

Sexual Trafficking

Warning Signs for Minors



Youth from every socioeconomic background are at risk for sexual exploitation. Knowing the red flags and indicators of sexual 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 human/sex trafficking.

Appearance

- Does the youth exhibit signs of physical and/or sexual abuse? Are there bruises on the face?
- Do you notice a new hair style, wig, or polished nails knowing that the youth does not have the funds for these services?
- Is there a new tattoo on the back of the neck or wrist?

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 return for food, clothing, and housing?
- Has the youth been promised unrealistic opportunities like 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 not sure of their residence or appear confused about where they stay?

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 refuse to make eye contact?
- 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 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

A goal of Bellefaire JCB's Homeless and Missing Youth team is to intervene before a youth becomes a victim of labor or sexual trafficking. Victims are treated as property to be bought, sold, forced to work, and sexually exploited under control of a trafficker, pimp, or madam.

Additional resources are available at the Ohio Attorney General's website:

<http://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/HOME>

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

FBI Tip Line | 216-522-1400

Local Law Enforcement | 911



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 help ensure that at-risk youth throughout the county are identified, supported, and linked to services.

For information on Bellefaire JCB's Homeless and Missing Youth Program call 800-879-2522

or Karen McHenry, LISW-S, LCDC
216-320-8422


Bellefaire JCB
for excellence... for wellness... for children

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