

*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.

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### An example:

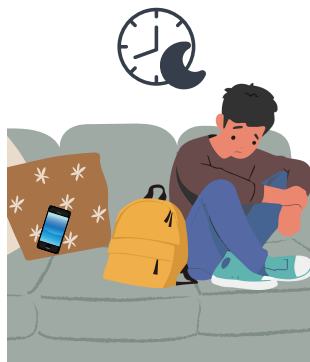
#### You can say:

"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."

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



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



"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.

Thank you for telling me.

Support the youth with these phrases.

It's not your fault.

I am here for you.



View these resources on sex and labor trafficking to learn how to find help right away.

