



Resource List – Training Volunteers Working With Youth Around Sex Awareness and Education

Youth in the child welfare system suffer unique vulnerability factors and are in heightened danger of participating in risk behaviors, particularly early and unsafe sexual behavior.

A recent report published by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found that teens in the child welfare system were reporting sexual activity at almost twice the rate of their peers overall. Data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing suggest that at least about one-third of 17-year-old girls in the system have experienced at least one pregnancy.

While being a young parent within the child welfare system is a real and difficult challenge that can result from risky sexual behavior, there is an even more expansive spectrum of severe outcomes, including exploitations such as prostitution and/or sexual slavery. Shared Hope International's *National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking* found that many of the victims recruited for the commercial sex market within the United States come from the child welfare system.

It is important for CASA volunteers to be aware and prepared for the challenges which may involve sexual behavior and/or sexual abuse or exploitation, and also to have access to appropriate resources that can provide guidance to the youth themselves. The following links are current training resources to both educate and guide volunteers on how to address such cases as they arise.

Training Resources:

[Working with Children Exhibiting Sexual Behavior Problems](#)

Free online training manual of the Child Welfare Training Institute and University of Southern Maine

[Rutgers Answer](#)

Sex Ed for young people and for adults. Online accredited training available, with several courses, up to six hours. Rutgers has developed healthy sex education training for public schools systems throughout the U.S. Registration fees vary.

[Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training](#)

2.5 – 3 hour online training, appropriate for adults in youth-serving organizations to prevent sexual abuse, \$10 with ability to track training of staff and volunteers.

[Working with Pregnant and Parenting Teens](#)

Resources available online for both young parents and adults, including *Opportunity Knocks*, A resource to Convey Safer Sex Messages. One of several training topics available through Healthy Teen Network. Contact the organization directly for more information on training and fees.

[National Children's Advocacy Center Online Training Courses](#)

Offers a broad spectrum of online training, including 1 hour webinars. Requires one-time online registration.

[Sex Trafficking Awareness Training](#)

Several courses offered by Shared Hope International ranging from 40 minutes to two days. Training for adults working with vulnerable youth, insight into the particular vulnerability of youth in foster care and

homeless youth, and help for adults to identify and respond to prostituted youth. The 40-minute video packages are available for a \$40 contribution.

[Child Trafficking](#)

UNICEF offers a downloadable training manual to fight trafficking in children for labor, sexual, and other forms of exploitation. Free, requires registration.

Publications:

[Risking Their Future: Understanding the Health Behaviors of Foster Care Youth](#), Schulyer Center for Analysis and Advocacy

[The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking](#), Shared Hope International

[What Parents Need to Know and Do to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#), National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. A guide to support honest and supportive discussions between teens and adults to help them make better sexual decisions

[Rights and Resources Handbook](#), National Crittenton Foundation. A guide for pregnant/parenting girls in foster care who decide to raise their child. Provides state by state information on placement and custody rights.

[Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States](#), US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Identifying the Influencers on Responsible Sexual Decision-Making](#), National Association of Social Workers

[Meeting the Legal Needs of Child Trafficking Victims: An Introduction for Children’s Attorneys and Advocates](#), Klain & Kloer. Guide for attorneys and advocates to recognize child victims, identify key legal issues, remedies and cause of action available to child victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation

[Child Welfare and Domestic Sex Trafficking](#), Rights 4 Girls. Fact sheet on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking

Reporting Resources:

[National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#), Polaris Project. Provides a national toll-free hotline to receive tips and information about potential cases of human trafficking, provide referrals for services, conduct training and technical assistance, and serve as a clearinghouse of information and comprehensive anti-trafficking resources

24-Hotline to report a child that may be missing: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

Cyber Tipline to report child sexual exploitation: [Report an Incident](#)

Other Resources:

[Advocates for Youth](#)

Agency that champions efforts to help young people make informed and responsible decisions about sexual and reproductive health

[Darkness to Light](#)

Dedicated to ending child sexual abuse, the site offers prevention and training programs to organizations and individuals, partnership opportunities and information on community initiatives

[Healthy Teen Network](#)

Devoted to making a difference in the lives of teens and young families, focused on adolescent health and well-being with an emphasis on teen pregnancy prevention, teen pregnancy and teen parenting

[National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)

Web tools related to child victim investigation and identification, reporting, and current events related to child sexual exploitation

[Shared Hope International](#)

A resource for training, research and awareness materials with information on current political climate and legislative issues around sex trafficking