

At Higher Risk:

- Runaway or truant
- History of molestation or abuse
- In foster care
- Disabilities or mental illness
- Pregnant or with young kids

HAVE A CONVERSATION

- Are you OK? Cold? Hungry? Tired? Hurt?
- How did you get here? How will you get home?
- Who do you live with? Where?
- How do you get money?
- Are you worried about anyone else's safety?
- Tell me more.

Consider what has happened to victim, not what victim has done wrong. Prioritize relationship-building over information-gathering.

Listen for:

- References to extensive travel
- Claiming without prompting, "No one is forcing me to do this"
- Urgent need to leave or "get back"
- Initiating discussion of sexual interactions

Check ID and separately interview every person

EVIDENCE

PHONES

- Identify owners (and passcodes, if possible)
- Google number to find links to sex ads
- If trafficking is clearly present, recover phone for evidence
- With consent, you may see photos for ads, text exchanges with buyers, call logs, etc.

PHOTOS

- Take many photos of sex paraphernalia, credit cards (front & back), vehicles, phones, victim, suspect, etc.

UPON ARREST

- Recover phones, credit cards, computers, lingerie, sex paraphernalia, etc.

DETAILS MAKE THE CASE

- Vehicle info
- Hotel occupants
- Contents of garbage
- Photos
- Identity, demeanor, and statements of every person

This project was supported by Grant No. 2012-VT-BX-K004 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

WHAT TO DO

- 1. ASK** about immediate needs – food, clothing, sleep
- 2. REPORT** minors to Child Protection
No arrests of minors for prostitution offenses
- 3. CONNECT** with victim services:



Statewide hotline for shelter & services:
(866) 223-1111

Find your Safe Harbor Regional Navigator:
bit.ly/safeharbormn

- 4. CONSULT** an investigator:



YOUR APPROACH

Victims may be guarded, uncooperative, untruthful, and even hostile. Respond nevertheless with empathy and a lack of judgment.

Being victim-centered now will lead to trust in the future.



Know the facts about sex trafficking in Minnesota.

GERALD D. VICK HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Know the facts about sex trafficking in Minnesota.

STREET OFFICER RESOURCE GUIDE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
PROSTITUTION
SURVIVAL SEX
SEX FOR DRUGS OR FOOD
STRIPPING
PORNOGRAPHY



POSSIBLE RED FLAGS

Observations

- Lack of eye contact
- Attire that is brand new or not appropriate for the weather
- Unusually hostile, anxious, or withdrawn
- Tattooed with trafficker's name or symbol
- Bruises, scars, or burn marks

Acquaintances

- Significantly older (may be called "boyfriend" or "daddy" by victim)
- Holding victim's ID and/or belongings
- Can't be identified by victim

Interaction

- Unclear or coached responses to the basics (live/work/school)
- Inconsistent stories, sketchy explanation of relationships

Possessions

- Large amounts of cash
- Prepaid cards
- Motel and hotel keys
- Sex paraphernalia – condoms, lubricant, lingerie, etc.
- Multiple cell phones