

**NYC** | **Child Trafficking  
Prevention and Consultation**

[Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov)



**Red Flags for Sex and Labor Trafficking and Who To Contact:**

**For a person under age 18,** force (aggression), fraud (trickery) or coercion (threats) are not required. Any involvement in a commercial sex act is trafficking. This can include: stripping, exotic dancing, escort services, working in an adult book/video store, private sex parties, online sexual interactions, photos/videos of a sexual nature, exchange of sex for basic needs or desired items.

**Sex Trafficking Indicators:**

- Exploited by a trafficker/exploiter/pimp/anyone, including family, friends, romantic partners
- Engages in survival sex (basic needs)
- Uses sex to obtain goods (desired items)
- Lives in a brothel or trap house
- Works in a strip club, massage parlor, adult book/video stores, at a sex party
- Works as an exotic dancer or escort
- Sexual abuse involving images (photos, videos) aka “Child Sexual Abuse Materials” (CSAM)
- Suspicious tattoos, especially of a man’s name: “daddy”, bar code, paw prints, \$
- Has a cell phone that the parent did not provide
- Expensive new clothing and jewelry, hairstyles and nails
- Gang involvement
- References to frequent travel to other cities
- Abusive relationship(s)
- Significantly older partner or spends a lot of time with a controlling person or older adult
- Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Runs away from home frequently and/or for significant periods of time
- Shows signs of mental, physical, or sexual abuse
- Has large amounts of money or costly items that s/he cannot reasonably afford
- Involvement in systems such as social services, PINS, courts, etc.
- Exhibits overt sexualized behavior
- Exhibits evidence of sexual abuse
- Is unwilling or unable to identify as a victim

**Labor and/or Sex Trafficking Indicators:**

(Many young people are **both** sex and labor trafficked)

- Reluctant to discuss how they make money, where they live, and if applicable, how or when they came to the U.S.
- Lacks control over schedule and/or money
- Is unwilling to disclose whereabouts or information about parents or caregivers
- Is scared of consequences to a degree greater than a situation merits (Example: being late)
- Is not in control of their own identification or travel documents
- Works excessive hours
- Unpaid for work, or paid very little
- Lives with their employer, or with multiple people in a cramped space
- Does not manage own money
- Appears to have little privacy or is rarely alone

- Appears to be under someone else's control or under surveillance, needs to answer phone promptly
- Contacts with family, friends, professionals are monitored
- Exhibits submissive or fearful behavior
- Coached or rehearsed responses to questions
- Lies about age or carries a fake form of identification
- Housing is provided by employer
- Youth retells the same story in the same way many times, giving the appearance that the story has been coached

### **Medical Issues Relevant to Trafficking:**

- STD, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, inflammation, rectal trauma, urinary difficulties, abdominal or genital trauma
- Multiple STDs and/or abortions
- Evidence of sexual abuse
- Mental Health Issues: emotional distress, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, confusion, phobias, disorientation, self-mutilation, suicidality, helplessness, shame, humiliation, fearfulness, trauma symptoms
- Visible or untreated injuries, scars, cuts, bruises, burns
- Untreated illness or infection (including STDs)
- Explanation inconsistent with, or contradictory to injury
- General poor health and diseases associated with unsanitary conditions
- Suicidal ideation and/or depression

### **Who To Contact:**

If you believe a person is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, please contact:

- The National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or Text to 233733
- If a child is trafficked and missing from home or a program: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678), or use their Cyber Tipline at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
- The New York State Justice Center (if you believe that a youth is being abused/neglected while placed in residential care) 855-373-2122
- The Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (if suspected trafficker is a parent or person legally responsible for the child, or has contributed through abuse or neglect or destitution to the circumstances that resulted in trafficking) 800-342-3720
- **Labor Trafficking:** The New York State Department of Labor Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs, via phone at 877-466-9757, or email at [trafficking@labor.ny.gov](mailto:trafficking@labor.ny.gov) for further guidance and information.
- If you work at the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) or for Foster Care, Preventive Services Juvenile Justice/Detention Services, or with the Family Assessment Program, **always** notify the **Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Consultation** at [Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov) for any type of trafficking (sex, labor, organ). **If you suspect trafficking, but are not sure, request a consultation.**