



## Indicators of Domestic Sex Trafficking

It is important to be on the look-out for potential indicators of trafficking. Although non-exhaustive, the following is a list of potential indicators. Each of these indicators may or may not be a tell-tale sign of domestic sex trafficking, but it is recommended that each be taken in an overall context of appearance, demeanor, and affect. Indicators include:

- Presence of an overly controlling and abusive 'boyfriend'
- Inability to look in the eyes or face of people, especially her 'boyfriend'
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse or torture
- Signs of malnourishment
- Restricted or controlled communication
- Demeanor - Fear, anxiety, depression, submissive, tense, nervous
- Claims of being an adult although appearance suggests adolescent features
- Lack of identification documents (ID, birth certificate, Social Security card)
- Presence of different aliases and ages
- Lack of knowledge of a given community or whereabouts
- Frequent movement/travel to other locations
- Claims of "just visiting" and inability to clarify addresses
- Few or no personal possessions
- Few or no personal financial records
- Inconsistencies in their story
- Inappropriately dressed
- Reporting an excessive amount of sexual partners during a health check-up
- Has run away or is homeless
- Possesses large amounts of cash
- Possesses hotel room keys
- Has indicators of being "branded" (e.g., having a tattoo).
- Lies about her/his age and/or possesses false identification
- Has unexplained school absences; unable to attend school regularly
- Does not have control over his/her own schedule  
Does not have control over his/her ID forms
- Appears addicted to drugs
- Shows shift in behavior, dress, or belongings, such as sudden possession of expensive items
- talks about sexual activities that exceed age-group norms
- Is involved with "boyfriend" who is 10 or more years older than potential victim