

# Red Flags and Indicators

## Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEC)

### RELATIONSHIPS & POTENTIAL GROOMING

- Spending time with older teens or adults
- Romantic or sexual involvement with older teens or adults
- Messages or calls from older adults
- In-person meeting with person(s) met online
- Access to unaccounted for goods: money, clothing, cell phones, beauty products/routines
- Access to hormone injections that are unaccounted for or that youth can't afford
- Carrying weapons or drugs for "boyfriend"

### PHYSICAL

- Multiple STIs
- Signs of physical assault, sexual assault, or injury
- Multiple pregnancies or terminated pregnancies
- Tattoos or branding
- Drastic change in appearance
- Substance abuse or addiction

## Labor Trafficking\*

- Works excessively long or unusual hours
- Is unable to take breaks or time off
- Has unusual restrictions at work
- Was recruited under false promises of nature/condition of job
- Is not paid, is paid very little, or pay is withheld by employer
- Has been physically/sexually abused by employer
- Individual or youth is not able to leave their job
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off

### BEHAVIORS

- History of running away and/or truancy
- Use of slang related to CSEC
- Inappropriate technology use: communication & posting online
- Reporting false name or age
- Spending time in areas known for prostitution (hotels, addresses, streets)
- Travel out-of-state
- Gang-involvement

### EMOTIONAL

- Drastic behavior change
- Trauma response: exhaustion, hypervigilance, fear, etc.
- Distrust of adults
- Mixed emotions re: exploiter
- Increase in MH symptoms, distress

\*FYSB Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center



**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**  
*of suffolk county*

