

Exploited Children Division Resources

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC)'s Exploited Children Division is made up of two central programs that provide important services to law enforcement: the CyberTipline® and the Child Victim Identification Program.

The CyberTipline

NCMEC operates the CyberTipline®, the Congressionally-authorized reporting mechanism for tips and leads relating to child sexual exploitation. NCMEC processes and analyzes each CyberTipline report and then makes the reports available to the appropriate law enforcement agency for potential investigation and prosecution as appropriate. NCMEC analysts are available to provide technical assistance to law enforcement in any child-sexual-exploitation investigation, not only those originating from CyberTipline reports.

■ **Internet Searches and Public Record Databases:**

ECD analysts are skilled in open-source Internet searches and, upon request, assist law enforcement in gathering information about websites, e-mail addresses, newsgroup postings, and other important sources of case-related information. ECD analysts also have access to several public-record databases that may yield critical information for investigations.

■ **Historical CyberTipline Searches:**

NCMEC has received more than 1.9 million reports to the CyberTipline and other technical-assistance databases. Analysts are able to search NCMEC databases using various criteria, such as screen names, e-mail addresses, and even text phrases. Law enforcement can request these searches to learn additional information relating to an existing investigation.

■ **Law-Enforcement Contacts:**

NCMEC is continually establishing new contacts with international law-enforcement agencies specializing in child-sexual-exploitation cases. These contacts may be beneficial in multi-jurisdictional, multi-national cases.

■ **Electronic Service Provider Contacts:**

Electronic Service Providers with knowledge of apparent child pornography on their systems are required to make a report to law enforcement via the CyberTipline pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §2258A. As a result, NCMEC has an extensive list of contact information for hundreds of electronic service providers available.

To request technical assistance or flag your investigation/undercover identity in our system, please send information on your target/investigation/undercover identity in an e-mail to ecuassistance@ncmec.org. You may also speak with our CyberTipline Analysts by calling 1-877-446-2632, ext 6702.

Office hours for CyberTipline Analysts are Monday – Friday, 9am - 10pm EST and Saturday, 9am - 5pm EST. Any urgent requests outside of regular business hours may be called in to our 24-hour Call Center at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Child Victim Identification Program

The Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) serves as the clearinghouse in the United States for child-pornography cases and the main point of contact to international agencies for victim identification. Since 2002, NCMEC has operated CVIP, which has a dual mission: (1) to assist federal and state law enforcement agencies and prosecutors with child-pornography investigations and prosecutions; and (2) to assist law enforcement in identifying unknown child victims featured in pornographic images. CVIP Analysts

- Conduct reviews of images and videos using NCMEC's Child Recognition and Identification System (CRIS). Local and federal law-enforcement agencies may submit a written request for a CRIS review, along with the copies of seized child pornography to the federal law-enforcement agents assigned to NCMEC. Each submitted image and/or video file is run through CRIS and/or visually reviewed by an analyst to determine whether it depicts an identified child. Once it is determined that a child in a particular file appears to have been identified, a *Child Identification Report* is generated. This report includes the contact information for an investigator who can confirm the identification of the child.
- Examine images and videos of child sexual exploitation in an attempt to help law enforcement identify the children depicted in those files. During these reviews, NCMEC analysts closely examine the images and videos, documenting all investigative clues that could potentially lead to the location of a child victim. Once a possible location has been determined, NCMEC works with the appropriate law-enforcement agency to help locate and assist the child victim(s).
- Compile limited case information when a child-pornography victim is identified. With the assistance of federal law-enforcement agencies, information about newly-identified series is collected to assist in future investigations and prosecutions.
- Offer image and video analysis assistance to law enforcement working child sexual exploitation cases. The Forensic Imaging Analyst offers advanced and specialized examination of image and video files.

CVIP Evidence Submission Guidelines Highlights:

- Please only submit copies of your evidence.
- Please zip images and do not zip videos.
- Please send the copy of your evidence to our Postal Inspector at:
U.S. Postal Inspector Liaison, USPIS/NCMEC
Post Office Box 320401, Alexandria, VA 22320-4401

For more information about any of the CVIP's resources, please e-mail cvip@ncmec.org or call our CVIP Analysts at 1-877-446-2632, ext 6705.

Law Enforcement Services Portal

The LESP provides sworn law-enforcement personnel and prosecutors with direct access to various resources of NCMEC's Exploited Children Division. The first resource made available through the LESP

was the “Hash-Value Search.” This tool allows law-enforcement officers and prosecutors to perform an initial hash value comparison of files seized during child pornography investigations.*

Eligible law-enforcement officers or prosecutors interested in registering for the LESP should visit <https://lesp.cybertip.org> or contact lesp@ncmec.org for more information.

Victim Identification Lab

Help rescue victims of child pornography by taking a few minutes to explore CVIP’s Victim ID Lab. Within this secure web-based portal, authorized users are able to access background identifiers and audio clues from active child pornography cases in hopes that these items may be recognizable or familiar to participants. Accompanying each sanitized picture is a real-time message thread where you can post your comments and suggestions. You may have the piece of the puzzle that could lead to the rescue of a child victim.

Eligible law-enforcement officers or prosecutors interested in registering for the Lab should contact cvipsupport@ncmec.org to get started.

Other NCMEC Resources for Child Exploitation Cases

Sex Offender Tracking Team

The primary goal of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s Sex Offender Tracking Team® (SOTT) is to provide assistance to federal, state and local law enforcement in their efforts to locate and apprehend noncompliant sex offenders by providing technical assistance and analysis offering services such as:

- Conduct searches for noncompliant sex offenders at the request of law enforcement through public record databases, online open-source sites and other internal and external systems.
- Provide law enforcement with comprehensive analytical reports to help them locate and apprehend noncompliant sex offenders.
- Examine data regarding attempted abductions, online child sexual exploitation and child abductions for potential links with noncompliant sex offenders.
- Produce timelines of offenders’ histories including places of residence, employment and travel.

SOTT services are only available to law-enforcement agencies. For more information or to request assistance in locating a noncompliant sex offender contact NCMEC’s Sex Offender Tracking Team at nsotc@ncmec.org.

Child Sex Trafficking Team

The Child Sex Trafficking Team was created at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® in October 2011 to respond to the increased need for technical assistance and analysis in cases of domestic child sex trafficking. In 2003, the FBI in conjunction with NCMEC and the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, launched the Innocence Lost National Initiative to address the growing problem of domestic child sex trafficking.

As a part of the Innocence Lost National Initiative NCMEC serves as a clearinghouse for information obtained from the public and Electronic Service Providers about victims of child sex trafficking. NCMEC also provides analytical and technical assistance to law enforcement investigating these cases and dedicates case management support for missing children victimized through sex trafficking.

The Child Sex Trafficking Team provides comprehensive analytical services to law enforcement and helps link cases of possible child sex trafficking to missing child cases known to NCMEC.

Child Sex Trafficking Team services are only available to law-enforcement agencies. For more information about NCMEC's Child Sex Trafficking Team or to request assistance with a child sex trafficking case, contact the Child Sex Trafficking Team at CSTTreporting@ncmec.org.