

Signs of Human Trafficking

- Appearing malnourished
- Showing signs of physical injuries and abuse
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures/law enforcement
- Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction
- Lacking official identification documents
- Appearing destitute/lacking personal possessions
- Working excessively long hours
- Living at place of employment
- Checking into hotels/motels with older males, and referring to those males as boyfriend or “daddy,” which is often street slang for pimp
- Poor physical or dental health
- Tattoos/ branding on the neck and/or lower back
- Untreated sexually transmitted diseases
- Small children serving in a family restaurant
- Security measures that appear to keep people inside an establishment - barbed wire inside of a fence, bars covering the insides of windows
- Not allowing people to go into public alone, or speak for themselves

Child Sex Trafficking Specific

- Child has multiple cell phones and/or electronic devices
- Multiple children are present with an unrelated male or female
- Child has a name or symbol tattooed, burned, or branded onto his or her body
- There is evidence the child has been or will be traveling
- Child avoids answering questions or lets others speak for him or her
- Child appears frightened, resistant, or belligerent to law enforcement
- Child lies about his or her age and identity
- Child looks to others before answering questions
- Child is under 18 and in prostitution

Questions to Ask

Assuming you have the opportunity to speak with a potential victim privately and without jeopardizing the victim’s safety because the trafficker is watching, here are some sample questions to ask to follow up on the red flags you became alert to:

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?

- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do you have your passport/identification? Who has it?

Source: <https://www.state.gov/identify-and-assist-a-trafficking-victim/>

People you know might be vulnerable to trafficking if they:

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have a history of domestic violence
- Has a caregiver or family member who has a substance abuse issue
- Are runaways or involved in the juvenile justice or foster care system
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
- Have a history of sexual abuse
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol

Source: Polaris [here](#)

Sexual Exploitation

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person. Examples of crimes and acts that constitute CSEC:

- child sex trafficking/the prostitution of children;
- child sex tourism involving commercial sexual activity;
- commercial production of child pornography;
- online transmission of live video of a child engaged in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value.

CSEC also includes situations where a child, whether or not at the direction of any other person, engages in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value, which includes non-monetary things such as food, shelter, drugs, or protection from any person.

Source: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/sexual-exploitation-children>

Spot the signs of child sexual exploitation:

The below indicators relate specifically to grooming for sexual exploitation:

- A child or teenager who is often truant or goes missing
- Secretive behavior or unexplained money/presents
- Experimenting with drugs, alcohol

- Unexplained association with older males or a significantly older boyfriend
- Social activities without any plausible explanation
- Low self-image/self-harm/eating disorder
- Seen entering or leaving vehicles with unknown adults
- Evidence of physical/sexual assault

Source: <https://hopeforjustice.org/spot-the-signs/>

Online Enticement

involves an individual communicating with someone believed to be a child via the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offense or abduction. This is a broad category of online exploitation and includes [sextortion](#), in which a child is being groomed to take sexually explicit images and/or ultimately meet face-to-face with someone for sexual purposes, or to engage in a sexual conversation online or, in some instances, to sell/trade the child's sexual images. This type of victimization takes place across every platform; social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, etc.

Red Flags

The most common tactics used to entice children include:

- Engaging in sexual conversation/role-playing as a grooming method, rather than a goal.
- Asking the child for sexually explicit images of themselves or mutually sharing images.
- Developing a rapport through compliments, discussing shared interests or "liking" their online post, also known as grooming.
- Sending or offering sexually explicit images of themselves.
- Pretending to be younger.
- Offering an incentive such as a gift card, alcohol, drugs, lodging, transportation or food.

What NCMEC is Doing About it

Creating a Place to Report

Since 1998, NCMEC has operated the CyberTipline®, to provide the public and electronic service providers with the ability to report suspected child sexual exploitation including online enticement of children for sexual acts, extra-familial child sexual molestation, child pornography, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking, unsolicited obscene materials sent to children, misleading domain names, and misleading words or digital images on the internet. After NCMEC's review is completed, the CyberTipline report is made available to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

To make a CyberTipline Report, visit report.cybertip.org.

Source: <https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/onlineenticement>