



# Common Thread

BCFS Health & Human Services

## ***Sex Trafficking is:***

The Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where such an act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion. **Under U.S. federal law:** any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking—regardless of whether or not the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion.

**Youth with a combination of indicators in each circle below may have been trafficked:**

**Compounding Indicators of Trafficking**

- Exposure to domestic violence
- History of abuse
- Appears on-edge
- Aggressive or risk taking behaviors
- Highly distressed if separated from cell phone
- Someone preventing a safe place to sleep or basic needs met
- Pressured to get pregnant, have an abortion, or use contraception
- Social isolation
- Youth gives misleading information on age, location, relationships
- Controlling partner
- Friends or family receive threats
- DFPS history
- Irregular school attendance
- Homelessness
- Unstable Housing or many foster homes
- Frequent running away
- Poor supervision from caregivers
- Repeated testing or treatments for STIs
- Tattoos or "branding"
- Sleep deprivation
- Substance abuse
- Poor Nutrition
- Physical injuries
- Connection to people who buy or sell sex
- Past involvement with police or juvenile justice
- Gang affiliation
- Sexual activity that causes harm
- Bullied about exploitation
- Unhealthy or inappropriate romantic relationships
- Unexplained money, credit cards, gifts
- Multiple cell phones or changes in phone number
- Explicit photos on phone or online
- Meeting online contacts in person

Adapted from Westcoast Children's Clinic, 2016. Identifying Commercially Sexually Exploited Children: Guidelines for Administering the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) Version 2.0

**To request advocacy for a survivor, please call Common Thread's 24/7 toll-free hotline:**

# 1-888-8THREAD

(1-888-884-7323)

**For more information, please visit our website at [www.commonthread.net](http://www.commonthread.net)**