

# Human Trafficking: What Does It Look Like?

Human trafficking can be hard to identify because anyone can be a trafficker and anyone can be trafficked. This resource will provide information on signs of human trafficking to help keep you and the people you support safe.

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## Signs That Someone May Be a Victim of Human Trafficking:

- **Behavior:** Be aware of changes in behavior that are new or unusual such as pulling away from family, friends, and familiar people, or a sudden increase in challenging behavior. Individuals may also start using new words or phrases, specifically related to sex or sexuality.
- **Physical appearance:** Individuals may have injuries they cannot explain or that do not make sense. They may stop taking care of their personal hygiene or may take extra showers or baths or take longer with bathing.
- **Secretiveness:** Individuals may start acting secretive, hiding things, not talking about where they're going, what they are doing, or who they are with. If they are on social media they may stop using it or use it less often as a way to keep their activities secret.
- **Control:** Individuals may not have control over their money, things, where they go, whom they spend time with, or what they do. They may appear nervous to speak for themselves or let another person (often the trafficker) speak for them.

In order to notice signs of human trafficking, it's important to look and listen closely to the individuals you support. In addition to the signs listed above, pay attention to any of the following situations you notice if they talk about:

- Some traffickers act like a boyfriend or girlfriend to recruit victims. Be aware if they begin talking about a new partner or friend, especially if there are much older.
- Be aware if there is a person in their life who seems controlling.
- Be aware if they start receiving gifts that are unusual or expensive, especially if they're from a new friend or partner.

Remember, any one of these signs by themselves may not indicate that a person is being trafficked. But if you see multiple signs or have any concerns, it's important to report them to the proper authorities.