



Red Flags of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and Labor Trafficking Indicators

1. Frequently runs away from home and/or leaves for significant periods of time; truant.
2. Has had multiple placements through the child welfare system; intersections with the juvenile justice system.
3. Shows signs of mental, physical, or sexual abuse (high adverse childhood experiences)
4. Uses street slang for sex work, such as “Doing a date,” “johns,” or “tricks.”
5. Has a significantly older partner, “boyfriend”, or spends a lot of time with a controlling person, a much older adult.
6. Relies on another person to speak for them; is not free to speak for themselves.
7. Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence.
8. Lies about age or carries a fake form of identification.
9. Describes a stalking situation or controlling boyfriend or “daddy.”
10. Lives in housing provided by the employer.
11. Significantly reduces contact with family, friends, or other support networks (isolation).
12. Displays a pattern of staying in the homes of friends or a non-legally responsible adult.
13. Reluctant to discuss how they make money, where they live, or how or when they came to the United States if an immigrant (not in possession of a passport, travel documents).
14. Lacks control over schedule and/or money (finances).
15. Possession of large amounts of cash or expensive items he or she cannot reasonably afford.
16. Works more than is in school or does not often attend school (truant)
17. Carries weapons.
18. Has knowledge about the geography of multiple urban areas (streetwise).
19. Experiences suicidal ideations and/or depression; signs of self-mutilation.

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 (crowns, dollar signs, bar codes) or burn marks (branding)
- Exhibits overtly sexualized behavior; dresses provocatively or inappropriately for the climate
- Exhibits evidence of sexual abuse (adverse childhood experiences)

Psychological/Behavioral Indicators of Child Trafficking:

- Has a 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; hypervigilance, startles easily
- Is unwilling or unable to self-identify as a victim
- Displays behaviors aligned with a trauma history or PTSD
- Has many inconsistencies in his or her story; scripted answers
- Multiple youths retell the same story, in the same way, many times, giving the appearance that the story has been coached/scripted
- Scared about consequences to a degree greater than a situation (for example being late) warrants. Want care delivered now, “I must get home, my boyfriend (daddy) will be upset.”

References

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Educator%20Assessment%20Tool.pdf>

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/humantrafficking/resources.asp>



www.path2freedom.org