

Sex Human Trafficking

Warning Signs for Minors



Youth from every socioeconomic background are at risk for sexual exploitation. Knowing the red flags and indicators of human trafficking is key to identifying victims and helping them obtain the assistance they need. Familiarize yourself with the warning signs that could be present when a child or teen is involved with trafficking.

Appearance

- Does the youth exhibit signs of physical and/or sexual abuse? Are there bruises on the face or wrist?
- Do you notice a new hair style, wig, or polished nails knowing that the youth does not have the means for these services?
- Are there new tattoos on the youth's arms, wrists or neck? Do the tatoos have gang symbols or references?
- Does the youth have multiple cell phones?

Behavior

- Is the youth running away to unknown places and for unknown reasons?
- Do you notice a pattern in the time of day the youth goes missing?
- Is the youth away or working excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- Is the youth unpaid, paid very little, or paid in exchange for food, clothing and/or housing?
- Has the youth been promised unrealistic opportunities such as a modeling career?
- Is the youth unable or unwilling to identify the name of an employer or person picking them up from your home?
- Is the youth saying they are working but you do not see a paycheck?
- Is the youth unsure of the address where they are staying? Do they not have a key?
- Does the youth have a public social media account with hundreds or thousands of followers?
- Is the youth posting sexual content on social media?
- Is the youth connected to an older man or woman who is isolating them?
- Is the youth meeting up with adults they met on social media?

Presentation

- Does the youth present with a heightened sense of fear or anxiety?
- Is the youth depressed, submissive, tense, nervous and/or paranoid?
- Does the youth have a hard time making and maintaining eye contact?
- Does the youth present as withdrawn from relationships, school and other important aspects of their life?
- Does the youth feel hopeless or out of control?
- Is the youth at risk of self-harm due to increased hopelessness and/or feeling trapped?
- Does the youth have numerous inconsistencies or inaccuracies in his/her story?
- Does the youth lack access to health care?

Know or suspect a youth is in trouble?

Bellefaire JCB Homeless & Missing Youth 24/7 Hotline | 216.570.8010

Human Trafficking Resources

One of the important roles of Bellefaire JCB's Homeless and Missing Youth Team is to intervene before a youth becomes a victim of human trafficking. Traffickers can be gang members, community members, or even family members who prey on vulnerable youth. Targets are often young teens who feel unloved or lack a sense of belonging, with the average age of 12-14 years old. Once they are recruited, victims are controlled and exploited for profit, and treated as property to be bought and sold.

Additional resources are available at the Ohio Attorney General's website:
ohioattorneygeneral.gov/HOME

If you suspect or know a youth is in trouble, call:

FBI Tip Line | 216.522.1400

Local Law Enforcement | 911

Cuyahoga County Human Trafficking Task Force | 216.443.6085

About Bellefaire JCB

Founded in 1868, Bellefaire JCB is among the nation's largest, most experienced child service agencies providing a variety of behavioral health, education, and prevention services for youth and their families. Each year Bellefaire helps nearly 22,000 children, teens, and adults achieve resiliency, dignity and self-sufficiency through more than



28 programs including outpatient counseling; school-based counseling, prevention, and early intervention; homeless and missing youth outreach and support; residential treatment; crisis stabilization; foster care and adoption; and the Monarch Center for Autism.

Bellefaire JCB's Homeless and Missing Youth Program is on the streets where youth are. The program is a leader in providing services to homeless and missing youth in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) Ohio, including support to teens in need of crisis intervention, case management, and respite. Street Outreach workers provide support to youth who are already homeless and intervention services to those at risk. At the program's drop-in center and through a 24-hour crisis hotline (216.570.8010), the Homeless and Missing

Youth Program provides community and professional outreach to ensure at-risk youth throughout the county are identified, supported and linked to services.

Bellefaire JCB Homeless & Missing Youth Hotline

216.570.8010

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Bellefaire JCB

for excellence... for wellness... for children

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