

Human Trafficking Warning Signs

Resource for Educators & Caregivers

Knowing the warning signs of human trafficking can equip educators and caregivers with the tools necessary to help a youth involved in trafficking. Familiarize yourself with the signs below, and always keep the numbers listed on this page nearby to make a report when necessary.

Know the Signs:

- Sudden change in attire, behavior, relationships, or possessions (e.g. has expensive items)
- Changes in appearance, such as malnourishment or poor hygiene
- Changes in mood, such as being tense, nervous, fearful, depressed, anxious, or paranoid
- Misses school on a regular basis and/or has unexplained absences
- Carrying more than one cell phone
- Distraught about being separated from phone
- Picked up by different people every day after school
- Falling asleep in class regularly
- Has a job, but cannot explain where they work or what they do; may work unusually long hours
- Frequently runs away from home
- Becomes less involved in age-appropriate activities
- Appears to be disconnecting from family and/or friends
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities or towns
- Shows signs of drug addiction and/or physical abuse
- Has coached/rehearsed responses to questions (has another person talk on behalf)
- Inconsistencies in details of stories
- Is uncharacteristically promiscuous, multiple pregnancies
- Makes references to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a “boyfriend” or a “girlfriend” who is noticeably older
- Forms new relationships and attempts to keep them secret, uses nicknames
- Is not free to come and go on own volition
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts

Report:

If you see something, *say something!*

Call **911** in an emergency

Call the **Iowa Victim Service Call Center Hotline** at [1-800-770-1650](tel:1-800-770-1650) or text **IOWAHELP** to **20121**

Report to the **National Human Trafficking Hotline** at [1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888) or text **INFO** or **HELP** to **233733**

Contact the **Iowa ICAC Task Force** at www.iaicac.org for questions or to request online safety information

Make a report to the **Cyber Tipline** if you see suspicious activity online <https://report.cybertip.org/>

Report child abuse to the **Iowa Child Abuse Hotline** at [1-800-362-2178](tel:1-800-362-2178)