

Child protection screening of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking

Screeners or screening teams should use the screening flowchart tool on page 2 when it is believed that reporters may be sharing information regarding sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. In combination with supervisory discretion, this tool can help determine if reports meet criteria, and which response path to select. Screen in all sex trafficking reports for child protection investigation regardless of child's relationship to alleged offender. [[Minn. Stat., section 260E.03](#)] Screen out sexual exploitation reports involving non-caregiver alleged offenders and refer for a child welfare response.

Terms used in this tool:

Exchange for anything of value: Trading money, drugs, shelter, food, protection, etc.

Facilitate: Receiving or obtaining (getting from someone), recruiting (inviting, asking), grooming (befriending, talking into, persuading), harboring (keeping in a place), providing (bringing).

MAARC: Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (1-844-880-1574).

Pornography: Depiction of actual or simulated sexual conduct. [[Minn. Stat. 617.246 subd. 1\(f\)](#)]

Profit: Receiving money or anything of value, which may include drugs, alcohol, food, shelter or transportation.

Regional navigator: Regional point of contact for sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, including connecting exploited, trafficked, or at-risk youth with appropriate services, outreach or education.

Sexual assault: Non-consensual sexual contact or certain sexual conduct between an adult and child. [[Minn. Stat. 609.342-609.3451](#)]

Sexual contact or penetration: Intentional touching of one's intimate parts, or any intrusion into body openings. [[Minn. Stat. 609.341, subd. 11 and 12](#)]

Sexual exploitation: Includes all commercial sex acts and non-commercial sexual abuse. [[Minn. Stat. 260C.007 subd. 31](#)]

Sexual performance: Any play, dance, or other exhibition presented before an audience or for purposes of visual or mechanical reproduction that uses a minor to depict actual or simulated sexual conduct. [[Minn. Stat. 617.246, subd. 1\(d\)](#)]

Sex trafficking: The act of a third party, not the purchaser or victim, facilitating or profiting from a commercial sex act performed by another person. [[Minn. Stat. 609.321 -609.322](#)]

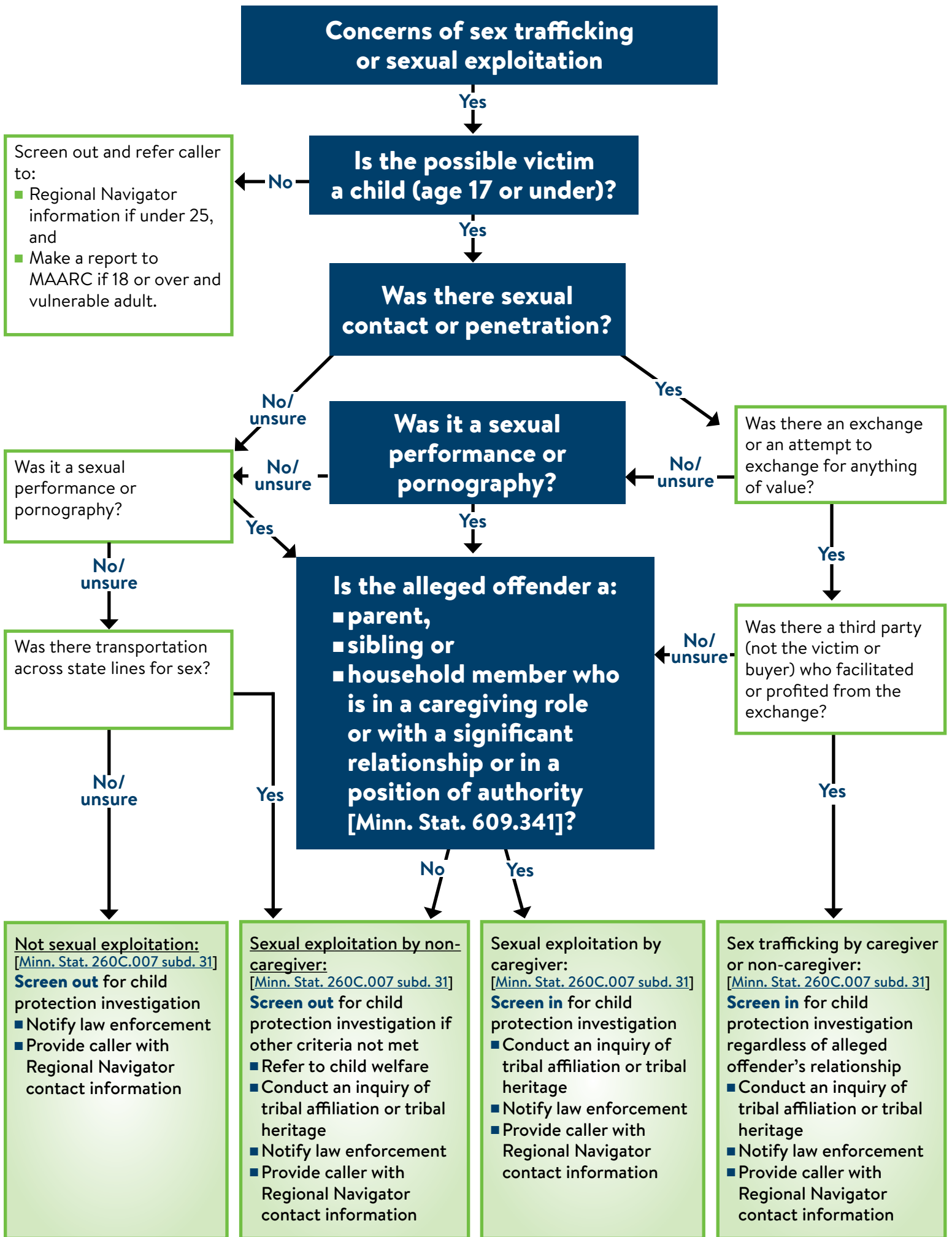
Indicators of sexual exploitation or trafficking

Each situation is unique; indicators alone should not be used to make a screening determination. These include:

- Youth missing from home for an extended time and unaccounted for; running away multiple times; kicked out of their home
- Signs of a controlling relationship or intimate partner violence
- Change in youths access to money without explanation; clothes or other expensive belongings youth could not afford on their own
- Youth's use of social media and apps commonly associated with sex trading
- Having multiple hotel cards, staying in hotels known for trafficking, pictures taken in hotel rooms
- Branding tattoos or markings; may be name of trafficker or other ways of being marked by a trafficker
- Youth associating with others known to be involved in trafficking, exploitation or sex trading
- Family members involved in sex or labor trafficking, prostitution, or promotion of prostitution
- Youth involvement in law enforcement stings or investigations related to prostitution, solicitation or sex trafficking.



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(This page includes all of the necessary information for accessibility purposes regarding the chart on previous page)