

# Signs of Human Trafficking Happening Around You

**Human trafficking is when someone is being taken advantage of and forced, tricked or coerced to do things they do not want to do.** This can include **labor trafficking** - like working at a job all day without a break or for little to no pay, or **sex trafficking** - any kind of sexual act online or in person. Both sex and labor trafficking must involve the exchange of money or something of value.

Trafficking can be hard to spot, even for the people being groomed or trafficked. You can help keep those around you safe, including family and friends, by noticing changes in their behaviors such as:

- Avoiding you, other friends and family
- Frequent tardiness or absence from school or work
- Loss of interest in things they once enjoyed
- Sleeping often when they're home and staying out late or all weekend
- Having new and older friends or a significant other they met online
- Having or bragging about money, expensive items or traveling with no reasonable explanation
- Expressing fear of their employer or other adults in their life
- Working an excessive amount
- Having rehearsed responses
- Starting to use drugs or alcohol
- Become unstably housed or leave home to live with an older friend
- Frequent injuries with no reasonable explanation
- Having secret online accounts

If you see any of these signs, talk to a safe and trustworthy adult about your concerns. These may be signs of human trafficking or they could be struggling with mental health and difficulties at home or school.

You can call and text 850-597-2080 or visit [surviveandthriveadvocacy.org](https://surviveandthriveadvocacy.org) to get more information and seek help.



# How To Stay Safe Online

Not every user online is who they say they are or has good intentions. When you're gaming or on social media, avoid human traffickers by asking yourself these questions:

- Is this person asking me to do something that goes against any of my personal or physical boundaries?
- Do I really know who this person is?
- Are they asking me to keep our conversations secret?
- Do I want to be in this friendship or relationship? Or do I feel like I have to?
- Is this person threatening me? Are there signs of manipulation or force?

## Online Privacy & Safety Tips

Talk to a parent or trusted adult and your friends about your online relationships, even if you don't have any concerns. Here are some online safety tips:

- Remove geotags before posting photos and videos.
- Remember, anything can be screenshot or screen recorded without your knowledge.
- Block and report accounts that are asking for personal information or pictures of you.
- Talk with someone about inappropriate behavior online.
- Don't share your personal information online, including your passwords.
- Never meet up with someone online alone or in a home, suggest a public place. Tell your parents or a trusted adult about anyone that is asking to meet you.
- Turn on privacy settings on social media apps and sites.