

# School Counselor Specific Fact Sheet

## **Warning Signs**

- \*Exhibits changes in behaviors or school participation
- \*Has prolonged absences from school, or a high number of skipped classes
- \*Doesn't want to leave school at the end of the day.
- \*Shows a decline in school performance
- \*History of homelessness or running away from home.
- \*Reveals signs of abusive or inattentive caregivers.
- \*Displays heightened sense of duty or obligation to family.
- \*Has unreasonable or inappropriate chores or duties.
- \*Works for little or no pay.
- \*Accumulates debt
- \*Exhibits sexual behavior that is high risk and/or inappropriate for his/her age.
- \*Wears highly sexualized clothing for their age.
- \*Has an explicitly sexual online profile.
- \*Involved in relationship with an older man.
- \*Engages in sexual activity in exchange for money/items of value.
- \*Knowledge of the commercial sex industry.
- \*Gets tattoos of a man's name or "daddy" etc. or increased/inappropriate piercings.

## **Risk Assessment**

\*Ask the potential victims these questions to assess the risk the victim is in and to determine what steps you need to take next. Remember to always separate the victims from the persons accompanying them.

1. What type of work do you do?
2. Can you leave your job or change your residence if you want to?
3. Do you owe money to your employer? What would happen if you didn't repay that money?
4. What are your working and living conditions like?
5. Can you come and go as you please?
6. Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, go to the bathroom, or make a telephone call?
7. Are there locks on your doors or windows so you cannot get out?
8. Have you or your family members been threatened?
9. Are you afraid of anyone? Why?
10. Have your identification papers or other documents been taken from you?

\*Never ask "are you a slave?" or "are you a trafficking victim?" as most victims do not self-identify as victims.

\*Never ask victims, "why didn't you just leave?"

\*Expect victim's answers to change as their level of trust in you increases.

## **Next Steps**

\*If you suspect you are talking with a victim of human trafficking, the key is to get the victim into safety. If you are unsure how to do this, here are the resources for you:

\*Call 911

\*Connect with the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline to identify local resources to assist victims:

\*Call: 888-373-7888

\*Visit: [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)