What is Survival Sex?

Survival sex is an **umbrella term** used to describe the exchange of sexual services for basic needs.

Survival sex can be:
- exchanging sexual services for a place to sleep (long-term or temporary).
- exchanging sexual services for transportation/rides
- exchanging sexual services for substances (prescribed or not)
- exchanging sexual services for food (groceries, a meal, a snack)
- Exchanging sexual services for money

When **exchanging sexual services for money** a hallmark of survival sex is if the person sets the price for service based on their immediate needs (bills, food, rent/mortgage) and not based on the standard rate in the By-Choice Adult Sex Industry. If the person is a youth it is sexual exploitation.

**Survival sex is sexual exploitation** because
- the power dynamic between the person providing services and receiving service is unbalanced due to the person’s need to survive.
- a person’s brain in survival mode functions differently than a person’s brain that is not in survival mode. Survival mode can make critical thinking, reasoning, and decision-making more challenging, thus further contributing to an unbalanced power dynamic.
- if the person providing sexual services is a youth it is always sexual exploitation.

Need support? Want to learn more? **Call or text the CASEY Coordinator at (709) 771-1706**

The phone is checked 9–4 Monday–Friday.