



# Georgia Care Connection

## *Setting a New Direction*

*A new initiative to identify commercially sexually exploited children and link them to services without subjecting them to arrest*

Recently, the Governor's Office for Children & Families launched a statewide System of Care approach to address the needs of child sex trafficking victims. The Georgia Care Connection Office has been established to provide statewide independent care coordination for these children and to help set a new direction for their lives.

Located in Decatur, Care Connection offers a single point of contact for anyone who seeks help for a sex-trafficked child, or who needs information or technical assistance. This includes family, community members, law enforcement, good Samaritans, medical personnel, service providers, and others.

Who is a child sex trafficking victim?

A child who has received food, drugs, money, or shelter in exchange for sex.

### **The Georgia Care Connection Office...**

**Takes a Child-Centered Approach** — The Care Connection staff acknowledges that the commercially sexually exploited child is a victim of a severe form of human trafficking and is in need of services.

**Connects the Dots** — Care Connection proactively tracks both actual and potential sexually exploited children in partnership with state and national data bases for exploited children. With this information, the staff "connects the dots" of the child's actions and finds the best opportunity for intervention.

**Creates a Single, Comprehensive Care Plan** — In its role of independent care coordination, Care Connection leads a dialogue among a multi-disciplinary team of family, child, and involved agencies and providers to develop a single, comprehensive care plan that ensures the child's commercial sexual exploitation is addressed.

**Links the Child with Services** — Following the plan, Care Connection locates the appropriate services and assists the family in accessing federal, state, and local funding for those services. The staff monitors the child's rehabilitative progress and case-related fiscal expenditures.

If you suspect a child is a victim of commercial sexual exploitation and needs specific services, call the Georgia Care Connection Office at the number given below. (Calling the Care Connection Office links the family to supportive services but does not fulfill mandatory reporting of child sexual exploitation as required by Senate Bill 69. This number is strictly for connecting a child to help.)

To seek help for a child who may be a victim of commercial sexual exploitation, call:

**404-602-0068**