



# Preventing Sex Trafficking and Exploitation of Youth



A form of severe child abuse that includes a child/youth under the age of 18 performing a sex act in exchange for money or something of value, regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or intimidation involved.

**Traffickers and buyers can be any gender, nationality or age.**

**This includes:**



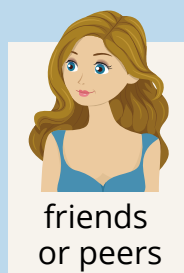
bosses



strangers



romantic partners



friends or peers



family members



**Watch for warning signs that a youth may be in an exploitative and/or abusive situation.**



**The warning signs may include if the youth:**



Packs a backpack with clothes, or does not return at night



Is absent from school and has no explanation for the absences



Leaves and arrives home at unusual hours



Shares they have been threatened by someone with deportation or harm



Is unaware of the current date, location, or time



Has multiple phones

# Preventing Labor Trafficking and Exploitation in Youth



Continued from previous page...

## The warning signs may include if the youth:

Is extremely tired, anxious, aggressive, or defensive

Has increased their drug or alcohol use or started using drugs and alcohol

Brings a lot of money or expensive gifts home

Has attempted to self-harm or commit suicide

Has an age-inappropriate romantic partner

Has suddenly started hanging out with a new group of peers who seem to be a bad influence

Has bruising or burns on their body

Does not possess their passport, money, or phone because someone is withholding them.

Wears clothing and has behaviors that are highly sexualized

Has attempted to run away or leave home

Has been treated for frequent sexually transmitted infections

Appears to be monitored or controlled and is not able to speak for oneself or share information

## What do I do if I notice these warning signs?

**Talk to the youth** and your **caseworker**.

If the youth goes missing, file a report with **local law enforcement** and the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** at **1-800-843-5678**.

Contact the youth's **school staff**. Ask how you can support the youth.

Call **Child Protective Services** or **911** to report someone you know is abusing or exploiting a child.

Call the **Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) National Call Center** at **1-800-203-7001** for support if you do not have a caseworker.

Call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline** for additional support. They speak Spanish and are open 24/7. Call **1-888-373-7888**. Send a Text Message to **233733**. Live Chat at [humantraffickinghotline.org](http://humantraffickinghotline.org)