

SELF-EXPLOITATION SEX TRAFFICKING WARNING SIGNS

Educators • Medical Professionals • Community Members



Signs that an individual may be trafficked:

- Minors traveling without adult supervision or with someone who speaks for them
- Avoids eye contact; alone, unkempt, scared/crying, disheveled appearance
- Dressed inappropriately for weather or age
- Offer to exchange sex for ride, meal, etc.
- Fearful or anxious behavior if bringing up law enforcement
- Withdrawn, submissive, tense, nervous and paranoid
- Does not know the person who is picking them up (on the street, at bus or train station)
- Looks malnourished or exhausted
- Has few or no personal belongings, may not have control of money or ID
- Signs of branding: initials, name, saying or symbol; may deny knowing meaning of the tattoo
- Claims just visiting, traveling with relative, inconsistent story, inability to provide address or information where staying
- Interacting with significantly older people (male or female), and sharing personal information online

Things aren't always what they seem:

- Is the child in companionship with someone significantly older, controlling or intimidating?
- Does this person promise to provide all basic human needs?
- Promises a way out for abused or runaway minors?
- Controls conversations, movements, interactions, money and ID
- Claims the minor is family, in a relationship or being cared for
- Encourages minor to act older

Questions to ask if you have suspicions of trafficking:

(If you're able to speak to them safely and privately)

- Do you know the person picking you up?
- Do you feel safe with the person you are traveling with?
- Do your parents/relatives know where you are? If not, why not?
- Are you free to come and go as you please?
- Are you or your family being threatened?

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

⚠️ If you see something suspicious, MAKE THE CALL.

You don't have to know all the details to be helpful.

**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**

A national, toll-free hotline, available from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

IN AN EMERGENCY: 911