



# Human Trafficking **Red Flags**

## For the General Public

If you come in contact with anyone exhibiting one or more of the following indicators, they may be a victim of human trafficking:

- A potential victim typically has someone with them at all times. This person seems very controlling and tries to speak for the victim.
- Victims may refer to their trafficker as their “boyfriend”.
- Victims may exhibit signs of physical abuse such as: bruises, broken bones, cuts, burns, scars, and/or malnourishment.
- Victims may have signs of psychological trauma such as: severe anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, Stockholm’s Syndrome, panic attacks, submissiveness, and/or no emotion at all (flat affect).
- Victims may lie about their age or have a false ID.
- Victims may be forced to sell drugs, magazines, etc. on the street.
- Victims typically do not have control over personal identification documents. These documents may be in the control of the trafficker.
- Victims may appear afraid/nervous and may not make eye contact.
- Conversations with victims may seem very scripted, inconsistent, or vague.
- Victims may have signs of “branding” by their traffickers, such as tattoos of the trafficker’s name, dollar signs (\$’s), or “Daddy’s Girl”.
- Victims may have a lack of knowledge about where they are or why.
- Victims may not admit they are victims and may not ask for help.

## Questions to ask yourself to determine if someone might be a victim:

- Are they being forced to do something they don’t want to do?
- Is the person allowed to be alone?
- Has the person been physically and/or sexually abused?
- Does the person appear to have been threatened?
- Do they have to ask permission to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom?
- Is the victim dressed inappropriately for their age? (i.e., sexy or suggestive clothing on a young person).
- Where does the victim sleep and eat?
- Are there inconsistencies in the victim’s story?

Source: [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org), [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov), and New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force.



**Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force** [www-ENDITALABAMA.org](http://www-ENDITALABAMA.org)  
If you need help, call **1-888-373-7888** or **1-800-991-0948**.