CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING
WARNING SIGNS
Educators • Medical Professionals • Community Members

POTENTIAL WARNING SIGNS THAT A
CHILD MAY BE BEING GROOMED OR
TRAFFICKED:

• Signs of physical abuse such as burns, marks, bruises or cuts
• Unexplained absence from school; truancy
• Sudden inappropriate dress
• Sexualized behavior
• Overly tired or falling asleep in class
• Withdrawn, depressed, or distracted
• Bragging about making or having lots of money
• Displays expensive clothes, accessories, or shoes
• New tattoo, (tattoo’s are often used by pimps as a way to brand victims).
• Older boyfriend, new friends with a different lifestyle or gang affiliations/involvement
• Disjointed family connections, running away, living with friends or experiencing homelessness
• Sharing personal information online
• Interacting with significantly older people online

PIMPS/TRAFFICKERS OFTEN
EXHIBIT THE FOLLOWING
BEHAVIORS OR CHARACTERISTICS:

• Jealous, controlling or violent
• Significantly older than female companions
• Promise things that seem to be too good to be true
• Encourage victims to engage in illegal activities to achieve their goals and dreams
• Buys expensive gifts or owns expensive items
• Is vague about his/her profession
• Pushy or demanding about sex
• Encourages inappropriate sexual behavior
• Makes victim feel responsible for his/her financial responsibility. Very open about financial matters.
• Appears tired and unable to keep up in studies
• Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating, during school meetings, medical appointments, church, etc.)
• Constant cover up for abuser, self-shaming/blaming
• Lack of understanding and education about bodily functions, rape, incest, sexual abuse

TO REPORT A TIP OR CONNECT WITH ANTI-TRAFFICKING SERVICES IN YOUR AREA, CONTACT:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678
If you have information about a missing child or suspected child sexual exploitation, call to report it or visit their website, cybertipline.com

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888
This is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

The National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-RUNAWAY
This switchboard serves as the national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. NRS provides crisis intervention, and resources 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

IN AN EMERGENCY: 911

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