

FAMILIAL TRAFFICKING WARNING SIGNS

Educators • Medical Professionals • Community Members



What we need to know:

- Trafficking usually begins with a family member. Traffickers can be a parent, grandparents, cousin, aunt, uncle, etc.
- Many commercial sexually exploited children in the United States have been sexually abused in a family situation
- Males are just as likely as females to be trafficked by their family
- Most kids who are sex trafficked don't consider themselves victims, many of them have been conditioned to normalize their situation
- Although 14-16 is a common age for victims to be trafficked, with familial victims typically the abuse starts at a much younger age
- Often emotional, psychological, physical, and relational isolation is a hallmark factor to familial trafficking
- Children come from many backgrounds: there is no standard socioeconomic situation, race, gender, creed or religious indicator to predict who will be trafficked over another child in a family situation

What we need to look for:

- Poor mental health, abnormal behaviors, and lack of control
- May be fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Tries to please adults or get inappropriate attention from them
- Tries to act older than peers or mental age
- Inconsistent behavior, frequent mood swings
- Behaviors that appear to be sexually promiscuous
- May have vague answers; have been taught to hide secrets
- May have non-evident injuries that affect physical activity
- Isolated and does not socialize normally with peers; poor communication skills
- 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
- May have poor hygiene, be unaware of body odor or common practices

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