



RED FLAGS OF CSEC AND CHILD TRAFFICKING

General Indicators of Child Trafficking (sex and labor):

- Leaves home frequently and/or for significant periods of time;
- Has had multiple placements through child welfare;
- Shows signs of mental, physical, or sexual abuse;
- Uses street slang for sex work;
- Has a significantly older partner/spends a lot of time with a controlling person or older adult;
- Relies on another person to speak for them;
- Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence;
- Lies about age or carries a fake form of identification;
- Describes a stalking situation;
- Lives in housing provided by employer;
- Significantly reduces contact with family, friends, or other support networks;
- Displays a pattern of staying in the homes of friends or a non-legally responsible adult;
- Reluctant to discuss how they make money, where they live, or how or when they came to the U.S.;
- Lacks control over schedule and/or money;
- Has large amounts of money or costly items he or she cannot reasonably afford;
- Involvement in systems (social services, PINS, courts, etc.);
- Works more than s/he is in school or does not often attend school;
- Carries weapons while absent from care;
- Has knowledge about the geography of multiple urban areas;
- Experiences suicidal ideations and/or depression.

Physical Indicators of Child Trafficking:

- Has untreated injuries;
- Has old and new injuries and/or is injured frequently;
- Explanations for injuries are inconsistent with their severity;
- Has had multiple sexually transmitted infections and/or abortions;
- Has suspicious tattoos or burn marks (branding);
- Exhibits overt sexualized behavior;
- Exhibits evidence of sexual abuse.

Psychological/Behavioral Indicators of Child Trafficking:

- Has heightened sense of fear or distrust of authority;
- Is unwilling to disclose whereabouts or information about parents or caregivers;
- Is restricted in communication and/or displays anxious, fearful, depressed, submissive, tense and nervous behavior;
- Is unwilling or unable to identify as a victim;
- Displays behaviors aligned with a trauma history or PTSD;
- Has many inconsistencies in his or her story;
- Multiple youth retell the same story in the same way many times, giving the appearance that the story has been coached;
- Is scared of consequences to a degree greater than a situation (for example being late) warrants.