Sex Trafficking Team May Webinar: Ellis County's Journey and Innovation in Care Coordination

Recorded Webinar

Leslie Deen, Executive Director of Ellis County Children's Advocacy Center, leads the CC Team and CC Advisory Council to ensure supportive services are well-coordinated and accessible for every child impacted by commercial sexual exploitation — from early intervention (emerging and identified risk) to active investigation and ongoing follow-up care. Join Leslie and team as they share the story of how Care Coordination was established in Ellis County and its growth into a best practice model for supporting children and youth at risk of and experiencing commercial sexual exploitation.

[Watch the Recorded Webinar](#)

Training Opportunities

2025 Conference Season

As we enter summer, conference season is in full swing! Attached, we have provided a list of upcoming conferences from June through October of 2025. We hope you find these helpful in your work to end sexual violence and commercial sexual exploitation. Please note: fees are associated with these events.

[View Conference Information](#)

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse Webinar: How to Spot and Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

June 17, 2025 | Virtual

This webinar is designed for professionals working with youth who may be at a high risk of trafficking or exploitation. Risk factors may include previous sexual abuse, trauma, neglect, running away, and more. We will address the risks and realities of child sex trafficking, sextortion, and how traffickers lure young people through

both in-person interactions and online enticement. Ransomed Life will also share information about their therapeutic resources available to the greater San Antonio area.

89th Legislative Debrief: The Impact on Children

Children at Risk

July 10, 2025 | Virtual

This webinar will provide an overview of the 89th Texas Legislative Session. Hear from experts, advocates, and policymakers who will break down the biggest wins, setbacks, and next steps for kids and families, covering key areas like education, health, juvenile justice, human trafficking, and opportunity youth—featuring insights from leading advocates and policy experts.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) Training for Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Personnel

This CSE-IT training will enable law enforcement and criminal justice personnel to accurately identify indicators of child sexual exploitation, without relying solely on youth self-disclosure, alerting the need for investigation. This training will also provide a framework of language and understanding that will improve their communication with service providers and partners doing collaborative work in human trafficking prevention and identification. This training is eligible for TCOLE credit hours.

**Please note this training is for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel only*

- July 16, 2025 | Laredo, Texas
- July 24, 2025 | Beaumont, Texas
- August 28, 2025 | Bryan, Texas
- September 8, 2025 | Lubbock, Texas

Child Sex Trafficking: From Suspicion to Disclosure

National Criminal Justice Training Center

July 17, 2025 | Virtual

Learn basic techniques and strategies to enhance the likelihood of obtaining information from possible victims of child sex trafficking. Compare and contrast typical child sexual abuse cases with child sex trafficking (CST) cases and address the different points of entry into the criminal justice and welfare system for CST victims. Understand various disciplines' roles and responsibilities and how they can contribute to a positive outcome of the CST case. Examine question strategy, interview dynamics, language use, and interview suggestions. Discuss the business model of child sex trafficking as it relates to a variety of crimes, including the use of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Child Abuse: From Suspicion to Disclosure

National Criminal Justice Training Center

July 29, 2025 | Virtual

Learn the best approach with children who are alleged victims of child abuse in the initial phases of a case, after a concern has been identified. Develop the basic skills and techniques necessary to engage a child in such a way as to minimize suggestibility but still provide support, beyond what is taught in a First Responder Training. Review best practices in identification of a concern and learn to engage these children in a way that maximizes positive case outcomes and minimizes potential behaviors that can hurt cases.

Creating a Community Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

National Criminal Justice Training Center

August 6 -7, 2025 | Virtual

Join other child-serving professionals to create a plan of action for preventing child sexual abuse of youth in your care. Learn the signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse, mandated reporter and stakeholder responsibilities. Identify strengths and weaknesses of current prevention practices, and develop an action plan, using the Strategic Prevention Dashboard, for your organization. This course is open to all members of child serving organizations such as preschool, after-school care, summer camps, church groups, athletic associations, or others responsible for the care of minors.

Report Human Trafficking

If you believe a someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

[iWatch Texas](#) – Tips made to iWatch are investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) – Call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

Tips made to the hotline are reviewed and routed to local law enforcement.

This hotline also offers 24/7 confidential support for survivors.

[Texas Child Abuse Hotline](#) – Report child neglect and abuse, including sexual exploitation of a child, to the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.



