

Recognizing Sex Trafficking

This list focuses on indicators you might observe when interacting with youth. It does not include every indicator of sex trafficking. Most of these indicators are ones that you might see the first or second time you meet with a youth.

A single indicator may or may not mean that sex trafficking is occurring. **You should report any reasonable suspicion of sex trafficking.**

**Report suspected trafficking of a youth to the Oregon Child Abuse hotline:
1 (855) 503-7233**

Physical Indicators

- Bruising and burns
- Communicable and noncommunicable disease (e.g., TB, Hepatitis)
- Dental issues, mouth injuries
- Frequent treatment for sexually transmitted infections and injuries
- Multiple pregnancies/terminations
- Physical and sexual abuse/sexual assault
- Substance use
- Tattoos
- Unexplained injuries or unaddressed medical issues

Environmental Indicators

- Accompanied by another person who answers for them
- Changes in school attendance and/or behavior (e.g., falling asleep in class)
- Experiencing houselessness
- Lacking access to weather-appropriate clothing
- Living in a car, motel, or houseless camp
- Living where they work
- Multi-system involvement
- Not living with relatives or foster parents
- Recruited for different work than currently doing
- Required to provide sexual services to co-workers and/or employers

Behavioral Indicators

- Being forced to commit crimes (e.g., theft, assault, fraud)
- Confusing or contradicting stories
- Exchanging sexual acts or performances for money, basic needs (e.g., shelter, food) or anything of value (e.g., drugs, transportation, alcohol)
- Fear of appointments taking longer than expected
- Frequently checking in with family member, friend, or significant other
- Inability to focus or concentrate
- Multiple occasions of running away from home/placement.
- Protecting the person who hurt them or minimizing abuse
- Providing limited information
- Unaware of location, age, and/or the date

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