

# Human Trafficking Indicators

## Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Texas Education Professionals

### Academic

- Academically unengaged
- Performs noticeably under grade level
- Exhibits sudden changes in academic performance

### Behavioral

- Avoids eye contact
- Inconsistencies in story
- Gaps in memory
- Paranoid
- Unexplained or regular absences from school
- Resists being touched

### Emotional

- Low self-esteem
- Exhibits depression, anxiety, or fear, mood swings, erratic or defiant behavior

### Social

- Has “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” significantly older than them
- Lives unstable or abusive home environments
- History of running away or homelessness
- Inability to look people in the eyes when speaking with them
- Has overtly sexual online profile
- Possesses sexual knowledge beyond what is normal for their age group
- Tells inconsistent stories or provides scripted answers
- Hesitant to change clothes in front of others
- Uses terms relating to prostitution such as “daddy,” “John,” “trick,” or “the life”
- Teased by other students for being sexually active or being associated with commercial sex
- Has expressed need to pay off debt
- Sudden changes in interests or friend groups
- Changes in the way the child treats others

### Physical

- Branded/tattoos, scars, or bruises they cannot explain
- Appears malnourished or dehydrated
- Burns
- Shows signs of drug or alcohol addiction or abuse
- Has a sexually transmitted infection or disease
- Pregnancy—especially if they hesitate to mention who the father is
- Shows signs of physical abuse
- Sudden change of attire or material possessions (i.e. has clothing or items they cannot likely afford)
- Appears to lack basic medical attention

### Other

- Gang affiliation
- Has a history of living in many locations

- Does not have control over their schedule
- Possesses large amounts of cash

- Possesses hotel keys
- Possesses fake identification or no identification