



Recognizing the Signs of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking often hides in plain sight. Being aware of the warning signs can save a life. Use this guide to learn what to look for—and how to report concerns safely.

■ **General Red Flags**

- Appears fearful, anxious, or submissive
- Is not allowed to speak for themselves
- Lacks control over money, ID, or documents
- Signs of physical abuse or confinement

■ **Youth & Minors**

- Frequent unexplained absences from school
- Sudden change in behavior or attire
- Older controlling partner or "sponsor"
- Unaccompanied or living with unrelated adults

■ **Labor Trafficking**

- Working excessively long hours
- Living and working at the same place
- No access to personal documents
- Threats of deportation or harm

■ **Sex Trafficking**

- Presence in known prostitution areas
- Someone else controls their schedule or movements

- Branding tattoos, signs of trauma or abuse
- Appears coached or rehearsed in speech

■ ***If You Suspect Trafficking***

Do NOT intervene directly.

Call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline**: 1-888-373-7888

Or report online at: www.humantraffickinghotline.org

■ ■ ***Our Catholic Response***

Every person is created in the image of God. If you believe someone is being exploited, report responsibly and respond with prayer, mercy, and justice.

Learn more or support our mission:

