

## WAYS TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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### Possible Indicators of Trafficking

1. Sexting and being coerced and/or blackmailed into sending nude photos.
2. Semi-trucks on the side of a road off an interstate and a car parked behind them.
3. Women, girls, and boys dressed in minimal clothing leaving hotel rooms, apartments, and homes, while men around them are dressed nicely.
4. Seems submissive, anxious, fearful, or paranoid. Avoids eye contact and always looks down. Tearfulness or signs of depression.
5. Unexplained bruises or cuts or other signs of physical abuse.
6. Appears to be in a relationship with someone who is dominating and controlling.
7. Is never alone and/or always has someone translating or answering questions on their behalf. Not in control of their own finances.
8. Presents with secrecy or unable to answer questions about where they live.
9. Inconsistent details when telling their story.
10. Is afraid of law enforcement or receiving help from an outside entity.
11. Has no identification such as a license, passport, or other ID documents.
12. Inability to leave their job or residence. Says they cannot schedule appointments.
13. Being a recent arrival to the United States and does not speak English.
14. Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed, inability to speak to individuals alone.
15. Employers are holding identity documents and employees are unpaid or paid very little.
16. Children engaging in sexual acts.
17. In familial trafficking, parents sell/trade/barter their children for drugs, alcohol, rent, cigarettes, and money.

*(continued on back)*

## **Questions That Can Identify Human Trafficking**

1. Can you leave your job and house if you want to?
2. Can you come and go as you please?
3. Have you been hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?
4. Do you live with your employer?
5. Where do you sleep and eat?
6. Are you in debt to your employer?
7. Do you have your passport/identification? Who has it?
8. Where did you get those bruises or is anyone hurting you?
9. Do you get paid for your employment? Is it fair? How many hours do you work?
10. (If foreign national) How did you get to the U.S. and is it what you expected? Are you being forced to do anything you don't want to do?
11. Are you or your family being threatened?
12. Do you live with or near your employer? Does your employer provide you housing? Are there locks on doors or windows from outside?
13. Do you owe debt to anyone?

## **If You Suspect Someone Might Be Involved In Trafficking, Take These Actions :**

1. Call 911
2. Ask the person if you can help them find a safe place to go immediately.
3. If they need time, create an action plan with them to get to a safe place when they are ready.
4. Call and make a report to the human trafficking hotline at 1.888.3737.888. The hotline has language capabilities, so any individual can call directly if they choose.

## **References**

U.S. Department of State. (2021, January 10). *Identify and Assist a Trafficking Victim - U.S. Department of State*. <https://www.state.gov/identify-and-assist-a-trafficking-victim/>