

MEET THE CHILD TRAFFICKING UNIT

A LOOK AT THE DEPARTMENT'S CTU

Established in 2011, The Los Angeles County Probation Department Child Trafficking Unit (CTU) provides intensive strength-based supervision and case management services to Probation youth who have been identified as victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. CTU also provides the same services for youth found to be at high risk of being exploited within Los Angeles County.



SDPO Sadiyyah Abdul



DPO II Kamilah Dennis



DPO II Shatel Crum-Hill

Identified victims or those at high risk of being exploited are referred to CTU from several different agencies, including the Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Children and Family Services, the Court, and the District Attorney's office. Victims are also referred by Deputy Probation Officers assigned to other units within the Department. Child Trafficking Unit Deputies carry a mixed caseload. They supervise youth home on probation, in residential placements, in foster homes, and those that reside in and outside of Los Angeles County.

Every day is different for the Deputies of the CTU. They fill many roles and duties, often working 9-hour shifts. The Deputies meet with clients face to face, twice a month. However, due to the high needs of the youth, they usually make additional contact several times a week via phone, text, and social media. The meetings typically take place at the client's home or a placement facility. Deputies also participate in child and family meetings, commonly known as multi-disciplinary team meetings. They collaborate daily with advocates and social workers, develop case and safety plans, make written recommendations to the court, and respond to their assigned caseload's ongoing needs.

To learn more about
Child Trafficking contact:



MEET THE CHILD TRAFFICKING UNIT (CONT)

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The operation is currently spearheaded by Director Michelle Guymon and Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Sadiyyah Abdul. The unit consists of a Staff Assistant and nine Deputy Probation Officers (DPO). In addition to the unit's DPOs that manage the caseloads they also have a Court Liaison/MDT facilitator who serves as the voice for the unit's Deputies when in court. The Liaison also serves as the subject matter expert, coordinating all team meetings and providing prevention and intervention support to the CTU youth placed at Dorothy Kirby Center, which is a closed mental health facility. The unit also has a Locate Deputy who coordinates and monitors daily referrals for any missing youth. She collaborates with local Police and Sheriff stations to help locate and recover youth.

Additionally, the unit has a DPO specifically dedicated to working with transition-age youth. This DPO is also known as the Assessment DPO, and they're responsible for completing assessments for all new referrals. They educate and prepare youth who are 17 1/2 regarding transitioning into Independent Living before they turn 18, which is when a youth ages out of the system. The unit also has a Staff Assistant that manage the unit's daily administrative tasks and projects.

"I am proud and honored to be the supervisor and a team member of CTU," says SDPO Abdul. "The women in this unit are dedicated, hard-working, and best of all, authentic. They truly care about the work they do. They care about the youth and families they work with. They care about each other. And because of that I've seen the impact they have in our youth's lives."



DPO II Terrika Wollfolk

"We laugh and cry together. CTU would not be what it is without our tremendous team!"

-DPO II Gina Giacone

CTU Deputies work with numerous community-based organizations (CBO) and various county partners to ensure that the youth and families' needs are met. They have forged close collaborations with several CBOs. They work closely with "Saving Innocence" and "Zoe International," providing CSEC advocacy services. They often partner with "Loving Me," a non-profit organization that provides CSEC advocacy and promotes positive self-esteem and healthy self-image by serving as a conduit for many community resources. They even offer access to free professional hair care services.

"This work is intense, exhausting, and rewarding," says DPO II Gina Giacone. "Fortunately, we can draw support from a compassionate, resourceful group of talented DPOs, who are always available to each other. They listen, offer advice, and provide much-needed comic relief. We laugh and cry together. CTU would not be what it is without our tremendous team!"