

## **CSEC Continuum of Concern**

The below signs may indicate cause for concern of a young person being (or having been) engaged in CSEC/DMST. Please talk with your Case Supervisor if you believe there is possible or clear concern of CSEC activity for the young person you support.

Signs of current trauma, coercion or exploitation:

- Visible signs of physical abuse
- Youth exhibits high level of distress about being accessible by cell phone
- Secrecy of whereabouts
- Explicit photos of the youth are posted on the internet or on their phone.
- Engages in sexual activities that cause harm or place them at risk of victimization
- Youth has an abusive or controlling intimate partner

Signs related to relationships, placement, prior abuse/trauma, physical health, environment/exposure, and personal belongings may indicate a cause for concern of CSEC activity:

- Developmentally inappropriate, unhealthy relationships with older adults
- Access to unexplained money and/or material things inconsistent with their situation (a possible sign of grooming)
- Connections with people (including other youth) who are exploited, or who buy or sell sex (possibly connected through a group care placement)
- Use of technology to arrange meetings with strangers, or to engage in explicitly sexual talk with an adult
- Frequently leaves home or placement for extended periods (more than one or two days)
- Misses significant school-time
- Often keeps late hours
- Youth has complaints related to lack of sleep and/or irregular access to meals
- Youth has several cell phones, or their cell phone number changes frequently
- Signs of marking (tattoos, scarring, or branding)
- Unexplained rideshare (Uber, Lyft) rides
- Frequent/history of STIs/pregnancy
- Significant change in appearance, e.g. dress, hygiene, weight
- Substance use impacts their health or ability to function / significant change or escalation in substance use
- Reports from other team members that they believe youth is involved in CSEC activity
- Has been referred to Huckleberry Advocacy and Response Team for Trafficked Youth (HART)
- Past sexual abuse / recent sexual assault