

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 19-32

Date: 10/7/19

ADVOCACY SERVICES TO COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN (CSEC)

This FYI is being issued as an update to FYI 17-04, which was released on February 21, 2017. There have been three (3) changes:

- 1.) The referral requesting services should be submitted via e-mail to CSECAdmin@dcfs.lacounty.gov
 - a. No longer submit referrals to any other e-mail address.
- 2.) A new [Advocacy Referral Form](#) has been released and can now be found on LAKids in the Forms Section.
 - a. The new form now includes services to youth at high risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation as well as advocacy services for Non-Minor Dependent youth (18-21 yrs. of age).
- 3.) All approved referrals for Advocacy Services will be assigned to either Saving Innocence or ZOE.

POINTS TO HIGHLIGHT

- A.) Referrals will not be accepted for youth currently missing.
- B.) Advocacy Services can only be provided to youth residing in Los Angeles County.

BACKGROUND

DCFS has implemented new CSEC Advocacy Services contracts with Saving Innocence and ZOE, effective September 24, 2019, to serve children and Non-Minor Dependents at high risk or victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, as well as provide support to their parents/caregivers. Services include First Responder's Protocol response, safety planning, strengths and needs assessment, advocacy planning, case management, Survivor Advocacy, Parent Advocacy, stabilization and engagement, participation in multi-disciplinary team (MDT) and CFT meetings, support for participants testifying against their trafficker, and linkages to resources, services and supports.

TARGET POPULATION

CSEC services are targeted for CSEC identified children and Non-Minor Dependents (18-21 yrs.) at high risk of/or victims of CSEC. Parents/primary caregivers are also supported through Parent Advocacy.

ACCESSING SERVICES

Prior to submitting a referral for advocacy services, the Children's Social Worker (CSW) must speak to the child/youth about working with an advocate and ensure the child/youth is amenable to it. Upon confirming the child's/youth's interest, the CSW should complete the referral form, obtain SCSW approval, and e-mail it to: CSECAdmin@dcfs.lacounty.gov

NOTE: Referrals should not go directly to an agency.

CSWs should make sure to check off on the form, all applicable reasons for the referral. This will provide preliminary information to the provider and ensure timely and appropriate service delivery.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SUBMITTING REFERRAL

Upon submitting the referral, the CSW can expect to receive a confirmation e-mail that the referral has been received. Additionally, the CSW and SCSW will receive an "Assignment Alert" once the referral has been assigned to a CSEC Advocacy Services agency. Once assigned, the assigned advocacy agency will contact the CSW within one business day for initial introductions and case discussion.

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

Advocacy Services – 4 Service Components:

- **First Responder's Response** (90-minute response by CSEC Advocacy Agency)
 - Advocate will provide a joint response with DCFS/Probation and law enforcement to provide the child/youth with initial engagement and basic necessities (i.e., food, change of clothes, water) and will help stabilize the youth.
 - Advocate will develop a 72-hour safety plan
 - Advocate will participate in MDTs/CFTs
- **Stabilization Phase** (up to 4 months)
 - Face-to-face contact within 3 business days of referral
 - Provide introductory packet to participant and parent/guardian
 - Complete Intake Strengths and Needs Assessment
 - Complete Safety Plan
 - Create Advocacy Plan for survivor's stabilization
 - Meet with participant face-to-face a minimum of 4 times per month
 - Contact youth weekly by phone or other social media
 - Purpose to develop rapport and begin addressing advocacy goals
- **Maintenance Phase** (Up to 6 months)
 - Meet with participant face-to-face a minimum of 2 times per month
 - Contact youth weekly by phone or other social media
 - Purpose: to address advocacy/case management goals, participation in educational workshops, create a strong support system, and refer to outside agencies
- **Transition Phase** (Up to 3 months)
 - Meet with participant face-to-face minimum 2x per month
 - Contact youth weekly by phone or other social media
 - To assist in transition
 - To focus on-going advocacy/case management goals, participation in educational workshops, linkage to services, and development and implementation of a transition plan
 - Create transition Advocacy Plan

Survivor Advocacy Services

- Face-to-face contact with youth within two business days of receiving referral
- Survivor will provide
 - Stabilization and engagement services
 - Support for participant testifying
 - Crisis Response to increase and support and stabilization and re-victimization
 - Co-facilitate educational workshops
- More short term with goal to help participant stabilize and transition into longer-term advocacy services
- Provide weekly face-to-face contact with the youth participant during first month of service, or longer, if deemed necessary for stabilization

- Contact the youth daily via phone, text, and other forms of social media during the first month of services
- Provide bi-monthly face-to-face contact after the first month or once participant stabilized and contact youth weekly via phone, text, and other forms of social media

Parent Advocacy Services (will be effective January 2020)

- The Parent Advocate will make face-to-face contact with parent or legal guardian within two (2) business days of receiving referral.
- Parent Advocate will have weekly face-to-face contact with the parent or legal guardian to provide support needed during the first month of service or longer.
- Parent Advocate will offer the Parent Empowerment Program to parent/primary caregiver to help parent/caregiver understand pathways to victimization, risks and vulnerabilities, impact of trauma, dynamics of commercial sexual exploitation, factors involved in leaving the exploitive relationship, and ways they can support their child towards healing and recovery.

Youth Workshops and Empowerment Activities

- CSEC prevention and intervention curriculum will be provided, in addition to educational, transitional, empowerment, and community integration events and activities.

Restoration Funds

The agency may be able to provide and/or purchase certain items or services that support the youth in achieving safety, permanency, well-being and self-sufficiency. Items may include, but are not limited to: 1) Therapeutic or recreational activities; 2) Sports equipment and uniforms; 3) College tours; 4) Tutoring; 5) Youth Empowerment Conference fees; 6) Personal/self-care/hygiene products; 7) Diapers and baby products; 8) Clothing; and 9) Books.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcsf.lacounty.gov