

# Child Pornography

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*The term "pedophilic erotica" was introduced by Kraft-Ebing in 1912 to label behavior which manifests abnormal erotic sexual desire for children. Although pedophilia literally means love of children, it is generally used today to signify sexual deviance. In our culture, it is generally agreed that an adult who receives gratification from sexual intimacies with a child is legally and psychologically abnormal.*

Oftentimes, society believes that law enforcement officers' emotional responses to crimes become hardened due to the nature of their work. However, a problem has recently surfaced in news headlines that has raised the wrath of private citizens and police alike. Not exclusive to a particular area, but in fact prevalent in many cities throughout the country is the problem of child pornography and prostitution—a situation that has permeated every aspect of society. And as evidenced in the national media, practically every ethnic, professional, and social group in the United States has been affected in some way by this crime.

There is no denying the fact that young children of all ages are being procured and pandered by what are called "chicken pimps" to take part in prostitution and/or the manufacture of pornographic films for a price. These procurers exploit runaways, neglected

children, and children from broken homes to solicit their participation in illicit acts. They lure their victims through veiled friendships, cash enticements, abduction, drugs, or simply by preying upon the child's ingrained concept of unquestioned adult authority. And once the child has been subjugated, the chicken pimp maintains tight control by keeping him or her in what is referred to as stables—working out of a house or from a street corner.

Surprisingly, panderers of "kiddie porn" are not necessarily strangers to their victims. Persons involved in recruiting can be a relative, neighbor, or a child already involved in the business. There have also been alleged incidents of this activity existing in foster homes, group homes, or halfway houses. What must be realized is that these children are not criminals, but are persons who are being exploited. They suffer not only from broken homes, but from the humiliation and degradation of this type of assault. And in most cases, it is fear that keeps them from talking.

The majority of children recruited into this business range in age from 9 to 14 years and depending on their color, youthfulness, and type of sex act, can earn sizeable amounts of money for their participation. For example, the price for an 11-year-old white male with blond hair, blue eyes, and soft features can vary from \$75 to \$100 per night. However, it is generally



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believed by the procurers that the younger the child the better, since the user of the child prostitute can act out more of his fantasies, and the excitement and challenge of having an untouched child adds to the pleasure. Unlike prostitution as we know it, the majority of contacts in kiddie porn and prostitution are with young boys who, according to the statistics compiled by the Sex Crime Unit of the Detroit Police Department, are more sought after than girls.

On the other hand, our experiences have shown that a typical chicken pimp is a white male, 30 to 40 years of age, married with children, and usually has a good job. He loves children, sees this relationship with them as true love, and justifies his actions by saying that the children want to do this. He appears to be sexually deviant in an immature way. Generally speaking, these men consider this type of sexual relationship sacred and see absolutely nothing wrong with their feelings.

During the past year, the sex crime unit has investigated numerous cases of sexual abuse of children involving either pornography or prostitution. As a result of these investigations and the evidence discovered at the scenes, it appears that movies and other printed materials involving children are marketed through a subculture of small dealers who make their wares readily accessible to select customers. Our efforts have also revealed the importance of community awareness and increased efforts by law enforcement agencies to eradicate these crimes; cooperation between city, State, and Federal agencies is essential.

With the alarming increase in the production and marketing of pornographic materials, it is evident that law enforcement agencies must direct their manpower to combat this crime. The Detroit Police Department has attempted to test Federal and State statutes and local ordinances by purchasing child-related pornographic material, either directly or by mail. The sex crime unit is collaborating with Federal and State authorities on initiating prosecution for transmitting obscene material through the mail, and confidential

sources are being developed in attempts to obtain information about the procurers responsible for the enlistment of young people in these services.

In conjunction with these efforts, the Wayne County, Mich., prosecutor's office has assigned a special prosecutor to handle all sex crime unit investigations, which increases their first-hand knowledge of the severity of all criminal sexual conduct cases and provides the unit with almost on-the-spot legal advice. Our experiences in the courts have been extremely gratifying in that recent public outcry has prompted judges to deal severely with sexual transgressors against children.

As another means to combat the spread of child pornography, the unit has undertaken a public education program. Officers from the unit and counselors from the rape counseling center make public appearances advising parents that they should be more aware of the problem and of their responsibility to protect their children from sexual deviants. They are urged to discuss the subject with their young ones and to caution them of situations that are potentially dangerous. They should en-

sure that their children travel in groups or in their company, since a child walking alone is a likely target. It is also recommended that they be cautious of their child's relationship with friends and even family members.

Yet, no matter how much care is taken, there are children who still become victims of sexual abuse. When this happens, it is important that both parents and police officers give prime consideration to the child victim, who oftentimes is not even aware that a violation has been committed.

Police officers must take into consideration the child's initial reaction. A child's response to a sexual assault is different than that of an adult. Children get their ideas of what is right and wrong from adults closest to them—especially their parents—and it is the parents' reactions they watch the most. If the parent shows shame and disgust, the child will usually reflect the same feelings. On the other hand, if the parent is compassionate and understanding, the child is better able to come through the experience with less trauma. Unfortunately, this is not usually the case. When confronted with assault, adults react with hysteria or some outward show of emotion, and

Two Detroit police officers interview a victim child.



the child, especially the younger ones not understanding the emotional crisis, find it difficult to cope with the situation. The child needs to know why people are upset and why he or she has to talk about this thing with police, parents, or doctor. Most of all, the child needs to be relieved of any responsibility of having anything to do with the precipitation of the act, which is of major importance to the recovery of the child. It should be explained that it wasn't any fault of theirs and that there are people who take advantage of other people, especially children.

When teaching children caution in emergency or crisis situations, it is necessary to contradict what they have been taught since their earliest years—kindness and trust of everyone. Yet, children must be cautioned to report to their parents or guardians any molestation by an adult or older child. If parents suspect their child has been assaulted, they should be instructed

that the easiest way to obtain an answer is simply to ask the child, since most children will tell the truth. If such an assault has occurred, the parent should talk calmly with the child, while assuring the child that he or she is safe. However, they should be informed as to your concern. Police officers and parents must be extremely careful of their reactions, even though it is most difficult at this time. Be as concerned and affectionate as before. Remember, the child is watching you and will sense any change in emotions. Also, do not refuse to discuss the incident with the child. Help the child to understand and to cope with the occurrence as much as possible.

What must also be understood is that a child's reaction to parents or other adults will alter as a result of a serious attack. Many children will show anger or distrust. In their minds, they

feel betrayed—the parent was not there to protect them. Others will exhibit obstinate behavior, for much the same reason. Patience and understanding cannot be overemphasized at this time.

The presence and ready availability of kiddie porn has a menacing effect on the moral values of children, participants, and the community. It has been suggested that forced involvements in these illicit acts may result in mental and emotional instability, leading to total depreciation of life and law. Law enforcement personnel can educate the public to the fact that child pornography and prostitution can and is happening in our country. But, it will take the efforts of everyone—parents, educators, and law enforcement personnel—working together to combat the problem.

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Footnote

<sup>1</sup>S. B. Kopp, "The Character Structure of Sex Offenders," *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, vol. 16, p. 64, 1962.

The National Bureau of Standards Law Enforcement Standards Laboratory has issued a directory listing national, nonprofit professional and volunteer social action associations and research centers active in law enforcement and criminal justice. Also listed are those international and foreign organizations having associations with American law enforcement. Described are the purpose and activities of each organization, and its affiliations and publications. Mailing addresses, telephone numbers, names of officers, year of formation, membership information, and staff size are included, as well as a subject index.

The 46-page directory, published in March 1978, can be ordered prepaid by stock number 003-003-01904-6 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at a cost of \$2.20 per copy. Foreign remittances must be in U.S. exchange and include an additional 25 percent of the

## Law Enforcement Directory

publication price to cover mailing costs. Microfiche copies can be ordered prepaid by NTIS No. NBS-SP-480-20, from National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Va., 22161, at a cost of \$3.00 (United States, Mexico, Canada) or \$4.50 (foreign) per copy.

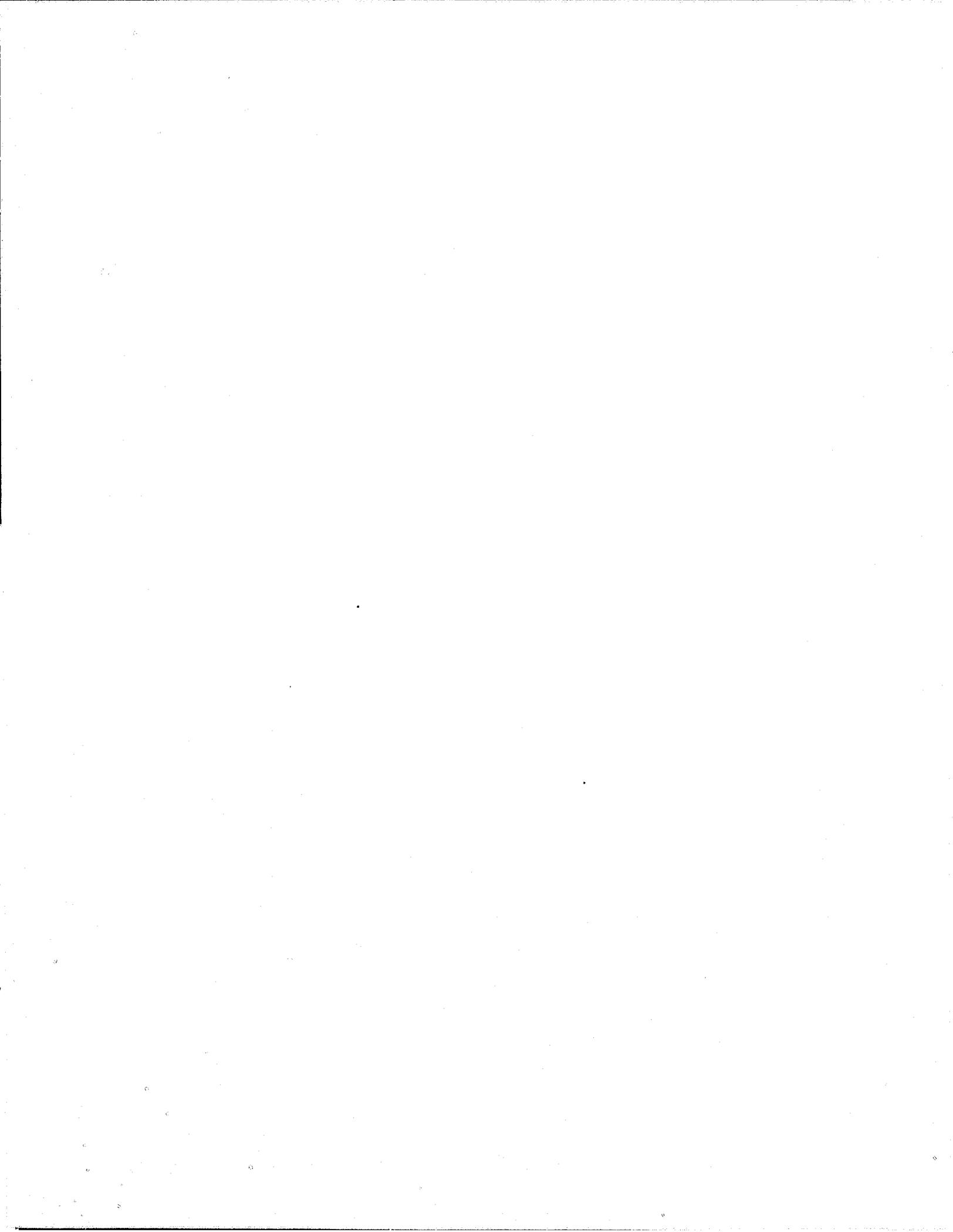
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