

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: July 1, 2019 – 6:15 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Lynn Eckert
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Collins, Heppner & Ronk (arrived at 6:22 PM)
ABSENT: Legislator Haynes
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Nolan, Petit & Wawro, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider – UC Executive’s Office, Commissioner Iapoce – UC Department of Social Services, Under Sheriff Benjamin – UC Sheriff’s Office

Chairwoman Eckert called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the June 3, 2019 meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Collins
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the July 16, 2019 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 291: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Visual Computer Solutions Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$11,926.30 with Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. to extend the term of agreement for support and maintenance of the police/corrections officer scheduling and payroll software to May 31, 2020.

Motion No. 2: **Motion ADOPT Resolution No. 291**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Collins

Discussion:

Under Sheriff Benjamin explained that the software provides scheduling as well as payroll services. Legislator Petit asked of the office uses swipe cards or finger print ID. Under Sheriff Benjamin responded that officers submit time sheets which are approved by a supervisor before being sent to the county's Payroll Department.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 295: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Securus Technologies, Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Securus Technologies, Inc. at a minimum of \$750,000 (\$250,000 annually) for August 20, 2019 – August 19, 2022 to provide inmate communication services.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 295**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Collins

Discussion:

Legislator Heppner stated that he had a few questions about the contract and phone service in general and apologized for not reaching out with his questions before the meeting. He asked Under Sheriff Benjamin if he could explain the reasoning behind changing providers. Under Sheriff Benjamin responded that the primary reason for the change was the service and support surrounding the tablets but cited the reduction in rates for inmate phone calls as well. He explained that the introduction of tablets in the jail has drastically improved behaviors adding that they were an excellent tool for education and life skill learning. He stated that the service and functionality of tablets provided by the prior company was lacking. He advised the members that the rate for inmate phone calls was reduced from \$0.21/minute to \$0.14/minute, making it possibly the lowest rate in the state. Deputy County Executive Rider informed the members that the prior contract was not awarded through the RFP process. Legislator Heppner commented that he was pleased the price per minute for phone calls was reduced.

Legislator Heppner stated that he read a number of recent articles on inmate phone service questioning the ability of providers to utilize voice recognition technology to create databases of individuals' voices. He expressed added concern that individuals who were pre-trial detainees and who may never be convicted could have their information or voice "print" recorded. Under Sheriff Benjamin assured the members that no such voice recognition technology has been, or would, be used at the jail.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against:

0

Disposition:

Resolution ADOPTED

Chairwoman Eckert advised the members that Department of Social Services Commissioner Iapoce would present information on the Safe Harbour Program before continuing with Resolutions. Commissioner Iapoce introduced himself to the members and thanked them for the opportunity to discuss the program with them. He explained that the Safe Harbour Program has its origins with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and arises from federal legislation in 2014 called the Strengthening Families and Preventing Sex Exploitation of Children Act. He advised the members that the state requires every county Department of Social Services screen children they encounter for evidence of possible trafficking. He stated that instances of trafficking are, in all actuality, child abuse.

He explained that Ulster County was one of the first in the state to join the Safe Harbour program in 2014, adding that they are in the fifth and final year of the five year program. He advised the members that the program focuses on three areas; awareness, education, and training. He added that each individual county is given flexibility on how to implement the program. In Ulster County the program is facilitated by Department of Social Service employees as well as contracted providers.

He recommended the members review the materials provided in the meeting materials, especially the documents “Myths & Facts”, “Trafficking Red Flags”, and “Resources”. He added that the program funds informational billboards, in-school prevention education programs, brochures, PSAs, and more. He advised the members that the county is hoping to create a position through their Office of Victims Services Grant and the ongoing Safe Harbour grant to have someone in the Crime Victim Assistance Unit to coordinate education and outreach. He informed the members that the county’s Interagency Council on Domestic Violence, in effect since 2009, was expanded to include Human Trafficking in 2018, and is now the Interagency Council on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. He explained that the programs spends a lot of time reaching out to community organizations and partners such as Catholic Charities, the Boys and Girls Club, the LGBTQ Community Center and others to raise awareness of the problem, educate them on the signs of human trafficking and inform them about the resources available. He stated that he is amazed at how often he encounters people who do not know about the program and encouraged the members to spread the word.

Legislator Petit advised the members that her son recently obtained a CDL license, and human trafficking awareness was included as part of the training. She asked Commissioner Iapoce if there was a large number of cases of trafficking of illegal immigrants. Commissioner Iapoce responded that the majority of cases in Ulster County involve local children, or those from neighboring counties. She asked if children are reunited with their families. Commissioner Iapoce responded that reunification is the Department’s goal, but is not always possible. Legislator Nolan asked if Commissioner Iapoce could share the number of cases of trafficking reported in the county. He responded that there were 68 children referred since the program’s inception. Of those, 11 met specific federal definition of human trafficking, which qualifies him or her for certain benefits throughout their lifetime. He added that those who do not meet the federal definition still qualify for and receive local services. He explained that the bulk of referrals come from the county’s child services unit.

Chairwoman Eckert asked if there were other measures or indicators available to reflect more accurately the extent of the problem. Commissioner Iapoce stated that there is often underlying traumas which makes individuals more susceptible to trafficking. He recommended the Office of Children and Family Services website to obtain regional data. He informed the members that since the inception of the Safe Harbour Program in New York State in 2014 the number of confirmed reported cases increased by 750 percent statewide. Chairwoman Eckert asked if the number of reported cases would increase as the issue receives more attention. Commissioner Iapoce responded that he was hopeful that the education and prevention programming will help to both raise awareness of the issue, and inform members of the public about the resources available should they encounter a trafficking victim. Chairwoman Eckert asked if there was an opportunity with the newly elected Sheriff to reach out to the law enforcement community to educate them on signs of trafficking and how to approach and handle victims they may encounter. Commissioner Iapoce responded that the county was ahead of the curve in that regard and complimented the prior Sheriff for his early participation in the program and the number of trainings he conducted for his officers and the public. The members discussed the changing perception of prostitution vs. trafficking.

Legislator Ronk stated that the Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the District Attorney's Office have a successful internet crimes against children program, which targets the traffickers themselves, and asked how the Safe Harbour Program might fit into that. Commissioner Iapoce responded that the evidence required for child pornography charges versus trafficking are very different, adding that pornography evidence can exist without any contact with a victim. He explained that prosecutors are often faced with prosecutorial decisions based the likelihood of obtaining a successful conviction. He shared a couple of instances in which a trafficker was arrested and convicted of crimes other than trafficking, especially in instances when a victim is unwilling or unable to cooperate.

Chairwoman Eckert asked about the continuation of funding now that the program is in its fifth year. Commissioner Iapoce explained that as a graduated county the state would continue to allocate funding. She thanked Commissioner Iapoce for his time adding that she found the conversation fascinating. The members complimented him for the information shared and the comprehensiveness of the Safe Harbour Program in the county. He thanked the members for inviting him to discuss the subject and the program.

Resolution No. 304: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Lease Agreement With Ulster County Community College For The Public Safety Training Facility Located At 250 Ulster Landing Road In The Town Of Ulster – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter into a lease agreement with SUNY Ulster for use of 250 Ulster Landing Road in the Town of Ulster for a countywide Public Safety Training Center at a cost of \$10.00 for a period of ten years for educational, public safety training, and general office purposes.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 304**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion:

Deputy County Executive Rider explained that SUNY Ulster will provide the janitorial services while the county provides maintenance. He added that the lease provides the county with the opportunity to get state funding for the project.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Eckert informed the members that electronic copies of the monthly financial reports were available for viewing and asked if there were any events the members would like to share. She advised the members that the next meeting was scheduled for August 5th and asked if there was any other business.

Legislator Ronk asked Mr. Rider if he was able to explain why County Executive Ryan did not sign the June Resolution making the necessary changes to the budget to accommodate the state mandated change to the District Attorney's salary or the June Resolution accepting state grant funds to conduct the Crimes Against Revenue Program (CARP.)

Mr. Rider responded that the Executive's Office has no say in the District Attorney's raise as it is mandated by the state, adding that the Executive did not want to sign the Resolution as one of his first acts coming into office. Legislator Ronk stated that the Legislature did not have a say in the raise either, adding that it is the county's responsibility to take the necessary steps to comply with the state mandate. Legislator Heppner pointed out that the state mandated Public Defender's salary has not been increased in 13 years.

Legislator Ronk questioned the reasoning behind not signing the CARP revenue grant as the crimes pursued recover county funds. Mr. Rider advised the members that there is a shift in a focus on pursuing welfare crimes.

Chairwoman Eckert asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:19 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: August 5, 2019



Ulster County Department of Social Services

Safe Harbour Program

Funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, the Ulster County Safe Harbour program seeks to raise public awareness and educate human services and law enforcement professionals about the exploitation and trafficking of youth for both sex and labor. Our ultimate goal is to identify, respond to, and empower at-risk and trafficked youth with trauma-informed rehabilitative services including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, crisis intervention, educational and vocational counseling, and legal services. In addition to providing services to youth, the Safe Harbour program has developed a robust Outreach and Prevention Education program. Please see the "Contacts and Services" tab for more information. For statistics related to this issue in Ulster County and the surrounding Safe Harbour Counties in the Hudson Valley, please [click here \(https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/humantrafficking/safe-harbour.asp\)](https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/humantrafficking/safe-harbour.asp).

[Safe Harbour Printable Brochure \(/sites/default/files/SH%20Brochure%20General%20Final%20v3.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/SH%20Brochure%20General%20Final%20v3.pdf)

[Safe Harbour Printable Brochure \(Spanish version\) \(/sites/default/files/social-services/SH%20General%20Brochure%20Spanish.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/social-services/SH%20General%20Brochure%20Spanish.pdf)

[A Family's Guide to Safe Harbour Services \(/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/ULster%20County%20Safe%20Harbour%20Family%27s%20Guide_c.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/ULster%20County%20Safe%20Harbour%20Family%27s%20Guide_c.pdf)

[A Family's Guide to Safe Harbour Services \(Spanish version\) \(/sites/default/files/social-services/%28Spanish%29%20Family%27s%20Guide.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/social-services/%28Spanish%29%20Family%27s%20Guide.pdf)

[Youth Services Trifold \(/sites/default/files/social-services/Youth%20Services%20Trifold.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/social-services/Youth%20Services%20Trifold.pdf)

[Click here to refer a youth for case management services \(/sites/default/files/social-services/SafeHarbourReferralForm-Fillable2019.docx\)](/sites/default/files/social-services/SafeHarbourReferralForm-Fillable2019.docx)



"The signing into law of the New York State Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act in 2008 was a pivotal moment in protecting and securing services for sexually exploited youth. Prior to the Act's passage, sexually exploited youth involved in illegal activities did not receive the protection of the Family Court and were instead prosecuted criminally, which did little more than to re-traumatize these victims. Furthermore, once incarcerated, sexually exploited youth had no access to services that could address their specific social and emotional needs, and thus they often would return to a life on the streets once released. The passage of the Act guaranteed that sexually exploited youth would be treated as child victims and be offered services that could pave the way for better outcomes." ([NYS Office of Children and Family Services \(http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/humantrafficking/default.asp%20\)](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/humantrafficking/default.asp%20))

The Safe Harbour For Exploited Children Act (2008) defines a sexually exploited child as any person less than 18 years of age who has been subject to sexual exploitation as a result of their loitering for the purposes of prostitution or their engagement in an offer to exchange sexual conduct in return for food, clothing, a place to stay, drugs, or a fee.

*This law was created to protect sexually exploited children from being charged with a juvenile delinquent (JD) offense in appropriate cases.

Forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children can include images of sexual abuse (pornography), exotic dance or performance, cyber-enticement, sex tourism, and domestic minor sex trafficking.

While all youth are vulnerable to trafficking, high-risk populations include:

- Youth who have had interactions with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- Youth with a history of physical/sexual abuse
- Homeless/impoverished, runaway, throwaway youth (runaways who are never reported as missing)
- LGBTQ Youth
- Unaccompanied Minors

- Youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities

NYS Definition for Labor Trafficking

Compelling or inducing another to engage in labor, or recruiting, enticing, harboring or transporting another by providing drugs, withholding or destroying government documents, debt servicing, force, or a plan or pattern of coercive conduct.

[DSS Educators Broach Tough Topic with Kingston Youth](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/news/2019/03/27/dss-educators-broach-tough-topic-with-children-in-kingston) (<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/news/2019/03/27/dss-educators-broach-tough-topic-with-children-in-kingston>)

[HV1 Article: Ulster County Program Educates About Youth Trafficking and Links Youth to Services](https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2018/04/05/program-aims-to-rescue-hudson-valley-youth-from-sex-traffickers/) (<https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2018/04/05/program-aims-to-rescue-hudson-valley-youth-from-sex-traffickers/>)

[Safe Harbour Radio Interview 1/2017: 107.9 WELV-LP Ellenville](/sites/default/files/audio/l180112A%20Safe%20Harbour%20END%201-31-18.mp3) (/sites/default/files/audio/l180112A%20Safe%20Harbour%20END%201-31-18.mp3)

[Safe Harbour on La Voz: Entrevista radial en Español](https://radiokingston.org/en/archive/la-voz/episodes/jackie-arsenuk-meagher-elementary-school) (<https://radiokingston.org/en/archive/la-voz/episodes/jackie-arsenuk-meagher-elementary-school>)

[County Executive Mike Hein Announces Ulster County's Safe Harbour Program To Raise Awareness And Provide Resources](http://ulstercountyny.gov/news/executive-press-releases/county-executive-mike-hein-announces-ulster-countys-safe-harbour) (<http://ulstercountyny.gov/news/executive-press-releases/county-executive-mike-hein-announces-ulster-countys-safe-harbour>)

[County Executive Mike Hein Invites Residents To Attend A Presentation Sponsored By the Ulster County Safe Harbour Program, "Internet Safety: Keeping Youth Safe In Cyberspace"](http://ulstercountyny.gov/news/executive-press-releases/county-executive-mike-hein-invites-residents-attend-presentation) (<http://ulstercountyny.gov/news/executive-press-releases/county-executive-mike-hein-invites-residents-attend-presentation>)

[TWO ULSTER GIRLS RESCUED AFTER BEING HELD PRISONER IN BROOKLYN POLICE SAY](http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2017/10/22/ulster-county-girls-rescued/) (<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2017/10/22/ulster-county-girls-rescued/>)

2019 Trainings/Events



ULSTER COUNTY SAFE
HARBOUR PRESENTS:

Youth Safety Planning

TAP INTO YOUR SKILL
SET AND LEARN TO
FACE DIFFICULT LIFE
CIRCUMSTANCES
WITH COURAGE AND
CONFIDENCE!

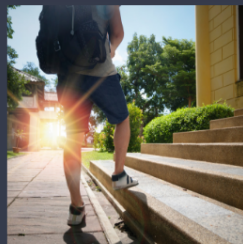
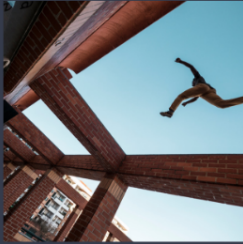
**Ellenville Public Library and
Museum**
**40 Center Street Ellenville ,
NY**
May 7th
6:30pm~7:30pm
Ages 14~18
Free!
Refreshments will be served

~ Please call 647-5530 with any questions or to RSVP ~
Ulster County Department of Social Services

([/sites/default/files/social-services/Ellenville%20Library%20Safety%20Planning%20Flyer.png](https://sites/default/files/social-services/Ellenville%20Library%20Safety%20Planning%20Flyer.png))

**THE ULSTER COUNTY DSS SAFE HARBOUR PROGRAM AND
THE NEW PALTZ YOUTH CENTER PRESENT:**

Small Steps Change Lives: A 3-Part Youth Empowerment Series



Ulster County Department of Social Services

MONDAY MAY 6TH **Healthy Relationships and Safety**

Planning:

Gain an understanding of the quality of friendships and partners you deserve

MONDAY MAY 13TH

Digital Safety:

Learn about cyberbullying, online safety, and ethical and consensual photo sharing

MONDAY MAY 20TH

What Does Human Trafficking Look Like in Our Community??

Develop an awareness and understanding of human trafficking and exploitation

New Paltz Youth Program
220 Main Street, New Paltz

3:30pm ~ 4:30pm

Ages: 15-18

Open to All Genders

Free

Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be served

Free movie ticket for each workshop attended!!

Attend all three = free field trip!!!

<https://sites/default/files/social-services/NP%20Youth%20Center%2015-18.png>

**THE NEW PALTZ YOUTH CENTER AND THE ULSTER
COUNTY DSS SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM PRESENT:**

Small Steps Change Lives: A 3-Part Youth Empowerment Series



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS & SAFETY PLANNING

Gain an understanding of the quality of friendships and partners you deserve.



ONLINE SAFETY PLEDGE

Make a public commitment to protecting yourself and others by taking an online safety pledge. Learn about cyberbullying, digital safety, and ethical and consensual photo sharing.

YOUTH EXPLOITATION

Screen and discuss a short animated film developed by youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation to raise awareness and educate about trafficking.

May 14th, 21st, & 28th

**NEW PALTZ YOUTH PROGRAM
220 MAIN STREET, NEW PALTZ**

3:30PM - 4:30 PM

Free

AGES: 11-14

OPEN TO ALL GENDERS

**Pizza, snacks, and
drinks will be served!**



**Free movie ticket for each workshop attended!
Attend all three = free field trip!!**

Ulster County Department of Social Services

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ULSTER COUNTY SAFE HARBOUR
PROGRAM AND THE HIGHLAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENT:

**DREAM BIG. SEEK
KNOWLEDGE. STAY SAFE.**

A Four Part Youth Empowerment Series



Healthy Relationships
Gain an understanding of the quality of friendships and partners you deserve

Safety Planning
Tap into your skill set and learn to face difficult life circumstances with courage and confidence

Digital Safety
Learn about cyberbullying, online safety, and ethical and consensual photo sharing

Youth Exploitation
Screen and discuss a short animated film developed by youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation to raise awareness and broaden your understanding of what youth trafficking looks like

May 30th, June 6th, June 13th, & June 20th
3pm-4pm

**RECEIVE A COMMUNITY SERVICE
HOUR FOR EACH WORKSHOP
ATTENDED**

Open to all genders! **FREE!** Snacks and drinks!

Highland Public Library: 14 Elting Place, Highland, NY

Please Contact Caitlyn Stever @ (845) 691-2275 with any questions or to RSVP

ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

<https://sites/default/files/social-services/Highland-Library-Series.pdf>



The Ulster County Youth Bureau and
The Ulster County Department of Social Services
Present:

**What Does Human Trafficking Look Like In Our Community?
Empowering Youth Through Education!**

Opening Remarks by Nina Dawson-Director of the Ulster County Youth Bureau & Human Rights Commission



Tuesday, March 26, 2019
5-7pm

Boys and Girls Club of Ulster County
139 Greenkill Avenue, Kingston NY 12401

Refreshments Served and Special Performance to follow Event!

PRESENTERS:

Jackie Arsenuk: UC Safe Harbour Coordinator
Sophia Ender: UC Safe Harbour Prevention Educator
Lori Stella: LCSW-R: Safe Harbour Program Director,
Children's Home of Poughkeepsie

For questions please contact Nina Dawson @ 845-340-3147 or CDaw@co.ulster.ny.us



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The Ulster County Inter-Agency Council on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Presents:

A Conversation with Dr. Alexandra Lutnick

(A panel discussion to follow)

JANUARY 8, 2019
9:00AM - 12:00PM
ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VANDERLYN HALL-College Lounge

Alexandra Lutnick is a senior research scientist for the San Francisco-based Urban Health Program at RTI International's Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Research Division. **She has more than 10 years of experience conducting community-based research with marginalized populations such as drug users, the homeless, sex workers, and trafficked persons.** Additionally, she recently completed a National Institute of Justice funded evaluation of the anti-trafficking task force in San Francisco, CA.




Published by Columbia University Press, her recent book, *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Beyond Victims and Villains*, "is the most comprehensive and sophisticated book on this topic on the market. Conventional depictions portray minors involved in prostitution monolithically and stereotypically, but this volume points to important complexities and variations at every stage—from entry to exit. Drawing on life-course theory, the book documents diversity in pathways into prostitution, relations between minors and third parties, work experiences, access to needed services, and state laws and enforcement patterns. It is a major contribution to our understanding of this world." -Ronald Weitzer, George Washington University

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Madeline Hehir, Anti Trafficking & RHY Services Coordinator: NYS OCFS
Mike Iapocce, Commissioner: Ulster County Department of Social Services
Jackie Arsenuk, Safe Harbour Coordinator: Ulster County SH Program

Please R.S.V.P. to Jackie Arsenuk
 Ulster.SafeHarbour@gmail.com

<https://sites/default/files/social-services/Jan%2030.png>

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. To learn how the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](https://www.facebook.com/missingkids/?fref=mentions) (<https://www.facebook.com/missingkids/?fref=mentions>) is combating this horrible crime visit: <http://www.missingkids.org/theissues/cse/cstt> (<http://www.missingkids.org/theissues/cse/cstt>)



<http://www.missingkids.org/theissues/cse/cstt>

[OFFICIALS WORKING TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING](http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/news/2017/10/24/officials-working-to-educate-people-on-child-sex-trafficking) (<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/news/2017/10/24/officials-working-to-educate-people-on-child-sex-trafficking>)



<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/news/2017/10/24/officials-working-to-educate-people-on-child-sex-trafficking>

(845) 340-3000 - 244 Fair Street, PO Box 1800, Kingston, NY 12402

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Ulster County Department of Social Services

Contacts and Services

Presentations, Technical Assistance, Screenings, Referrals

Jackie Arsenuk

Safe Harbour Coordinator

Ph: (845)-340-3927

Email: Ulster.SafeHarbour@gmail.com (<mailto:Ulster.SafeHarbour@gmail.com>)

Safe Harbour offers educational presentations on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Child Trafficking, advice for engaging youth in conversations about trafficking, screening youth for trafficking, and assistance navigating the [NYS Confirmation Process](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/trafficking.asp) (<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/trafficking.asp>). All questions are welcome!

BE AWARE, KNOW THE SIGNS, PREVENT YOUTH TRAFFICKING!

This training for professionals and community members touches upon definitions of both sex and labor trafficking with a specific focus on Safe Harbour law and is intended to broaden perspectives of what commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking can look like among youth. High risk populations are discussed in addition to the red flags associated with trafficking, trauma-informed care, and how to engage youth in conversations about trafficking. *Presentations are tailored to specific audiences and we are open to requests to cover additional topics.*

Case Management/Outreach and Prevention Education

[A Family's Guide to Safe Harbour Services](#)
([/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/Ulster%20County%20Safe%20Harbour%20Family%27s%20Guide_c.pdf](https://sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/Ulster%20County%20Safe%20Harbour%20Family%27s%20Guide_c.pdf))

[A Family's Guide to Safe Harbour Services \(Spanish version\)](#) ([/sites/default/files/social-services/%28Spanish%29%20Family%27s%20Guide.pdf](https://sites/default/files/social-services/%28Spanish%29%20Family%27s%20Guide.pdf))

Click [here](#) ([/sites/default/files/social-services/SafeHarbourReferralForm-Fillable2019.docx](https://sites/default/files/social-services/SafeHarbourReferralForm-Fillable2019.docx)) to refer a youth to Safe Harbour's Case Management program.

Sophia Ender

Prevention Educator/Case Manager

Office: 845-334-5165

Email: UlsterSHPrevention@gmail.com (<mailto:%20UlsterSHPrevention@gmail.com%20>)

Case Management

Support for Youth

The Safe Harbour Case Management Program is trauma-informed, strength based, voluntary service and is offered to young people up until the age of 24. Our goals are to empower youth through safety planning and introducing supportive resources as a strategy to reduce vulnerability and risky behavior. Safety planning for empowerment includes education and outreach around social, physical, emotional, mental, financial, cyber and sexual safety including a clear understanding of the definition of consent. One-on-one mentoring services include working side by side with youth and acknowledging their voice, enthusiasm, and abilities while allowing them to define their own service plan and strive towards leading authentic, meaningful, and positive lives. As a voluntary service, youth may enter into and leave services at any time without judgment.

Support for Families

As adults, we need to acknowledge that youth are exploring their identity, interests, and relationships. As a result, their definition of safety may be different than our own which can sometimes lead to risky decision and behaviors. Safe Harbour acknowledges and speaks to those differences while encouraging youth to trust their instincts and seek family, peer and community support. Working alongside parents,

guardians, and/or Caseworkers, Safe Harbour strives to assist with understanding and practicing risk tolerance and safety planning as a strategy for risk reduction.

Additionally, we provide you with support in assisting youth with:

- Developing a greater sense of self
- Coping with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Building and strengthening resiliency
- Developing or maintaining positive, healthy, and long lasting relationships
- Pursuing post-secondary educational and career opportunities
- Becoming engaged citizens

Outreach/Prevention Education

The following workshops may be tailored upon request:

BUILDING SKILLS FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS - The art of intimacy involves developing insight, mutuality, emotional regulation, and consent. Youth will gain a better sense of their values and self-worth as well as understand the quality of friendships and partners they deserve when developing relationships.

SAFETY PLANNING/HARM REDUCTION - Youth will learn to face difficult life circumstances with courage and skill by tapping into their safety skill set and becoming familiar with local resources to increase their emotional, physical, mental, and financial safety in challenging situations. Safe Harbour will work alongside youth to support them in harm reduction and safety planning as a strategy for risk reduction and will support them as they navigate normative experiences.

ONLINE SAFETY PLEDGE - Nearly 43% of kids have been bullied online. 1 in 4 has experienced it more than once. This workshop gives youth the opportunity to make a public commitment to protect themselves and their classmates online. They will learn and understand the definition of cyber bullying, common characteristics associated with it, and the laws that exist to protect youth from this behavior.

YOU'VE SHARED PHOTOS...NOW WHAT?? - It happens. Living in a highly sexualized culture shapes our desires and decisions. Youth will learn how to protect themselves and others by understanding the laws associated with sexting and the appropriate procedures around reporting and/or deleting unwanted photos or messages.

SAFE HARBOUR ARTREACH - INSPIRING COMMUNITY ACTION - This workshop is an opportunity **for youth** to communicate the implications of human trafficking **and exploitation** through a step-by-step, **art/writing** based project and help raise awareness by displaying their personal pieces of art work throughout Ulster County. **Displaying projects is optional.**

PEER SUPPORT AND YOUTH FOCUS GROUPS

Organizations focused on prevention that provide valuable resources, videos and internet safety guides.

Please also see our "Resources" tab for additional information.

[I-Empathize \(http://iempathize.org/\)](http://iempathize.org/)

[Love 146 \(https://love146.org/\)](https://love146.org/)

[Courtney's House \(http://www.courtneyshouse.org/\)](http://www.courtneyshouse.org/)

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Myths and Facts

Common Myths about Human Trafficking

Myth: Human trafficking requires an International or state border crossing.

Fact: No movement is required for a situation to be considered “trafficking.”

Myth: Smuggling is a required element of the human trafficking definition.

Fact: Smuggling is not required, but a person who is smuggled may also be a victim of human trafficking.

Myth: Human trafficking victims are always foreign nationals.

Fact: Victims may be U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, or undocumented persons.

Myth: Trafficking victims must be kidnapped and/or restrained physically.

Fact: Trafficking victims may be threatened or manipulated into compliance, but do not necessarily have to be physically restrained or locked up.

Myth: Only girls are victims of child sex trafficking.

Fact: Anyone can be a victim: boys, girls, and transgender people of all races.

Myth: Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries.

Fact: Trafficking can occur in legal and legitimate business settings as well. Human trafficking has been reported in business markets such as restaurants, hotels, and manufacturing plants, as well as underground markets such as commercial sex in residential brothels and street based commercial sex.

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Resources

Brochures and Handbooks

[Safe Harbour Printable Brochure \(/sites/default/files/SH%20Brochure%20General%20Final%20v3.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/SH%20Brochure%20General%20Final%20v3.pdf)

[Safe Harbour Printable Brochure \(Spanish version\) \(/sites/default/files/social-services/SH%20General%20Brochure%20Spanish.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/social-services/SH%20General%20Brochure%20Spanish.pdf)

[A Family's Guide to Safe Harbour Services \(/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/ULster%20County%20Safe%20Harbour%20Family%27s%20Guide_c.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/documents/ULster%20County%20Safe%20Harbour%20Family%27s%20Guide_c.pdf)

[A Family's Guide to Safe Harbour Services \(Spanish version\) \(/sites/default/files/social-services/%28Spanish%29%20Family%27s%20Guide.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/social-services/%28Spanish%29%20Family%27s%20Guide.pdf)

[Responding to Commercially Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Youth: A Handbook for Child Serving Professionals \(/sites/default/files/OCFS%20Handbook%20for%20Child%20Serving%20Professionals.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/OCFS%20Handbook%20for%20Child%20Serving%20Professionals.pdf)

Screening Tools

(DSS staff are required to utilize the first two OCFS tools, but any of the three tools below can also be utilized by the community to screen for trafficking).

[OCFS - 3921 Rapid Screening Tool \(/sites/default/files/OCFS-3921%20Rapid%20Indicator%20Tool%20to%20Identify%20Children%20who%20may%20be%20Victims%20or%20at%20Risk%20of%20Being%20Sex%20Trafficking%20Victims.dot\)](/sites/default/files/OCFS-3921%20Rapid%20Indicator%20Tool%20to%20Identify%20Children%20who%20may%20be%20Victims%20or%20at%20Risk%20of%20Being%20Sex%20Trafficking%20Victims.dot)

[OCFS - 3920 Comprehensive Screening Tool \(/sites/default/files/OCFS%20-3920%20Comprehensive%20Screening%20Tool.docx\)](/sites/default/files/OCFS%20-3920%20Comprehensive%20Screening%20Tool.docx)

[Trafficking Victim Identification Tool \(http://archive.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/human-trafficking-identification-tool-and-user-guidelines.pdf%20%20\)](http://archive.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/human-trafficking-identification-tool-and-user-guidelines.pdf%20%20) (Long and short version), Vera Institute of Justice, 2014.

This scientifically validated tool screens for sex and labor trafficking.

o The tool was tested on 180 adult clients; an additional 53 administrative cases were screened.

o Testing was conducted by 11 victim services agencies in New York, California, Colorado, Texas and Washington.

Forms

[Referral for Case Management Services or to provide data to the Safe Harbour Program \(/sites/default/files/Safe%20Harbour%20Notification%20Form_0.docx\)](/sites/default/files/Safe%20Harbour%20Notification%20Form_0.docx)

[NYS Referral of Human Trafficking Victim Form \(/sites/default/files/SS%20Confirmation%20Referral%20Form%202016.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/SS%20Confirmation%20Referral%20Form%202016.pdf) *(Use this form to confirm a victim through OTDA and DCIS). **This process does not require or prompt a law enforcement investigation.***

[OCFS 3922 Law Enforcement Report of a Child Sex Trafficking Victim \(DSS Caseworkers Only\) \(/sites/default/files/OCFS-3922%20Law%20Enforcement%20Report%20of%20a%20Child%20Sex%20Trafficking%20Victim.dot\)](/sites/default/files/OCFS-3922%20Law%20Enforcement%20Report%20of%20a%20Child%20Sex%20Trafficking%20Victim.dot)

Hotlines

A number of existing hotlines accept crisis calls from survivors, tips about trafficking and exploitation from the public, provide referrals for survivors and service providers, and support survivors when counseling is unavailable.

TO REPORT EMERGENCIES AND TIPS

9-1-1

Dialing "9-1-1" from any telephone will link the caller to an emergency dispatch center which can send emergency responders to the caller's location. 9-1-1 should be called in any situation where immediate danger is present.

LOCAL HOTLINES:

Family of Woodstock: 845-338-2370

Family of Woodstock Text and Chat: 845-679-2485

Crime Victims Assistance Program/Rape Crisis Hotline: 845-340-3442 (TTY available upon request)

Worker Justice Center of New York: 1-800-905-9644 or 845-331-6615 (These are not hotline numbers, but the organization can assist with labor trafficking crimes, worker advocacy, workplace safety, and legal education).

NATIONAL AND STATEWIDE HOTLINES:

Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR)

1-800-342-3720

OCFS maintains a Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) for reports made pursuant to the Social Services Law. The SCR receives calls alleging child abuse or maltreatment within New York State. It relays information to the local Child Protective Services for investigation, monitors their prompt response, and identifies if there are prior child abuse or maltreatment reports. The Hotline receives calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week from two sources: mandated reporters and non-mandated reporters, including the public. To learn more visit <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/> (<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/>).

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

1-888-3737-888 - call

BeFree (233733) - text

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a federally funded, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The NHTRC is operated by Polaris, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking. It is not a government entity, law enforcement, or immigration authority.

The NHTRC accepts tips of trafficking situations, crisis calls from survivors, and calls from law enforcement and service providers looking to connect with resources in their area via call or text message. It keeps data on the calls it receives on their website <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/> (<http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/>).

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Call Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The call center receives reports of missing youth and tips about missing and sexually exploited children. NCMEC relays tips to the appropriate law enforcement representatives and provides support to the families of missing youth. Leads and tips about missing and sexually exploited children can also be reported to NCMEC via the CyberTipline at <http://www.missingkids.com/> (<http://www.missingkids.com/>).

New York State Department of Labor

1-888-469-7365

The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) protects workers, assists the unemployed, and connects job seekers to jobs. DOL enforces labor laws, including those addressing minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor laws for all workers, even if workers are paid off the books or are not documented. For assistance or to file a complaint, contact the hotline above. For more information visit <http://www.labor.ny.gov/> (<http://www.labor.ny.gov/>).

1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)

The National Runaway Safeline is for teens who are thinking of running away from home, have friends who left home, or who left home and want to go back. This 24-hour crisis line is anonymous, confidential and free.

HELPLINES FOR SURVIVORS

For Survivor By Survivor Hotline (Courtney's House)

1-888-261-3665

The Survivor Hotline is available to survivors, their families, and allies who need an understanding person to talk to, often when therapeutic services are unavailable. The hotline is answered by survivors of sex trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It does not accept tips. <http://www.courtneyshouse.org/> (<http://www.courtneyshouse.org/>)

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

1-888-3737-888 - call

BeFree (233733) - text

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a federally funded, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The NHTRC is operated by Polaris, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking. It is not a government entity, law enforcement, or immigration authority.

The NHTRC accepts tips of trafficking situations, crisis calls from survivors, and calls from law enforcement and service providers looking to connect with resources in their area via call or text message. It keeps data on the calls it receives on their website <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/> (<http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/>)

National Sexual Assault Hotline (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, RAINN)

1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

The National Sexual Assault Hotline instantly connects callers to their local rape crisis center. Callers can request assistance or just use the number to talk to someone who understands. All calls are anonymous and confidential unless the caller chooses to share personally-identifying information. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) also operates the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline, which provides free, anonymous help and support services online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Online Hotline can be accessed at <https://hotline.rainn.org/online/terms-of-service.jsp> (<https://hotline.rainn.org/online/terms-of-service.jsp>)

2-1-1(United Way)

2-1-1 is a telephone service that links callers with essential human services, including shelter, employment, food pantries, support groups, and other services. 2-1-1 can be accessed anywhere in New York State by survivors or service providers looking for service referrals.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline accepts calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Calls are answered by trained crisis workers. They can listen to your problems and connect you with local supportive services. All calls are free and confidential.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide confidential support to anyone experiencing domestic violence or an unhealthy relationship. Trained professionals answer calls and can connect you to local supports or simply listen to your concerns.

Cyber Safety/Anti-bullying/Engaging Youth Resources

[LOVE146: Internet Safety Guide](https://love146.org/action/online-safety/internet-safety-guide/)

(<https://love146.org/action/online-safety/internet-safety-guide/>)

[Do's and Don'ts When Discussing Child Trafficking](https://sites/default/files/Dos%20and%20Donts%20When%20Discussing%20Child%20Trafficking.pdf)

(sites/default/files/Dos%20and%20Donts%20When%20Discussing%20Child%20Trafficking.pdf)

[I-Empathize](http://iempathize.org/) (<http://iempathize.org/>)

(<http://www.teacher.org/resource/bullying/>)



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Trafficking Red Flags

(Not all indicators listed are present in every trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any indicator is not necessarily proof of trafficking.)

Sex Trafficking

- Youth is under the age of 18 and engaged in commercial sex, regardless of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Youth feels they must provide commercial sex in exchange for money, housing or other necessities.
- Has a history of multiple runaways or AWOLS, or any episodes of child homelessness.
- Photos of the youth have been placed online for advertising purposes.
- Youth presents with an inexplicable appearance of excessive cash, expensive gifts, clothing, or other costly items.
- Is in a controlling relationship or has visible signs of physical abuse such as bruising, scars, or hearing loss.
- Has tattoos or markings indicating ownership or control by another Individual.
- Has a history of untreated sexually transmitted diseases.
- Youth frequently stays at or is seen at hotels/motels.
- Shows signs of or admits to substance abuse or gang involvement

One in six runaways in 2014 were likely sex trafficking victims and 68% of these likely victims were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran. (NCMEC)

Labor Trafficking

- Youth references employment scams or physical/sexual/psychological abuse by employers.
- Youth works unusually long hours or works instead of attending school.
- Was required to pay a recruitment fee for their job.
- Is not paid, is paid very little or someone takes all or part of the money he/she earned.
- Is accompanied by a controlling person or boss; cannot or will not speak on their own behalf.
- Presents with bruises, is depressed, fearful or overly submissive.
- Is transported to or from work; lives and works in the same place.
- Lacks control over personal schedule, money, I.D., travel documents.
- Has been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action.
- He/she wants to leave his/her job, but can't.

The International Labor Organization estimates that 5.5 million children are in forced labor worldwide. In 2014 alone, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center received nearly 150 reports of child labor across the United States.

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Youth Page

Safe Harbour: Inspiring and Empowering Youth!

If you or a friend is in need of services, you've come to the right place.

The Safe Harbour Case Management Program is a voluntary, strength based service offered to youth up until the age of 24. Our goal is to empower you with one-on-one mentoring services and/or group workshops that aim to provide education, skills, and support to help yourselves or to help others so that all youth can strive towards safe, meaningful, and successful lives!

[Click Here for a description of our Youth Workshops!](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops>)

OR

Start your learning journey below:

[Healthy Relationship](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/healthy-relationships) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/healthy-relationships>)

[Online Safety/Cyberbullying](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/online-safetycyberbullying) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/online-safetycyberbullying>)

[Sexting](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth sexting) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth sexting>)

[Safety Planning](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/safety-planning-harm-reduction) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/safety-planning-harm-reduction>)

[Advocacy](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/advocacy) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth/advocacy>)

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Healthy Relationships

The art of intimacy involves developing insight, mutuality, emotional regulation, and consent. Gain a better sense of your values and self-worth and understand the quality of the friendships and partners you deserve when developing relationships. Check out the following resource below!

- [One Love: Signs of Healthy Relationships \(https://www.joinonelove.org/signs-healthy-relationship/\)](https://www.joinonelove.org/signs-healthy-relationship/)
- [Love is Respect: Healthy Relationships \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/healthy-relationships/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/healthy-relationships/)
- [Love is Respect: Dating Basics \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/dating-basics/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/dating-basics/)
- [Love is Respect: What I should look for in a partner \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/dating-basics/what-should-i-look-for-in-partner/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/dating-basics/what-should-i-look-for-in-partner/)
- [Love is Respect: Should we break up? \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/dating-basics/should-we-break-up/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/dating-basics/should-we-break-up/)
- [Love is Respect: Sex and Healthy Relationships \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/healthy-relationships/sex-and-healthy-relationships/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/healthy-relationships/sex-and-healthy-relationships/)
- [Love is Respect: What does consent look like? \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/healthy-relationships/what-consent/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/healthy-relationships/what-consent/)
- [Love is Respect: Is this LGBTQ relationship abusive? \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/abusive-lgbtq-relationships/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/abusive-lgbtq-relationships/)
- [Love is Respect: When does sexting/texting turn abusive? \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/texting-sexting/\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/texting-sexting/)
- [Disrespect Nobody! \(https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/relationship-abuse/what-is-relationship-abuse/\)](https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/relationship-abuse/what-is-relationship-abuse/)
- [Break the Cycle: Warning Signs \(https://www.breakthecycle.org/warning-signs\)](https://www.breakthecycle.org/warning-signs)

Please also consider our [Safe Harbour Healthy Relationships Workshop! \(https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops\)](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops).



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(<http://www.ncdsv.org/images/PowerControlwheelNOSHADING.pdf>)

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Online Safety/Cyberbullying

Nearly 43% of kids have been bullied online. 1 in 4 has experienced it multiple times. Click the links below to learn more about this issue. Consider the opportunity to make a public commitment to protect yourselves and your classmates online, understand the definition of cyber bullying, common characteristics associated with it, and the laws that exist to protect you from this behavior!

[Love146 Online Safety Guide \(https://love146.org/action/online-safety/omg-the-internet/\)](https://love146.org/action/online-safety/omg-the-internet/)

[Netismartz: Internet Safety \(https://www.netismartz.org/InternetSafety\)](https://www.netismartz.org/InternetSafety)

[Love is Respect: What is digital abuse? \(https://www.loveisrespect.org/pdf/What_Is_Digital_Abuse.pdf\)](https://www.loveisrespect.org/pdf/What_Is_Digital_Abuse.pdf)

[Cyberbullying: What is it? \(https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.html\)](https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/index.html)

[Common Sense Media Poster \(https://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdfs/postaphoto-ms-hs-poster.pdf\)](https://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdfs/postaphoto-ms-hs-poster.pdf)

Please also consider our [Safe Harbour Online Safety Workshop!](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops) (https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops)



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Sexting

YOU'VE SHARED PHOTOS...NOW WHAT?? - It happens. Living in a highly sexualized culture shapes our desires and decisions. If you've sent a sext, don't judge yourself! Instead, understand the potential dangers associated with sexting. Learn how to protect yourself and others by becoming familiar with the laws as well as the appropriate procedures around reporting and/or deleting unwanted photos or messages.

- [What is Sextortion!?](https://www.wearethorn.org/stop-sex-tortion/) (<https://www.wearethorn.org/stop-sex-tortion/>)
- [You've Sent a Sext, Now What?](https://cdn.netismartz.org/tipsheets/You_Sent_A_Sext_Now_What.pdf) (https://cdn.netismartz.org/tipsheets/You_Sent_A_Sext_Now_What.pdf)
- [Stop Sextortion Kitty Video!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7cwR2G-5Ng) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7cwR2G-5Ng>)
- [Stop Sextortion Kitty Video! It Happens to Males too!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXYu4HiE3AM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXYu4HiE3AM>)
- [Tips to Prevent Sexting](https://cdn.netismartz.org/tipsheets/sexting_teens.pdf) (https://cdn.netismartz.org/tipsheets/sexting_teens.pdf)
- [Your Photo Fate](https://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/YourPhotoFate) (<https://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/YourPhotoFate>)
- [Information Travels](https://www.netismartz.org/TeensTalkBack/InformationTravels) (<https://www.netismartz.org/TeensTalkBack/InformationTravels>)
- [Sextortion Video](https://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/Sextortion) (<https://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/Sextortion>)
- [Sexting: New York's Criminal Law!](https://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/resources/teen-sexting-new-york.htm) (<https://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/resources/teen-sexting-new-york.htm>) - See our Safe Harbour Workshop above!

Please also consider our [Safe Harbour Online Safety or Sexting Workshop!](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops>)

If you or someone you know has received an unwanted sext/photo or video, please contact:

The Ulster County Family and Child Advocacy Center
21 O'Neil Street, Kingston, NY 12401
Phone: 845-334-5155

If you have sent a sext or photo or received one and would like to talk with someone prior to potentially reporting this issue, please call Jackie, Safe Harbour Coordinator at 340-3927 or the Family of Woodstock Hotline at 679-5681. No judgments here!

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Safety Planning / Harm Reduction

Learn to face difficult life circumstances with courage and skill by tapping into your safety skill set! Click the links below and begin to increase your physical and emotional safety in challenging situations!

[Love is Respect: Safety Planning](https://www.loveisrespect.org/for-yourself/safety-planning/) (<https://www.loveisrespect.org/for-yourself/safety-planning/>)

[Love is Respect: Interactive Guide to Physical Safety](https://www.loveisrespect.org/for-yourself/safety-planning/interactive-safety-plan/) (<https://www.loveisrespect.org/for-yourself/safety-planning/interactive-safety-plan/>)

[Emotional Safety Planning](http://www.loveisrespect.org/content/emotional-safety-planning/) (<http://www.loveisrespect.org/content/emotional-safety-planning/>)

Please also consider our [Safe Harbour Safety Planning/Harm Reduction Workshop!](https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops) (<https://ulstercountyny.gov/social-services/safe-harbour-program/youth-workshops>)



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Advocacy



What would you do if someone you know appears to be in danger, is depressed, suicidal, engaging in risky behaviors, and/or is being bullied online?

Tips to engage other youth in conversations and provide help:

- **Don't assume they want your help or make assumptions about what others are going through.** Asking general/ open- ended questions such as: "How do you feel?" "How have you been doing?" "What's been going on today?" "What's changed since the last time I saw you?" "Hey, I've missed you. How have you been doing?" "I've noticed you've been hanging out with your partner a lot and when you come back to hang out with the group, you're quiet." "If something is on your mind, please know you can talk to me whenever you feel like it" and/or "Hey! I saw this amazing Pocket Guide with resources for youth (see below). I picked one up for myself and grabbed an extra one. Would you like it?"
- **Be aware of your own judgments and put them aside. Pay attention to body language/facial expressions.** Youth are not likely not open up to people they do not trust and/or feel judged by. Additionally, other youth may not want to burden you with their problems unless they feel you are strong enough to hear what they have to say.

It's also important to:

1. Put away and silence your phone.
 2. Turn your whole body to face the person in front of you and maintain eye contact.
 3. Engage intentionally with the person in front of you. This will help build trust between the two of you and potentially open up the conversation.
- **Validate!** Never say "That's so awful! I can't or don't believe that happened to you!" Sometimes what people hear instead is that you DON'T believe them. Instead, you can respond with "I believe you and it's not your fault!" This is a very validating expression.
 - **Never say** "I know how you feel" as their experience may be different from your own.
 - **Don't make promises you can't keep.** Avoid statements such as "We're going to fix this" or "You are safe now." Instead, try "I'll do my best to help" or "Let's try our best to improve this situation and/or to keep you safe."
 - **Provide encouragement and examples of positive attributes:** Simply pointing out someone's positive attributes "but you are so smart!" **can be frustrating** for some even though it seems like a compliment. The reason it is frustrating for a survivor of a crime or someone who is being bullied for example, to hear nice things about themselves, is because they also require support or examples about how to use that asset to better their life. Instead of simply giving a compliment, explain how the asset can be used to help the person in actionable terms. "Even though , remember what a great writer you are! I admire that. I heard about this creative writing program at school. I'll get

you the information in case you would like to learn more about it. It may be helpful to have this experience when pursuing a writing career down the line!

[ULSTER COUNTY POCKET GUIDES \(Hotlines and Safe Spaces!\)](#) [\(/sites/default/files/social-](#)

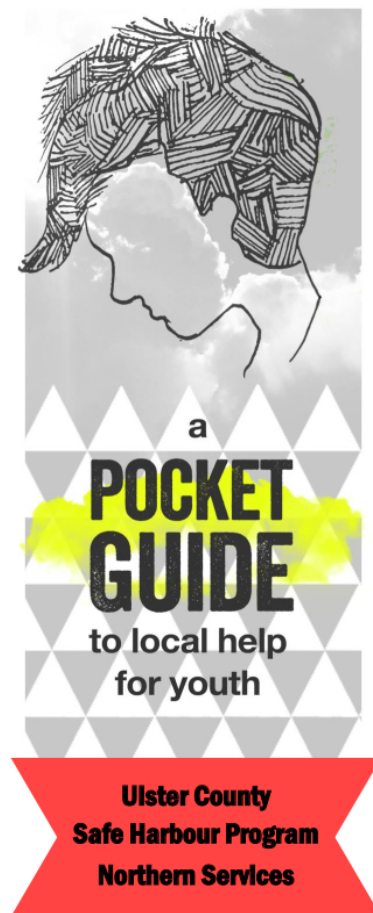
[services/love146_resource_guide_brochure_north.pdf\)](#)

[Northern Ulster County Pocket Guide \(/sites/default/files/social-services/love146_resource_guide_brochure_north.pdf\)](#)

[Southern Ulster County Pocket Guide \(/sites/default/files/social-services/love146_resource_guide_brochure_south.pdf\)](#)

[National Hotlines \(https://love146.org/youth/\)](https://love146.org/youth/)

[Stop Sextortion \(https://www.wearethorn.org/stop-sex-tortion/\)](https://www.wearethorn.org/stop-sex-tortion/)!



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Ulster County Department of Social Services

Youth Workshops

BUILDING SKILLS FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS - The art of intimacy involves developing insight, mutuality, emotional regulation, and consent. Gain a better sense of your values and self-worth and understand the quality of friendships and partners you deserve when developing relationships.

SAFETY PLANNING - Learn to face difficult life circumstances with courage and skill by tapping into your safety skill set while becoming familiar with local resources to increase your emotional, physical, mental, and financial safety in challenging situations.

ONLINE SAFETY PLEDGE - Nearly 43% of kids have been bullied online. 1 in 4 has experienced it multiple times. This workshop gives you the opportunity to make a public commitment to protect yourselves and your classmates online. Understand the definition of cyber bullying, common characteristics associated with it, and the laws that exist to protect you from this behavior.

YOU'VE SHARED PHOTOS...NOW WHAT?? - It happens. Living in a highly sexualized culture shapes our desires and decisions. Here's a safe space to discuss sexting while learning how to protect yourselves and others by understanding the laws associated with it and the appropriate procedures around reporting and/or deleting unwanted photos or messages.

SAFE HARBOUR ARTREACH: INSPIRING COMMUNITY ACTION - Understand and communicate the implications of human trafficking and exploitation by creating an art or writing project. Help raise awareness by displaying your personal artwork throughout Ulster County! Displaying your project is optional.

PEER SUPPORT AND YOUTH FOCUS GROUPS

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