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 or sexualized behavior
• Overly tired in class or unable to keep up with studies
• Withdrawn, depressed, or distracted
• Bragging about making or having lots of money
• Displays expensive clothes, accessories, shoes, or new tattoo (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
• Interacting and sharing personal information with sometimes significantly older people online
• Constant cover-up for abuser, self-shaming/blaming
• Risk-taking behaviors, poor boundaries

PIMPSTRAFFICKERS OFTEN EXHIBIT THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIOR OR CHARACTERISTICS:

• Jealous, controlling or violent
• Significantly older than female companions
• Promise things that seem to be too good to be true
• Is vague about his/her profession
• Takes time to learn a child’s hopes and dreams and exploits their weaknesses
• Encourages inappropriate sexual behavior
• Pushy or demanding about sex
• Expresses financial difficulties to make victim feel obligated
• Accompanies and translates for, or speaks for, victim at school or medical appointments
• Befriends a child online through social media, gaming or apps that provide private communications
• May not become sexual or forceful until trust is built
• Older boyfriend, new friends with a different lifestyle or gang affiliations/involvement

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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