

CUMBERLAND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE POLICY FOR LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

INVESTIGATION OF SEX TRAFFICKING OR COMMERCIAL SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION

- I. Definitions:
  - a. Sex Trafficking: Knowingly promoting prostitution (<https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/17-a/title17-Asec853.html>)
  - b. Commercial Sexual Exploitation: the abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust to profit monetarily or socially from the commercial sex of another.
- II. Officers should be trained on, and aware of, markers of this type of activity. These can include:
  - a. People who participate in trading or selling sex but feel scared or unable to leave.
  - b. Disclosures about pressure to engage in selling sex.
  - c. People who live where they work, or have guards or companions when they leave home or work.
  - d. Children who live with a family member who is abusive or controlling.
  - e. Sex workers who indicate they have some type of 'manager.'
  - f. The person works in a high-risk industry such as a strip club or massage business.
  - g. A person has a partner, parent, or "sponsor" who does not allow contact outside their presence. (Polarisproject.org)
- III. Investigations should include members of the Human Trafficking Team, as well as relevant state and federal investigators.
- IV. Safety-planning and connection with knowledgeable advocates and social workers should be at the forefront in working with victims during the initial investigative stages.
- V. Officers must abide by this policy at it applies to all standards of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees. Action may be taken if this policy is violated.