Can You Tell if Someone is Trying to Traffick You?

Learning to recognize deception quickly is the best way to stay safe.

The words L.I.A.R.S. and P.O.S.E.R.S. are acronym words with each letter standing for a Red Flag of Deception. L.I.A.R.S. are the first letters of red flags of deception one would recognize in face-to-face encounters with a predator. P.O.S.E.R.S. are the first letters of red flags of deception used when encountering a predator on-line, such as with social media or in chat apps.

**Face-to-Face Red Flags**
- **Location** - Come with me or meet me at some other place.
- **Incredible Offer** - Works for a modeling agency or reality TV show.
- **Age Difference** - In the real world, people your age don’t hang with people my age.
- **Relationship** - Fake love is a common way to deceive victims.
- **Stranger** - This person is outside my circle of friends.

**Online Red Flags of Deception**
- **Prying** - Being too nosey about my life.
- **Open Book** - Getting me to reveal too much of my private life.
- **Strangers** - None of my friends knows this person directly.
- **Encounter** - Eventually wants to meet.
- **Relationship** - Tries to create a “love” relationship entirely online.
- **Shared Interests** - Creates a “closeness” by liking all the same things I do.

**The 3 Types of Lies**
- **Fake Job**
- **Fake Friendship**
- **Fake Romance**

Talk to the children in your life about trafficking. The single highest risk factor is also the easiest to solve. Traffickers rely heavily on finding unsuspecting targets. Every child in America that hasn’t been empowered with this information has a higher risk of being trafficked. Use this informational document to get you started. Start the conversation today.

**Ratio: 10 to 1 American victims to International in the U.S.**

Primary Target: 12-14 Yr. old Amer. girl

Avg # Victims: 275 Day

Ave. Life Span: 7.5 Yrs

Rescue Rate: ½ of 1 %

©Freedom Youth Project Foundation All Rights Reserved Worldwide
The 4 Worst Choices Teens Can Make

CHOICES... either empower or entrap you.

All trafficking begins with deception. The best way to prevent someone from being a victim is to teach them to recognize deception when it happens face-to-face and online.

Social media and chat apps have created risk for all target-age (10-22) youth.

Victims Are A New Victim

Female  80%  20% Male

every 5 Min in the U.S.

1. Become a Runaway

Growing up has its challenges, but hitting the streets never makes anything better or safer. Within 48 hours a runaway is approached. Traffickers usually approach youth disguised as someone there to help them. Teens who run away haven’t thought through the fact that they don’t have the ability to feed, clothe, and house themselves. Youth become dependent on others to supply their needs. The only type of people willing to supply these needs are people who are looking to use them. Even skipping school makes you an easier target. Traffickers specifically seek out “unaccompanied minors” because they are easier to manipulate into a situation where the trafficker is in total “control.”

2. Not Recognize Fake Love

It could look like love, feel like love, but if things don’t add up, it’s not love. Predators know that if they make you feel like it’s love, then they can get your trust to do something like start a “life together.” That’s how they lure people to secretly leave town. They may tell you they have a place in another city, “where we can make a home,” or there’s a family business. Because for them it’s fake love, none of what they tell you is true. Getting you to feel like it’s love is also a way they can get away with doing things you won’t like. Real love doesn’t involve asking you to do things that make you feel uncomfortable. Conditional love is a perfect example of a red flag that youth need to be taught to recognize. Any individual who says “You don’t love me unless you ...” is putting a condition on love.

3. Secret Relationships

Secret friendships and secret meetings protect the trafficker and endanger you. Secrecy is a sign of extreme danger to you. A trafficker will use this secret friendship as a way to deceive, manipulate, and put you in a situation so that if you go missing, your family will have no idea where to even start searching. Anyone who asks you to keep your friendship or relationship secret should result in an alert for you and immediate red flag that this person could be dangerous to you. This is true if the person is a peer or an adult. Multiply the danger by 10 if your friendship is entirely online and you haven’t actually met this person. The fake friendship period involves breaking down beliefs about what is normal to lure youth into sex trafficking. A predator can be male or female and can be one of your very own classmates.

4. Risky Online Behavior

Entirely online relationships are dangerous! Connecting with people you have never met gives predators a chance to become your fake-friends or fake boyfriends/girlfriends much faster than in-person relationships. This is mainly because our social profiles provide all the information a predator needs to know to accelerate a relationship. They will bond with you by pretending to like the same song, group, sport, team, book or movie. Once you are involved emotionally, they have the ability to influence you. Social media is filled with thousands of adults with fake profiles posing as youth. People often mistakenly trust someone they have never met. Once that happens, getting someone to meet in person is easy. Be wary of friend requests from someone you don’t know and who just happens to be friends with someone you do know. Friend-of-friend requests are dangerous.