

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- Withdrawn, depressed, or distracted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