

Human Trafficking Red Flags List

Use: This list is a brief overview of evidence that could suggest an individual has been trafficked. If a juvenile exhibits characteristics or traits below, it is possible (and may be very likely) that he or she is a trafficking victim. This list is geared primarily toward recognizing domestic minor sex trafficking, but labor trafficking victims could also potentially be brought to court. The list is divided into four categories for analysis: the charges against the juvenile, the circumstances of their arrest, observable physical characteristics, and information gained through conversations with the youth. Traits in red indicate a high likelihood of trafficking. The more traits present, the greater the likelihood the juvenile is being trafficked or is at risk of being trafficked.

Labor Trafficking Red Flags - Courts¹

Charges

Truancy

Theft of basic necessities (food, clothing, personal hygiene items)

Curfew

Arrest Circumstances

Unsure of address

No form of ID

Unable to understand or speak English

Location of arrest was near farm, construction site, restaurant, hotel

Physical Characteristics

Malnourished

Signs of physical abuse

Exhibits exhaustion and/or hunger

Additional Information Gathered Through Intake

Numerous inconsistencies or difficulty in describing where they live, who they live with, where they go to school, etc.

Guardianship by unrelated person

Fearful/apprehensive about *not* returning home in time

¹ Labor trafficking is more difficult to identify and less likely to show up in court because victims are often hidden from the public and restricted in their movement by the trafficker. However, this list highlights some traits that could be present if a victim were to be arrested and appear in court.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Red Flags - Courts

Charges

Prostitution

Solicitation

Theft of basic necessities (food, clothing, personal hygiene items)

Drug/alcohol charges

Arrest Circumstances

Arrested at or near a hotel/motel, strip club, truck stop, massage parlor

Hotel room keys were found on person

Large amount of cash or prepaid credit cards were found on person

Condoms (or two kinds of condoms) were found on person

Arrested with older, unrelated female (the bottom)

Physical Characteristics

Branding tattoos: usually a name (James), adjective (Delicious), or "Daddy"

Dark circles under eyes

Wears age-inappropriate clothing

Malnourished

Signs of physical abuse

Exhibits exhaustion and/or hunger

Additional Information Gathered Through Intake

Possesses expensive items outside their or their family income level

Discusses frequent travel to other cities

Has boyfriend (usually older); may refer to as her "daddy"

Fearful/apprehensive about *not* returning home in time

Emotional numbness or dulled emotions

Makes little to no eye contact

History of running away from home (2 or more times)

Unexplained or numerous absences from school or home/does not attend school