



For Parents & Caregivers:

# How to Talk With Youth About Trafficking & Exploitation to Keep Them Safe

Initiate a private conversation with your youth:

- Create safety.



Before you begin, create a safe and comfortable environment for the youth.

Ask the youth to help choose a quiet, private place where they will feel comfortable sharing any information with you.

- Be direct and remain calm.



Tell the youth that it is not their fault if they were misled and are in an unsafe situation.

Reassure the youth that you will not be angered by his or her response.

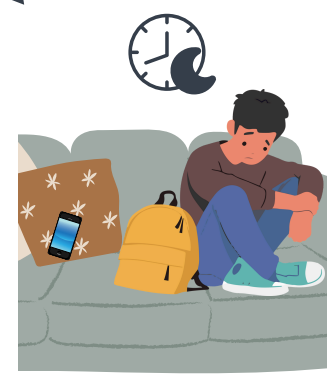
# How to Talk With Youth About Trafficking & Exploitation to Keep Them Safe

## An example:

**You can say:**  
 "As your sponsor, I am responsible for your safety. I care about you."



"I worry about you and I want to make sure you know the signs that a person is trying to trick you or take advantage of you, so you don't do something dangerous."



"I've noticed that you have been arriving home very late at night, and you have bought some expensive things, like that new phone."

**Review the Warning Signs of Sex & Labor Trafficking**



"I'm worried and want to make sure you're okay. You can always come to me for help. Can you tell me more about what's going on?"

## If the youth communicates that there are no safety concerns




Seriously, everything is fine. I'm okay.


Remember, you can always call **911** in an emergency. You can also call the [National Trafficking Hotline](#), which is available 24/7.




Take this opportunity to prepare the youth for any future dangerous situations.



Save this [card with important numbers](#) to your phones.



Help the youth identify other [trusted adults](#) who can help if he or she is in danger.




Remind the youth about the [digital resources](#) available for them on Preventing Trafficking & Exploitation.


## If the youth says something that indicates they may be a victim of abuse, trafficking or exploitation



You're right. I'm being exploited.



Stay calm.




Thank the youth for sharing this information with you. Assure them that you will work together to find help.



I know it's hard to talk about this. It's not your fault. Thank you for telling me. I am here for you.

Support the youth with these phrases.



View these resources on [sex](#) and [labor](#) trafficking to learn how to find help right away.