

What child welfare caseworkers need to know about child sex trafficking and child labor trafficking

Child sex and labor trafficking are child abuse. Children rarely self-identify as trafficking victims. Trafficking cases often are reported as other forms of abuse and neglect.

When you become concerned about trafficking another referral must be made to the child abuse and neglect hotline at 844-CO-4-Kids. The Colorado Human Trafficking Screen must also be completed in Trails when you open a human trafficking assessment or when you become concerned about signs of trafficking.

Signs to look for:

- Possesses items of value that cannot be explained, such as cash, cellphones and clothing
- Missing from care
- Missing school
- Unexplained injuries, marks or tattoos
- Changes in behavior: exhibiting fear, anxiety, depression, submissiveness, tenseness or nervousness
- In a relationship with an older or controlling partner
- Has had Sexually Transmitted Infections or reports of multiple sexual partners
- Reports engaging in transactional sex, or has had non-consensual sex. A minor cannot consent to commercial sex, including survival sex. If younger than 18, they are likely victims of trafficking.

Traffickers are often known to their victims. Children can be trafficked by family members, romantic partners, friends and employers.

How do traffickers gain control?

Traffickers prey on vulnerabilities in children and manipulate them into exploitative situations.

They exploit young people who have...

- Been marginalized
- Are isolated
- Been rejected by the family
- Run away from home
- Experienced past abuse
- A lack of financial resources

To gain control, traffickers make promises about...

- A relationship
- A loving family
- A stable home
- More money
- Independence

Professional Development Opportunity

To learn more about human trafficking take a course through the Child Welfare Training System: coloradocwts.com

You don't need to be sure.
Share any concerns about
child trafficking by calling
844-CO-4-Kids

**IF NOT YOU,
THEN WHO?**