

# 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- Withdrawn, depressed, or distracted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

## PIMPS/TRAFFICKERS 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
- Encourage victims to engage in illegal activities to achieve their goals and dreams
- May not become sexual or forceful until trust is built
- 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

## 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](http://cybertipline.com)

**IN AN EMERGENCY: 911**

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.