



**Safe Harbour: NY Fast Facts:
Addressing Youth Recruitment**

Some general safety measures implemented by programs to limit recruitment include:¹

- Locating the program away from areas known for street prostitution;
- Building relationships with local law enforcement to address current or future safety concerns;
- Maintaining confidential locations with unpublished addresses and unmarked buildings;
- Gating or enclosing their property;
- Maintaining 24-hour staff;
- Installing security monitoring systems;
- Allowing youth only limited internet access;
- Screening phone calls and limiting the cell phone use of clients; and
- Locking entrance doors to the facility and requiring all visitors to be screened.

The following are strategies programs should employ to respond to recruitment:

- When a youth is suspected of trying to recruit another client, staff members should not allow them to be alone with others in the program².
- Clients who are consistently causing safety concerns (including recruitment) should be considered for removal from the program and served elsewhere, either in another program or in the community³.

Preventative measures to avoid recruitment in programming include:

- Separating youth based on stage of recovery in order to prevent those who are most vulnerable to recruitment from being victimized by youth who are not yet engaged in services or ready to leave their situation;
- Educating all youth in programming about the trafficking and CSEC; and
- Educating parents and other caregivers of youth about CSEC and trafficking, what steps to take if they suspect a youth is being exploited, and how to prevent the victimization of youth⁴.

¹ Reichert, J. & Sylwestrzak, A. (2013). *National survey of residential programs for victims of sex trafficking*. Chicago, IL: The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

² NCFY. (2012). Creating a Safe Place for Trafficked Youth in Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. Retrieved from <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/features/focusing-outcomes-youth-safety/creating-safe-place-trafficked-youth-runaway-and-homeless>

³ Thomson, S., Hirshberg, D., Corbett, A., Valila, N., & Howley, D. (2011). Residential treatment for sexually exploited adolescent girls: Acknowledge, Commit, Transform (ACT). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(11), 2290-2296.

⁴ Walker, K. (2013). Ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children: A call for multi-system collaboration in California. *California Child Welfare Council*.