

# Educator Tool



Recognize, Identify,



& Provide



According to the TVPA, sex trafficking is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud or coercion or in which the person induced to perform the sex act is under 18 years of age. **Any minor exchanging a sex act for something of value is a victim of human trafficking.**



## Behavior

- Unexplained absences
- Decline in grades and/or class participation without reason
- Older girlfriend/boyfriend/group of friends or gang involvement
- Changes in habits, friends, interests, and/or school activities
- Changes in vocabulary, demeanor and attitude
- Sudden disengagement from extracurricular activities
- References to sexual situations or terminology beyond age-appropriate
- Frequently runs away from home
- Frequent references to travel
- Responses to questions seem rehearsed
- Not allowed to speak for themselves, when asked questions looks to third party to answer or for permission to speak
- Symptoms of fear, anger, panic, phobia, hyperactivity, frequent crying, temper tantrums, regressive behavior, and/or clinging behavior without reason
- Attempts to conceal/hide tattoos or branding. When asked what they represent or mean, they cannot explain or become agitated/upset

## RED FLAGS

## Appearance

- Sickness, malnourishment, signs of prolonged lack of sleep
- Injuries, bruises/scars/burns, unable to explain the cause or fearful to talk about the injury, attempts to hide injuries
- Lack of personal hygiene or a sudden change in attention to personal hygiene
- Not dressed for the weather, wearing ill-fitting clothing
- Dressing more provocatively, inappropriate for child's age
- Tattoos or branding, especially a tattoo indicating money, ownership of "Daddy's \_\_\_\_"

## Possessions

- Sudden appearance of unexplained high cost items, expensive clothes, purses, etc.
- False Identification
- In possession of large amounts of condoms, multiple cell phones, hotel keys, prepaid credit cards



## RISK FACTORS

Child sex trafficking and exploitation is not limited to any race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or community. Any child, in any community, can be a victim. There are no specific victim demographics; however, there are indicators that make a child more likely to be targeted by a predator.

**Involved in the welfare system**  
**Economic Disadvantages**      **Lack of Safe/Stable Housing**      **History of abuse**      **Questioning their sexual orientation**      **LGBTQ+**  
**Unsupervised Time**      **Low Self-Esteem**      **Social Isolation**

**YES**

- 1) I have a safe space to talk with the student privately.
- 2) I am acting within my designated role and in accordance of my school's protocols.

**YES**

You Identified indicators, now what?



You have identified indicators present, with or without risk factors, follow all relevant school protocols, specifically those for discussing potential abuse with students and reporting abuse to appropriate authorities.

Is your next step to talk with the student?

**NO**

**NO**

- 1) My school's protocols require me to follow a different course of action.
- 2) I'm looking for resources and general support.



# contact

**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE**

Call 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711) | Text 233733

Call the hotline 24 hours a day/7 days a week. They can assist you with assessment questions, safety planning, resources & referrals, specialized reporting options, and next steps, even if you are not sure if this is a case of human trafficking.

## Assess

**Speak to the student alone or privately, and follow her/his cues.**

- Does the student feel safe right now?
- Is the student a minor (under 18 years of age)?
- Is it safe for the student to talk right now?
- Is anyone watching, listening, calling, or texting her/him?
- Is the controller present or nearby, i.e. at the school, waiting outside, at the home of the student or live nearby?
- Does the controller know where the student attends school or lives?
- Does the controller have access to the child, ie parent, friend of the family, uncle, etc.
- Does the student feel safe at home?
- Does the student believe he/she or a family member is in danger?
- Do the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) know about the situation?

## Take Action

**Child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation is child abuse.**

- Follow school district child abuse and human trafficking reporting protocols.
- Connect student with resources.
- Check in with student regularly.



**Disclaimer: This tool does not substitute for mandated reporting requirements and does not guarantee safety. For emergencies, please contact 9-1-1.**