

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING

Identification & Red Flags

PHYSICAL:

- Signs of torture/abuse (cigarette burns, bruises, bite marks, head injuries, broken bones, missing teeth, bald spots in hair, rectal trauma)
- Tattoos or branding (can be anything, especially names, symbols, crowns, jewels, initials, gang signs, money-related symbols/phrases e.g., *M.O.B. "Money Over Bitches"*)
- Chemical dependency
- Female medical issues (multiple abortions, pregnancies, miscarriages, genital mutilation, pelvic pain, anal prolapse, recurring urinary difficulties)
- Frequently changes appearance
- STIs, HIV, or AIDS
- Malnourishment and poor dental health
- Untreated chronic health conditions

MENTAL:

- Fear and distrust (especially of authority figures, "system" professionals, and law enforcement)
- Dissociation or does not seem "present"
- Extreme behavior (i.e. very defiant/hostile or submissive and few/no boundaries)
- Anxiety and depression
- Post-traumatic stress symptoms, hypervigilance, easily triggered, easily distracted, flashbacks
- Trauma-related disorders such as DID, BPD, C-PTSD and attachment disorders

SOCIAL/RELATIONAL:

- Looks at floor/afraid to make eye contact
- Secrecy, vagueness concerning whereabouts
- Family dysfunction: neglectful or absent parents, abuse, addictions
- Family member who is incarcerated or involved in organized or survival crimes
- In a relationship with a significantly older man
- Calling another male "Daddy" who is not their father
- Individual knows or has a relationship with someone involved in The Life
- Evidence of controlling or domineering relationships (repeated calls, individual has an

excessive concern about displeasing partner, partner answers questions for individual, looks to partner for approval, must respond to partner immediately, walks behind partner)

- Excessive frequenting of internet chat rooms, dating apps or sites, anonymous apps, sex industry sites, porn, or classified sites like Backpage.com or Craigslist.com

MATERIAL:

- Wearing clothing not appropriate for the weather (no coat or no warm clothes in the winter)
- Possession of new/expensive things with no financial means to purchase independently
- Only pays in cash and/or is not in control of their own money
- Has nothing on them, no material possessions or belongings, especially no ID/passport
- Frequently changes phone number and has multiple cell-phones (especially burner phones) and prepaid phone cards
- In possession of multiple motel/hotel cards & keys
- Carries condoms, lubricant, and sex paraphernalia

OTHER IDENTIFIERS:

- Is homeless or has run away from home
- Has lived in foster, group, or residential homes
- Has participated in treatment for behavioral or chemical concerns
- Prior arrest for prostitution, drug possession, theft, fraud, delinquency cases etc.
- Partner has a criminal background, history of with drugs, gangs, or domestic violence
- Youth who is often skipping class and/or truant from school
- Lives in a motel/hotel
- Uses "street" language commonly associated with The Life
- Does not know, changes, or tells inaccurate personal information about themselves such as their name, age, DOB, address
- Does not know what city they are in or does not have a permanent address