

## Box 4.1 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The First World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in 1996, provided the first working definition of *commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)* as comprising “sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual and commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labor and a contemporary form of slavery.” Of all the major forms of child maltreatment discussed in this book, CSA is the one that is most likely to occur between a child and an adult who is not a family member. CSEC is one form of CSA that is typically extrafamilial, although reports also suggest that some elements of CSEC may also occur within the family (e.g., Miller-Perrin & Wurtele, 2017a). CSEC includes pornography, prostitution, and sex trafficking—activities that are often interrelated—and they are important to study not only because they are a violation of children’s human rights but because of their negative impact on children’s development (Miller-Perrin & Wurtele, 2017a; Oram, Khondoker, Abas, Broadbent, & Howard, 2015).

**Child pornography** is defined by federal law under 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8) as any “visual depiction” of an actual minor (under age 18) or a computer-generated image that “is indistinguishable from that of a minor” who is “engaging in sexually explicit conduct,” “including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means” (U.S. Sentencing Commission, 2012). In 1978, the U.S. Congress passed the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act in an attempt to halt the production and dissemination of

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