

Identifying a Trafficked Child

You can save a life!

They Take, Tame & Train

Be Aware, Be Very Aware

The USA is one of the three worst countries in the world for child rape trafficking. The average child being raped & trafficked in the USA is 12 years old. She, or he, could be as young as a toddler or as old as a high school senior.

They could've been kidnapped or run away from home. They could've come from a perfectly fine family, given something at a party that made them wild, then warned their crazy pictures would be blasted all over the internet if *"you don't come with me right now."* Family members are often threatened. They could've been in need and tempted by money, food, clothing, or a safe place to sleep. Maybe they weren't desperate but promised \$500 for a *"modeling shoot"* because they were *"so beautiful that they should be on magazine covers."* They suddenly dream of being famous.

Once the child realizes they are being taken and used, they are upset but this does not last long. Traffickers cultivate relationships with victims providing them with a false sense of trust. After engaging the child in prostitution, they use physical, emotional, and psychological abuse to keep the child trapped in prostitution. Traffickers isolate victims by moving them away from friends & family, altering their physical appearance, and moving location to location. Victims are conditioned to remain loyal to their trafficker and to distrust authorities. This is called "trauma bonding."

They are old enough to speak for themselves but they don't. They are with an adult who is controlling. They are rushed away when you try to talk to them. They only have a few personal belongings and lack impulse control. Sleep deprivation is especially common.

It's called *"child rape"* because an adult cannot just *"have sex"* with a child.

44% of trafficked children are done so by their own parent, guardian, or family member.



The Look

They are often dressed in provocative clothing. If they've been battered, they will dress in warm clothing to cover up even if it's summer.

Having a lot of cash, jewelry, or other expensive things for a minor is not uncommon. They avoid eye contact and often appear scared, nervous or anxious.

They are usually branded with tattoos somewhere visible. It could be a bar code, a gang symbol, or a homemade branding with a scorching hot metal clothes hanger.

If you see them in their home they might have bars on their windows or a padlock latch on their door. Twitching, fidgeting, nail biting, picking at skin and pulling of hair are typical traits.