










General Human Trafficking Warning Signs

Victims of human trafficking may look like many people

Human trafficking involves using force, fraud or coercion to control their victims and victims often exhibit one or more of the following indicators:

(Not all victims present any/all symptoms)

-  False or no ID
-  Lying about age or name
-  Possesses hotel room keys or hotel cards
-  Injuries, bruises, or signs of physical abuse they are reluctant to explain
-  Extreme weight loss
-  Suicide or drug overdose attempts
-  Sexually-explicit profiles on social networking sites
-  Branding or other signs of physical assault: broken bones, black eyes, rope burns on wrists, neck, or ankles
-  Tattooing to show possession eg: Daddy, barcode, trafficker's name
-  Not enrolled in school or numerous school absences
-  Inability or fear of making eye contact
-  Inconsistencies in stories
-  Exhaustion, fear, anxiety, depression, PTSD
-  Substance use and abuse
-  Pagers, GPS/tracking devices, &/ or cell phones not purchased by parents
-  Fear or submission of another person(often an older male)
-  Cannot speak for themselves
-  Not in control of their own money
-  Unable or unwilling to give local address or information about parents and/or doesn't know what city she/he is in.
-  "Dating " much older men
-  Recurrent sexually-transmitted infections or diseases (STIs/ STDs) or need for pregnancy tests
-  Disappears or runs away for long periods of time
-  Involved in foster care or child protective services
-  Increase in mental health symptoms
-  Refers to frequent travel to other cities
-  Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, behavior, or material possessions (e.g., obtains expensive items not purchased by parents)
-  Makes references to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms
-  Engages in promiscuous behavior for his/her age

IMPORTANT!

Any child 17 & under engaged in commercial sex is being sexually exploited and is a trafficked victim regardless of force, fraud, or coercion

Those enslaved in America, can be found working in such areas as:

- Commercial sex
- Domestic situations (*maids, nannies, etc.*)
- Sweatshop factories
- Construction
- Farming or landscaping
- Fisheries
- Hotel or tourism
- Panhandling /door-to-door sales
- Janitorial services
- Restaurant services
- Health/beauty services

**If you see something, please say something:
1-888-3737-888 or Text BE FREE to 233733**

PolarisProject.org | dhs.gov/bluecampaign | map-mi.org

Compiled by SW Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force



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