

myth

Trading sex isn't sexual exploitation or human trafficking – it's just having fun, partying, and making money.

truth

Trading sex for things or money **is** sexual exploitation. Sometimes it can also be human trafficking. Anyone who trades or buys sex from you is committing **a crime**.

for help

contact us

If you, or someone you know, is being sexually exploited, call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-387-KIDS (5437)** or call your local police department.

For more information on programs and services in your area, visit the Children's Services' website **ChildrensServices.alberta.ca** and click on Child Sexual Exploitation.

The law – *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* – recognizes that the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth under 18 is sexual abuse which is a crime. Those who are victims of this abuse can receive help and protection.

Support services include a **safe place** to stay and get healthy, and people who **will listen** and not judge while they help you get back to a safe life.

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This is  
the truth  
ABOUT SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION

ABUSERS **won't**  
TELL YOU THE TRUTH

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## myths

1. When you trade sex for money or things, you will keep all of it.
2. Trading sex for money or things is not that bad.
3. There is no such thing as a "pimp".
4. No one actually tries to sexually exploit anyone.
5. If you run away from home, trading sex is the only way to survive.
6. You are the one who will get in trouble.

## Think about it

- sooner or later you have to pay back the person who is giving you money, clothes, drinks, drugs or anything else.
- if someone tells you to send pictures of yourself on your phone or the internet, those pictures never go away and can be shared with people you don't know.

## truth

*People who trade sex for money are being sexually exploited and will likely stop seeing the money they are promised.*

*If you trade sex for money you may be forced to have unprotected sex and you are more likely to catch Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). If you are a girl you can end up pregnant. Anyone who trades sex for money can be exposed to violence and dangerous situations that could kill you.*

*If someone is taking the money you make from having sex with strangers, that person is a pimp. You may think that he or she is looking out for you, but they are not. They are sexually exploiting you.*

*Both adults and teens may try to get kids to trade sex in exchange for money or things.*

*There is help. In Alberta, the Protection for Sexually Exploited Children's Act (PSECA) is a law that lets Children's Services and community agencies help children and youth who are sexually exploited.*

*If you're being sexually exploited you have done nothing wrong and will not get in trouble. You are the victim of a crime of sexual abuse and there are people who want to help you.*

If you are in a situation like this, no one is going to judge you, **ask for help.**  
Call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-387-KIDS (5437).**

## myth

If anyone you trust tells you to have sex for money or things, it's not wrong.

## truth

**Anyone** telling you to have sex with people is a pimp. Even if it is not trading sex for money. The person asking you to do this is committing a crime.