



ACTION PROJECT
SAFEGUARDING ALL FROM EXPLOITATION

WARNING SIGNS FOR SEX TRAFFICKING

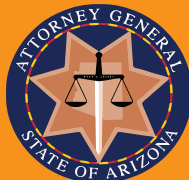
There are a number of indicators commonly found in instances of sex trafficking.

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. Presence of an overly controlling and abusive “boyfriend”.
2. Averts eyes or does not make eye contact, especially with a “boyfriend”.
3. Lack of knowledge about current or past whereabouts; exhibits loss of a sense of time.
4. Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story.
5. Individuals without access to their own ID, cell phone, or money.
6. Restricted, mediated, or controlled communication (not allowed to speak for self); answers seem coached.
7. Demeanor is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous.
8. Dressed inappropriately for age, has lower quality clothing than companions, or is wearing clothing inappropriate for weather conditions or surroundings.
9. Appears to be with a significantly older “boyfriend” or in the company of older males.
10. Treated in a demeaning or aggressive manner, or evidence of verbal threats.
11. Signs of dissociation or avoidance of interaction with others, especially about sharing personal situation.
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. Few or no personal possessions carried in small or plastic bags.
15. No freedom of movement or constantly monitored.
16. Suspicious tattoos, marks, or branding, especially on girls (e.g. a tattoo of the trafficker’s name, or that reflects money or ownership; two or more individuals with the same tattoo/mark; tattoos on the hands, neck, and face).
17. Claims of being an adult although appearance suggests adolescent features.
18. Shades or curtains always drawn on outward facing room.
19. Excessive foot traffic in and out of a room (or rooms) rented by the same person.
20. Car in parking lot regularly parked “backward,” so license plate can’t be read from lot.

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