

SAFE HARBOR for Minnesota's Sexually Exploited Youth

WHAT IS SAFE HARBOR?

Since April of 2014, Safe Harbor has increased awareness, understanding and identification of the commercial sexual exploitation of youth.

The **Safe Harbor Law**:

- Excludes sexually exploited youth under 18 from the definition of delinquent child so that youth can no longer be prosecuted for prostitution;
- Adds the definition of sexually exploited youth to Minnesota's child protection codes so that child protective services and child welfare can respond;
- Appropriates funding to develop protocols and trainings, services, housing and outreach.



WHY IS THE LAW NECESSARY?

The Safe Harbor law treats sexually exploited youth with dignity and respect, meeting them where they are to help them reach the services they need. This means that Minnesota youth who engage in prostitution are no longer seen as criminals.

THEY'RE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

They are not – and should not be referred to as – child prostitutes.

Victims of sexual exploitation come from every background, race, gender, sexual orientation and economic status. These youth may not appear to be victims. They may be hostile, guarded, not telling the whole truth, or struggling with mental health or addiction issues.

That is why sexual exploitation is a hidden crime and many victims go unidentified, misidentified, and unreported.

These behaviors help youth survive “the life.” It's likely that they've suffered various hardships, making them more vulnerable to being victimized.

IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP, NOT TO JUDGE.

Our job is to consider and respect what lead these youth to sexual exploitation and get them the support they need.

MINOR COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Minor Commercial Sexual Exploitation occurs when someone under the age of 18 engages in commercial sexual activity. A commercial sexual activity occurs when anything of value or a promise of anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or higher status in a gang or group) is given to a person by any means in exchange for any type of sexual activity. A third party may or may not be involved.



WHAT IS MINNESOTA DOING?

NO WRONG DOOR

Any door a youth goes through – school, child protection, law enforcement – they find a safe, protected environment that helps them leave the abuse and leads them to specialized services.

SERVICES FOR YOUTH

- Regional navigators – connect and coordinate services for youth.
- Housing providers – safely house youth in emergency, transitional and permanent housing.
- Supportive services – provide victim-centered services including mental health, legal, health care, advocacy, culturally specific services and ongoing support.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONALS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Regional navigators – regional experts for communities.
- Statewide law enforcement and county attorney training – Safe Harbor introduction and best practices for identifying and intervening with youth and traffickers.
- Sexual exploitation training – how to identify and refer youth to services
- Youth sexual exploitation response – assist communities in developing best practices.
- Safe Harbor protocols – guidelines on how professionals can identify and refer youth to services, advocacy, culturally specific services and ongoing support.

Because of Safe Harbor, in Minnesota there is more conversation about how to best serve commercial sexually exploited youth and more attempts to improve delivery of those services. And, we're seeing a shift from viewing sexually exploited youth as delinquents to viewing them as victims.

NO WRONG DOOR APPROACH INCLUDES:



Regional Navigators to connect and coordinate services for youth



Supportive services that are victim-centered, culturally specific, and ongoing

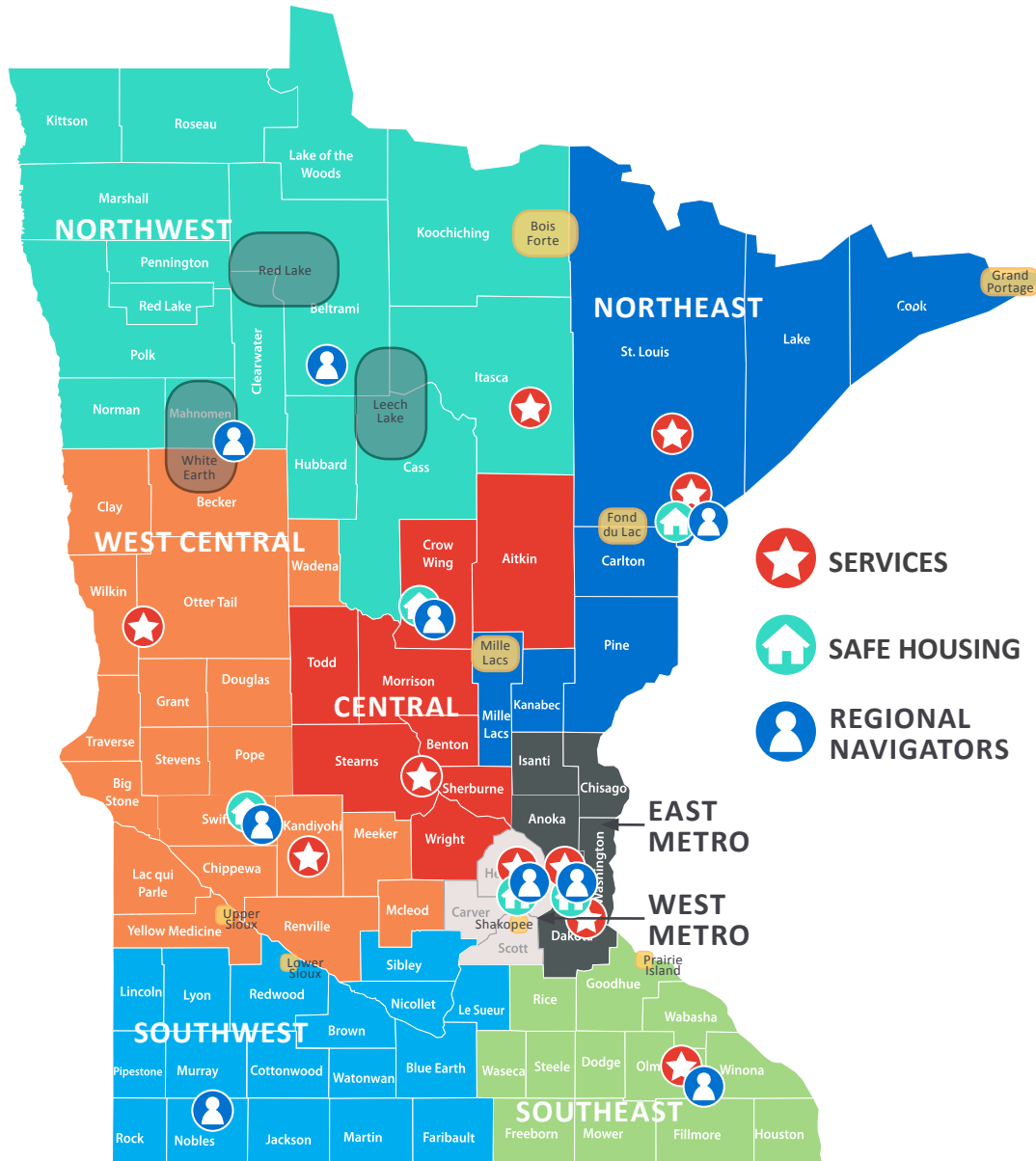


Safe emergency, transitional, and permanent housing

LEARN MORE:




Safe Harbor provides a new system for redirecting sexually exploited youth from prosecution to services, while holding traffickers and sex buyers accountable. The system includes a statewide network of victim-centered, trauma-informed services and safe housing, as well as Regional Navigators who are responsible for connecting youth with services and serving as experts for their communities.



-  SERVICES
-  SAFE HOUSING
-  REGIONAL NAVIGATORS


 **REGIONAL NAVIGATORS**


 **TRIBAL**
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
Minneapolis
612-728-2000
miwrc.org


 **NORTHWEST TRIBAL**
DOVE (Down on Violence Everywhere)
White Earth
218-983-4656
Crisis Line: 1-877-830-3683
whiteearthdove.com


 **NORTHWEST**
Support Within Reach
Bemidji
218-444-9524
Crisis Line: 1-800-708-2727
supportwithinreach.org

 **WEST CENTRAL**
Heartland Girls Ranch
Benson
320-979-9481
heartlandgirlsranh.org


 **SOUTHWEST**
Southwest Crisis Center
Worthington
Crisis Line: 1-800-376-4311
mnswwc.org

 **NORTHEAST**
PAVSA (Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault)
Duluth
218-726-1442
Crisis Line: 218-726-1931
pavsa.org

 **CENTRAL**
Lutheran Social Services
Brainerd
218-824-3773
Crisis Line: 1-866-824-3770
lssmn.org

 **EAST METRO**
Tubman
Maplewood
612-825-3333
Crisis Line: 651-770-0777
tubman.org

 **WEST METRO**
The Link
Minneapolis
612-232-5428
Mobile: 612-636-4260
thelinkmn.org

 **SOUTHEAST**
Olmsted County Victim Services
Rochester
507-328-7270
Crisis Line: 507-289-0636
co.olmsted.mn.us/cs/victimservices

For a full list of resources on housing and services, please see reference guide on opposite side.



SAFE HOUSING Regional Navigator agency

WEST METRO

THE LINK - Minneapolis
 952-288-2688 | thelinkmn.org

Passageways has 6 emergency shelter beds (up to 90 days) for ages 13-17 and 5 transitional housing units (longer term stay) ages 16-24 for females, males, and transgender youth. The housing units can also serve parenting youth with one child.

EAST METRO

180 DEGREES - St. Paul
 651-332-5539 | 180degrees.org/brittanys-place.php

Brittany's Place has 14 shelter (up to 90 days) and residential (long-term stay) beds for females ages 10-17.

TUBMAN - Maplewood
 612-825-3333 | tubman.org

Tubman will open transitional housing (long-term stay) and services to 16-17 yr olds and their children (if parenting) in March of 2016.

NORTHEAST

LIFE HOUSE - Duluth
 218-722-7431 | lifehouseduluth.org

Life House coordinates two emergency shelter beds (up to 90 days) for females, males, and transgender ages 11-17. Life House also operates **Sol House**, a 5-bedroom transitional housing option (longer-terms stay) for 16-17 yr olds.

CENTRAL

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES - Brainerd
 1-866-824-3770 | lssmn.org

Saving Grace is a specialized foster care program for youth and children under the age of 18.

WEST CENTRAL

HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH - Benson
 320-843-4815 | heartlandgirlsranh.org

Heartland Girl's Ranch has 8 transitional (longer term stay) beds for females ages 12-17.

VICTIM-CENTERED SERVICES Regional Navigator agency

WEST METRO

CORNERSTONE - Bloomington
 952-884-0330

Provides advocacy and prevention support services for sexually exploited youth or youth at risk for sexual exploitation as well as support a school-based prevention curriculum.

THE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP - Minneapolis
 612-728-2062 or 1-888-774-3399

Provides case management and after care services for sexually exploited youth, including services specifically for boys 17 and under and West African girls.

MN INDIAN WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER - Minneapolis
 612-728-2000

Provides culturally appropriate prevention and support services for American Indian girls who have survived or are highly vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.

THE LINK - Prior Lake
 952-288-2688

Provides mental health services and aftercare and relapse support.

EAST METRO

HMONG AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP - St. Paul
 651-495-9160

Provides culturally specific case-management and programming to Southeast Asian sexually exploited youth.

MIDWEST CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER - St. Paul
 651-220-6750

Provide comprehensive healthcare, mental health and chemical dependency support to sexually exploited youth.

NORTHWEST

NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES - Grand Rapids
 1-888-430-3055

Provides specifically trained mental health practitioners for sexually exploited youth.

NORTHEAST

PROGRAM FOR AID TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT - Duluth
 218-726-1931

In partnership with Life House and Lutheran Social Services, PAVSA provides advocacy, civil legal services, education and employment support, health care, mental health and chemical dependency, and aftercare and relapse support.

CENTRAL

CENTRAL MN SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER - St. Cloud
 320-251-4357 or 1-800-237-5090

Provides 24-hour advocacy for sexually-exploited youth and adults, one-on-one support counseling, psycho-educational and support groups, outreach, safety planning, education, and training.

WEST CENTRAL

SOMEPLACE SAFE - Fergus Falls
 218-770-4256 or 1-800-974-3359

Provides regional advocacy to sexually exploited youth and connect youth with additional resources and support.

WILLMAR LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MN - Willmar
 320-231-7075

Provides mobile case management services to connect sexually exploited youth to resources and support.

SOUTHEAST

DODGE, FILLMORE, AND OLMSTED COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES - Rochester
 507 328-7270

Provides advocacy, group curriculums, and connects sexually exploited youth with comprehensive health services.

STATEWIDE

MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL AID
 612-746-3623 | mylegalaid.org/get-help

Provides free civil legal services to sexually exploited youth as well as training to Regional Navigators on identifying legal issues.

Day One Hotline: 1-866-223-1111

Provides services to all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or sexual trafficking.