



## Signs of Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is when someone forces another person to perform sex acts against their will by threatening them or scaring them. A person who forces someone to do these things is called a *trafficker*. Traffickers keep all or most of the money the person should get for performing the sex acts and try to keep them from leaving.

### Risk Factors

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, there are some life situations that make a person more at risk of becoming a victim of sex trafficking. Here are some of them:

- If a person starts drinking alcohol or using drugs at a young age.
- If a person is abused at a young age.
- If a person is involved in more than one system that is run by the government, like foster care or the criminal justice system.
- If a person is a runaway or homeless youth.
- If a person does not have a safe place to live or lives in a shelter or group home.

## Signs to Watch For

There are also some signs to look for if you think a person might be a victim of sex trafficking. Here are some of them:

- If a person who used to go to school and used to get good grades suddenly stops going to school and starts to get bad grades.
- If a person suddenly has a controlling and abusive adult around them all the time.
- If a person suddenly has a lot of money or new things, like the newest cell phone, airpods, headphones or clothes that they couldn't afford before.
- If a person suddenly changes who they hang out with and seems to be out a lot late at night when they weren't before.

## What to Do If You Think Someone is a Victim of Sex Trafficking

If you think someone is being trafficked, do not get involved. That could put you and the victim in danger. Instead call local police to make a report. If someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

You can also call the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to make a report at 866-313-6733. You can report without giving your name and personal information. Another option is the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-3737-888 or text "BeFree" to 233733.



Adult Advocacy

[adultadvocacycenters.org](http://adultadvocacycenters.org)



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