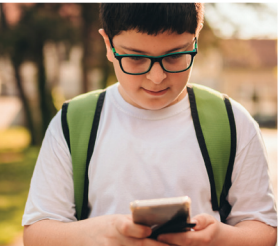


# WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?


Sex trafficking is a crime when adults and/or children are forcefully involved in commercial sex acts. In the United States, any minor under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sex acts is automatically considered a victim of sex trafficking. Worldwide, it's estimated that there are 4.5 million victims of sex trafficking.



**Ashland County  
Safe Haven**

Rape Crisis & Domestic  
Violence Services

**24 HOUR ANONYMOUS HOTLINE:**

**419-289-8085** 

**Appleseed**   
Community Mental Health Center

Safe Haven is a program of Appleseed  
Community Mental Health Center.

## **Sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery.**

Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion as a means of control. Human trafficking can happen to anyone but some people are more vulnerable than others. Risk factors include recent migration or relocation, substance use, mental health concerns, experience with the child welfare system and being a runaway or homeless youth. Often, traffickers identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities in order to create dependency.

## **Recognize the Signs**

Recognizing potential red flags and knowing the indicators of sex trafficking is a key step in identifying and helping victims.

## **Common Living and Work Conditions**

The individual:

- Is not free to come and go at will
- Is under 18 and providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only tips

## **Poor Mental and Physical Health**

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous / paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior when law enforcement is mentioned
- Shows signs of substance use / addiction
- Shows signs of poor hygiene, fatigue, or malnourishment
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

## **Lack of Control**

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is frequently monitored
- Is not in control of their own money or identification documents (ID or passport)

## **Other**

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where they are staying
- Shares scripted or inconsistent stories
- Protects the person who may be hurting them or minimizes abuse

**If you believe sex trafficking is happening call 911 or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or send a text to 233733.**

**[www.SafeHavenofAshland.org](http://www.SafeHavenofAshland.org)**

**Follow us at RCDVSafeHaven**   

*This publication was supported by Rape Crisis Trust Fund Grant 2019RCC02 awarded by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are of those author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.*