

# Signs of Human Trafficking

## Why Are Individuals With Disabilities at Risk?

- You may be less confident to disobey an adult or authority figure and speak up.
- Your SSI benefits can be something of value to traffickers.
- A lack of sexual education can prevent you from understanding what is right and wrong with regard to your own body.

## What Are the Signs of Human Trafficking?

Do you suspect that someone you know is in danger? Below are common signs that a person may be a victim of human trafficking.

- **Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior:**
  - Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense.
  - Exhibits fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up police (Traffickers sometimes make threats that they will hurt victims if law enforcement gets involved).
    - Examples of fearful/anxious behavior: Avoiding eye contact, restless movement, change in speech (Speaks faster or avoids talking at all. Volume can get quieter or louder).
- **Poor Physical Health:**
  - Lacks medical care and/or is denied medical services by their employer.
  - Appears malnourished or shows signs of exposure to harmful chemicals.
  - Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse.
    - Some common signs of abuse include: Injuries that cannot be explained (e.g., broken bones, burns, cuts, bruising, missing teeth), bleeding in the genital or rectal areas, blood on sheets or underwear, frequent yeast or bladder infections, STD's, or pregnancy.
- **Lack of Control:**
  - Few or no personal possessions.
  - Not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account.
  - Not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport).
  - Not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating).
- **Other:**
  - Claims of "just visiting" and cannot clarify where he/she is staying/address.
  - Cannot identify where they are or what city they are in.
  - Loss of sense of time.
  - Numerous inconsistencies in her/his story.

