

# FAMILIAL TRAFFICKING WARNING SIGNS

Educators • Medical Professionals • Community Members



## What we need to know:

- Many children don't have a traditional 'pimp'. It usually begins with a family member. Traffickers can be a parent, grandparent, cousin, aunt, uncle, etc.
- 98% of exploited children have a history of sexual abuse and neglect
- Nearly 80% of commercial sexually exploited children in the United States have been sexually abused in a family situation
- Males are just as likely as females to be trafficked by their family.
- Most kids engaged in sex trafficking don't consider themselves victims, many of them have been conditioned to normalize their situation
- Although 14-16 is a common age for victims to enter trafficking, with familial victims typically the abuse starts at a much younger age
- Often emotional, psychological, physical, and relational isolation is a hallmark factor to familial trafficking
- Children come from many backgrounds. There is no standard socioeconomic situation, race, gender, creed or religious indicator to predict who will be trafficked over another child in a family situation

## What we need to look for:

- Poor mental health, abnormal behaviors, and lack of control
- May be fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Tries to please adults or get inappropriate attention from them
- Tries to act older than peers or mental age
- Inconsistent behavior, manic style, happy then sad
- Sexually promiscuous or appears to be as a facade
- Inability to tell the truth, inconsistent with stories, or will exaggerate stories about their life
- Has bruising or injuries with a detailed reason as to how they happened (cover up) and has injuries in unseen areas of body, is uncomfortable sitting or doing physical activities that affect injuries
- Isolated and does not socialize normally with peers
- Appears tired and unable to keep up in studies
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating, during school meetings, medical appointments, church, etc.)
- Constant cover up for abuser, self-shaming/blaming
- Lack of understanding and education about bodily functions, rape, incest, sexual abuse

## TO REPORT A TIP OR CONNECT WITH ANTI-TRAFFICKING SERVICES IN YOUR AREA, CONTACT:

**National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**  
1-800-843-5678

If you have information about a missing child or suspected child sexual exploitation, call to report it or visit their website, [cybertipline.com](http://cybertipline.com)

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**  
1-888-373-7888

This is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

**The National Runaway Switchboard**  
1-800-RUNAWAY

This switchboard serves as the national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. NRS provides crisis intervention, and resources 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**IN AN EMERGENCY: 911**