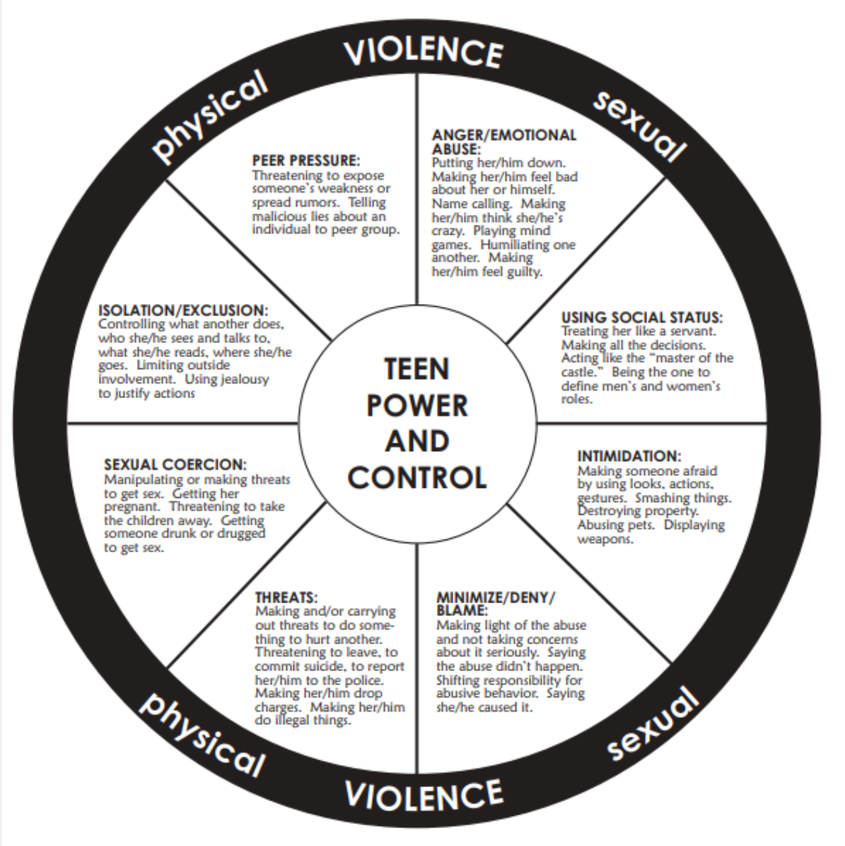
CCSD Student Safety Program

Erin’s Law & Human Trafficking

Erin’s Law - Georgia

Erin's Law is a set of state laws, named after Erin Merryn, that requires schools to teach students about child sexual abuse prevention. These laws aim to educate students on recognizing unsafe situations, reporting abuse, and understanding healthy relationships. By reviewing Erin’s Law and other human trafficking laws in Georgia, we can learn to recognize and report concerns to a trusted adult.

Erin's Law - Recognizing Abuse



5 Categories of Abuse:

- **Neglect:** Failure of a parent or caregiver to meet the child's basic needs.
- **Physical Abuse:** Nonaccidental physical injury of a child.
- **Emotional Abuse:** A pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Anything done with a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child.
- **Dating/Relationship Violence:** Dating violence happens in unhealthy, one-sided relationships. One sided relationships are where one person has most of the power over the other. Dating violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors which are used to exert power and control over a dating partner.

Erin’s Law - Understanding Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a serious crime that involves any unwanted or inappropriate touching or behavior of a sexual nature toward someone.

- Unwanted touching: When someone touches another person in a way that they don't want or feel comfortable with.
- Inappropriate comments or actions: Making sexual comments or jokes that make someone feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- Forcing someone to do something sexual: This includes actions where a person is pressured or forced to engage in sexual activity, even if it's not physical contact.

Get help: 27/7 talk or text 1-800-656-4673, get the mobile app RAINN or go to www.rainn.org

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the trade in people, especially women and children. The Department of Homeland Security defines human trafficking as he “modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain.”

Human trafficking happens everyday in Georgia: in cities, in suburban and rural areas and in every zip code.

Since 2009, human trafficking has been reported in 145 of the 159 counties in GA (Georgia Cares).

Georgia Human Trafficking Statistics

- The average age of human trafficking victims is 14.8 years old.
- Approximately 7,200 men purchase sex from a minor every month in Georgia.
- Approximately 374 girls are commercially sexually exploited each month in Georgia.
- Around 65% of men who buy sex with young females do so in and around suburban and metro Atlanta, with 9% near the airport.
- Atlanta has the highest number of trafficked Hispanic females in the nation.
- More than 50% of victims are recruited by FRIENDS and FAMILY (GA Cares, doas.ga.gov)

Georgia Laws & Trafficking

CSEC

Under GA law, commercial sexual exploitation of children, or CSEC, victims are children that have received food, money, drugs, shelter or anything of commercial value in exchange for sex.

Age of Consent

Under GA law, children under the age of 16 cannot legally consent to sex, which is considered “the age of consent.” Children under the age of 18 cannot be willing participants in commercial sex.

Appearance

Regardless of how the child appears or acts, Georgia law recognizes these youths as victims of human trafficking and victims of child abuse.

Possible Indicators of Trafficking

Poor Physical Health: Poor hygiene, signs of physical abuse, malnourishment and fatigue.

Lack of Control: Has few personal belongings, wears the same clothing, person is frequently monitored, the person is not allowed to speak for themselves or a third party demands to be present to speak for the person or translate.

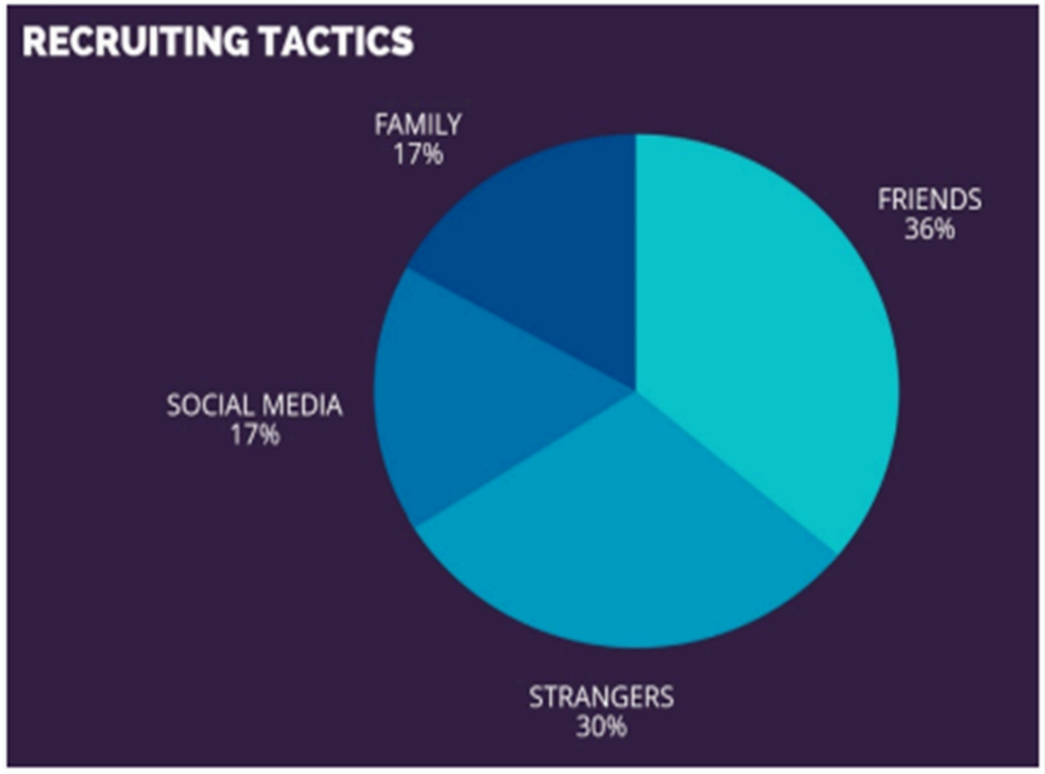
Physical Markers: May have a tattoo to brand the victim, especially on a person underage.

Unknown Address: The person may claims they are just visiting, cannot tell you their address or who they are staying with.

Fear: Person avoids eye contact and/or does not want to speak about their circumstance. Expresses fear that harm will come to their family members.

Financial Needs: Expresses need to pay for a debt.

Human Trafficking Recruitment



The pie chart displays the various recruiting tactics used in human trafficking. It is important to note that over 50% are recruited by family and friends; the people they trust most in their lives!

A human trafficker can be ANYONE -- a classmate, employer, family friend, acquaintance, a boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone you met online.

How Perpetrators Use Technology

Access Children Through

-Social Media/Apps

-Chat Rooms

-Gaming Systems

Means of Control

-False romance/friendship

-False promises (modeling/acting opportunities

-Coercion uses threats and/or sextortion

-Using sexual images to teach children about sex

Snapchat

Considerations and Risks

Teens feel like it's a safer way to communicate (instead of sharing phone number)

Snapchat is the main form of social media/recruitment used by perpetrators

"Time limit" feature allows youth to feel as though they can share sensitive images/material without risk

Allows perpetrators to communicate freely because conversation disappears after 24 hours (evading law enforcement)

Screenshotting-saving photos/videos sent by friends that are shared/used for blackmail; notifies user when something they sent is screenshotted (even chats)

*Check your settings including your “Snap Map” so that you are not sharing your location with perpetrators, as well as the “My Eyes Only” feature to password protect your photos.

TikTok

Considerations and Risks

Concerns exist about minors being exploited for sexual content on platforms like TikTok Live, with users rewarding inappropriate behaviors with virtual gifts convertible to cash.

Gaining Fans gives feeling of importance.

Perpetrators can impersonate younger children and teens.

Some content and music may include sexual references.

Users may unintentionally share personal and identifying information.

*Be sure to set privacy settings and be cautious of friend requests and report suspicious content.

Instagram

Considerations and Risks

Searching for sensitive hashtags (#suicide, #lonely, etc.)

You can send a "DM" to anyone, whether or not the account is private

"Finstagrams" (fake profiles) are used to monitor you and your friends

Youth may also feel this is a safer option than giving out a phone number

Traffickers scout profiles for those expressing financial hardship and other vulnerabilities; do not overshare

*Strengthen your privacy settings, beware of stranger friend requests and be skeptical of suspicious offers and advertising.

Keep an eye out for RED FLAGS

- Sends inappropriate pictures
- Wants to talk to you regarding sex
- Asks for pictures of you
- Tries to meet in real life
- Follows all of your profiles
- Asks a lot of questions about you
- Get’s mad at you if your not online
- You start feeling like this friend is the only one who cares about you

Reporting Abuse & Trafficking

Many people care about your safety.
It's never your fault if someone hurts or tricks you.
It's always okay to ask for help.

- Speak to a parent or a trusted adult in your school : School Counselor, SRO- School Police Officer, Assistant Principal, School Nurse, Teacher or Coach.

- Call 911 or Child Abuse Hotline: 1-855–GACHILD

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center & National Hotline (888) 373-7888 or Text: "BeFree" to 233733 (24/7)

- Anonymous Vector Alert Website: https://cherokee-ga.safeschoolsalert.com/

Resources for Additional Information

Georgia Safe and Healthy Schools

Safe and healthy schools are at the center of student success. By prioritizing a safe and healthy campus, schools can foster a positive environment that

Georgia Department of Education / Jan 7

Content is no longer available

U.S. Department of Education

Resources for Combatting Human Trafficking in America's Schools

A collection of helpful resources for combatting human trafficking in America's schools, including resources for administrators, teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, parents, caregivers, and students.

U.S

What is Erin's Law?

Erin's Law is named after childhood sexual assault survivor, author, speaker and activist Erin Merryn, who is the founder and President of Erin's Law, which is registered with the State of Illinois and the IRS as a 501 (c)(4) non-profit social...

Erin's Law /

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