

Common Terms Used in Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Source: <https://tabithashouseint.org/resources/terms/>

Note:

- This list serves as a guide to build awareness of common terms that are used in relation to CSE of youth.
- These terms can be triggering and/or not all youth may be familiar with each term, so it is best practice to only use these terms if a youth has used them in conversations first when talking about their experience.
- Building trust, focusing on safety, and utilizing a trauma-informed, strength's based approach should always be the focus.

12	A way of notifying others that police or law enforcement is in the area; expressed by shouting to give warning.
Automatic	A term denoting the exploited/trafficked youth's "automatic" routine when the pimp is out of town, in jail, or otherwise not in direct contact with those being exploited. Exploited/trafficked youth are expected to comply with the rules and often do so out of fear of punishment or because they have been psychologically manipulated into a sense of loyalty or love. All money generated on "automatic" is turned over to the pimp.
Beef	Arguments that have the potential to escalate to physical altercations or other forms of abuse.
Bottom/ "Bottom Bitch"	One girl appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operating as his "right hand," the Bottom may help instruct exploited/trafficked youth, collect money, book hotel rooms, post ads, or inflict punishments on other girls.
Branding	A tattoo or carving on a exploited/trafficked youth that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.
Brothel	A place where a group of women are engaged in sex trafficking/exploitation in the same location.
Buyer (aka "john" / "date" / "trick")	An individual who pays for or trades something of value for sexual acts.
Caught A Case	A term that refers to when a pimp or exploited/trafficked youth has been arrested and charged with a crime.
Catch A Fade	An invitation to fight
Choosing Up	The process by which a different pimp takes "ownership" of an exploited/trafficked youth. Exploited/trafficked youth are instructed to keep their eyes on the ground at all times. According to traditional pimping rules, when a v makes eye contact with another pimp (accidentally or on purpose), she is choosing him to be her pimp. If the original pimp wants the exploited/trafficked youth back, he must pay a fee to the new pimp. When this occurs, he will force the exploited/trafficked youth to work harder to replace the money lost in transaction. (See Reckless Eyeballing)
Circuit	A series of cities among which prostituted people are moved. One example would be the West Coast circuit of San Diego, Las Vegas, Portland, and the cities between. The term can also refer to a chain of states such as the "Minnesota pipeline" by which exploited/trafficked youth are moved through a series of locations from Minnesota to markets in New York.
CSEC/ CSEC-ing	Commercially Sexually Exploited Children OR can be used as a verb describing a youth who is being exploited.
Curb Crawling	Driving slowly down the street with the intent to pick up a prostituted individual. Also spelled "Kerb Crawling."
Daddy (aka "King")	The term a pimp will often require his exploited/trafficked youth to call him.
Date	The exchange when sex trafficking/exploitation takes place, or the activity of sex trafficking/exploitation. An exploited/trafficked youth is said to be "with a date" or "dating."
Drug House	A form of indoor sex trafficking/exploitation where sex is exchanged for drugs.
Escort Service	An organization, operating chiefly via cell phone and the internet, which sends a exploited/trafficked youth to a buyer's location (an "outcall") or arranges for the buyer to come to a house or apartment (an "in-call"); this may be the workplace of a single woman or a small brothel. Some escort services are networked with others and can assemble large numbers of women for parties and conventions.
Exit Fee	The money a pimp will demand from an exploited/trafficked youth who is thinking about trying to leave. It will be an exorbitant sum, to discourage her from leaving. Most pimps never let exploited/trafficked youth leave freely.

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Facilitator	Any business or person allowing or assisting a trafficker to carry out his/her business.
Family/ Folks	The term used to describe the other individuals under the control of the same pimp. He plays the role of father (or “Daddy”) while the group fulfills the need for a “family.”
Finesse Pimp/ Romeo Pimp	One who prides himself on controlling others primarily through psychological manipulation. Although he may shower exploited/trafficked youth with affection and gifts (especially during the recruitment phase), the threat of violence is always present.
Flexing	Lying.
Gorilla (or Guerilla) Pimp	A pimp who controls exploited/trafficked youth almost entirely through physical violence and force.
Hooking Up	To meet up and have sex.
Hurt	Unattractive.
Lit	Intensely excited; intoxicated.
Lot Lizard	Derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops.
Madam	An older woman who manages a brothel, escort service or other sex trafficking/exploitation establishment. She may work alone or in collaboration with other traffickers.
Netflix and Chill	An invitation to go over to someone’s house and engage in sex; to invite someone over to watch a sexually enticing movie on Netflix in hopes of engaging in a sexual act.
On Fleek	Looks good; admirable.
Out of Pocket	A term used to describe when a woman or girl breaks “the rules” by making eye contact with another pimp.
P.I.	Street term used to reference a pimp other than one’s own.
Pimp Circle	When several pimps circle a youth to intimidate through verbal and physical threats in order to discipline the exploited/trafficked youth or force her to choose up.
Posting	The process of taking pictures and posting them to social media/social networking or an online classified ad site to advertise sex trafficking/exploitation.
Quota	A set amount of money that an exploited/trafficked youth must make each night before she can come “home.” Quotas are often set between \$300 and \$2000. If the exploited/trafficked youth returns without meeting the quota, she is typically beaten and sent back out on the street to earn the rest. Quotas vary according to geographic region, local events, etc.
Reckless Eyeballing	A term that refers to the act of looking around instead of keeping your eyes on the ground. Eyeballing is against the rules and could lead an untrained exploited/trafficked youth to “choose up” by mistake.
Renegade	A person involved in sex trafficking/exploitation without a pimp.
Salty	Upset; angry; bitter towards someone.
Seasoning	A combination of psychological manipulation, intimidation, gang rape, sodomy, beatings, deprivation of food or sleep, isolation from friends or family and other sources of support, and threatening or holding hostage of a exploited/trafficked youth’s children. Seasoning is designed to break down a exploited/trafficked youth’s resistance and ensure compliance.
Slay	Draw attention in a positive way.
Squaring Up	Attempting to escape or exit sex trafficking/exploitation.
Stable	A group of exploited/trafficked youths who are under the control of a single pimp.
Survival Sex	A term referring to the exploitation of a minor by another person who requires sex acts in exchange for basic needs such as shelter, food, or clothes.
The Game/ The Life	The subculture of sex trafficking/exploitation, complete with rules, a hierarchy of authority, and language. Referring to the act of pimping as ‘the game’ gives the illusion that it can be a fun and easy way to make money, when the reality is much harsher. Women and girls will say they’ve been “in the life” if they’ve been involved in sex trafficking/exploitation for a while.
Track/ Blade/ Stroll	An area of town known for sex trafficking/exploitation - related activity. This can be the area around a group of strip clubs and pornography stores, or a particular stretch of street.
Trade Up/ Trade Down	To move an exploited/trafficked youth like merchandise between pimps. A pimp may trade one girl for another or trade with some exchange of money.
Trafficker/ Pimp	Person who buys, trades, and/or sells individuals for sexual exploitation.

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Trap House	A form of indoor sex trafficking/exploitation where sex is exchanged for drugs.
Trick	Committing a sexual act due to being trafficked/exploited (verb), or the person buying the sexual act (noun). An exploited/trafficked youth is said to be “turning a trick” or “with a trick.”
Turn Out	To be forced into sex trafficking/exploitation (verb) or a person newly involved in sex trafficking/exploitation (noun).
Wifeys/ Wife-in-Law/ Sister Wife	What women and girls under the control of the same pimp call each other. (See Family/Folks and Stable.)