



ACTION PROJECT
SAFEGUARDING ALL FROM EXPLOITATION

WARNING SIGNS FOR SEX TRAFFICKING

There are a number of indicators commonly found in instances of sex trafficking.

Note: many of those indicators can also be seen in *lawful* activities, and the presence of one or more of these indicators does not immediately mean sex trafficking is occurring. Incidents of *multiple signs* are the best indication. **CONSIDER THESE TO BE RED FLAGS.**

1. Individuals without access to their own ID, cell phone, or money.
2. No freedom of movement or constantly monitored; avoids interaction with others.
3. Asking permission to eat or use the restroom.
4. Restricted, mediated, or controlled communication (not allowed to speak for self); answers seem coached.
5. Averts eyes or does not make eye contact, especially with a partner.
6. Treated in a demeaning or aggressive manner, or evidence of verbal threats.
7. Presence of an overly controlling and abusive partner.
8. Demeanor is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous.
9. Uneasy around authority figures, especially law enforcement and/or security.
10. Signs of disassociation or avoidance of interaction with others, especially about sharing personal situation.
11. Dressed inappropriately for age, has lower quality clothing than companions, or is wearing clothing inappropriate for weather conditions or surroundings.
12. Signs of poor hygiene, fatigue, or sleep deprivation.
13. Injuries/signs of physical abuse or torture, such as bruises, burns, scars, and/or malnourishment.
14. A noticeably large appetite; eating ravenously.
15. Few or no personal possessions carried in small or plastic bags.
16. Lack of knowledge about current/past whereabouts; exhibits loss of sense of time.
17. May not know the names of the individuals they are traveling with.

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



If you suspect sex trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888