



# WHAT IS CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING?

*Child sex trafficking is when someone (usually a trusted adult) uses force and/or manipulation to sell a child's body for sex. Any commercial sex act with a minor is sex trafficking, regardless of their willingness.*

## WHO IS VULNERABLE?

*Child sex trafficking doesn't have a preference. Victims can be any race or gender, and can come from any socioeconomic background. However, some kids are more vulnerable than others.*

- Insecure youth looking for approval
- The "outcast" or loner
- Kids with little parental oversight
- Those suffering from addiction
- Homeless (1 in 4 Street Youth sell sex for basic needs)
- Foster kids/ runaways (1 in 6 runaways are victims of CSEC)
- Sexually abused or molested (70-90% of CSEC victims have a history of childhood sexual abuse)

## WHY DON'T VICTIMS REPORT ON THEIR OWN?

*Victims are unable to report for a variety of reasons, which is why it is so important to step up and report any suspicions you might have.*

- Trafficker has threatened their life or the lives of their family members
- Fear of authorities and law enforcement
- In debt to their traffickers
- Addicted to drugs
- Unfamiliar with their surroundings and don't know who to tell
- May not know or understand that they are being trafficked
- May have developed trauma bonds with their exploiter



# WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING?

*Child sex trafficking is an underground business that operates in plain sight. Learn to identify the signs so you can help those in need.*

## RELATIONSHIPS

- History of sexual abuse or domestic violence
- Relationships that are dominating or controlling
- Dates significantly older men or women
- Unrelated adult with a minor
- Third party control of schedule and social interaction
- New friends with different lifestyle

## APPEARANCE

- Specially marked tattoo or “branding”
- Unexplained bruising
- Explicitly sexual social media profile
- Dresses inappropriately for the occasion/season
- Malnutrition, dehydration, or exhaustion
- Displays gang affiliation (symbols or certain colors)

## BEHAVIOR

- Change in school attendance habits
- Begins running away
- Conflicting statements to authority figures
- Becomes withdrawn and uncommunicative
- Begins using drugs
- Change in personal hygiene
- Hypersexual
- Isolation from community, family, or friends
- Frequent movement/erratic schedule

## POSSESSIONS

- New clothes, shoes, jewelry, or electronic devices that cannot be accounted for
- Possession of hotel keys (for no apparent reason)
- Has many prepaid cards or gift cards
- No identification or is not in control of his/her identification documents
- Multiple cell phones (prepaid)
- Falke ID

## HOW DO YOU REPORT IT?

If you suspect child sex trafficking, report it right away. Reporting what you see and know will help determine if an investigation needs to be opened.

### NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE (24hr)

1 (888) 3737-888  
OR text **HELP** TO 233733

*If you are in immediate danger, call 911*