



Thursday, October 31, 2013

About Human Trafficking – Newsletter #10

Some human trafficking victims don't view themselves as victims. This may be due to feelings of shame, guilt, or humiliation. If they were thrown out of their home and have nowhere to turn, some youth may be afraid of being jailed or deported. Others fear their family won't accept them anymore. Yet others may think they're responsible for what happened to them.

Carefully choose your words when first speaking with a young victim. Avoid using terms like "victim", "prostitute", "promiscuous" or "delinquent". One expert recommends mirroring the youth's language. If the youth calls their trafficker/pimp "boyfriend", you should, too.



Within 48 hours of running away, a young person is likely to be solicited for prostitution or another form of commercial sexual exploitation.

Trafficking victims often need basic medical and dental care. Traffickers often restrict access to food and water as a means to control the youth, so they'll likely be malnourished or dehydrated. They may be exhausted from meeting their trafficker's quota. The youth may need clothes, shoes and personal hygiene items. One therapist describes meeting the youth's immediate needs as "caring for the victim here and now".

If a youth is rescued by law enforcement, the youth's self-perception may be turned upside down by law enforcement officers and social service workers. The first 24 to 72 hours may be a critical period for the youth, requiring involvement of trauma-informed practitioners associated with a multidisciplinary team.

If you're on a team talking with a victim, it may be useful to have materials about trafficking in plain view – posters or books – to non-verbally communicate that you

New Jersey Department
of Children and Families
20 W. State St.
Trenton, NJ

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Allison Blake, PhD, LSW
Commissioner

[Home](#)

[Families](#)

[Adolescents](#)

[Women](#)

[Providers & Stakeholders](#)

[Advocacy](#)

understand what the youth may have experienced.

Resources for more information:

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth

<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/bought-and-sold/what-victims-sexual-exploitation-need>

The California Child Welfare Council's *Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California* is extensive publication. Page 72 includes a list of "Dos and Don'ts" for engaging a youth in an interview.

http://www.youthlaw.org/fileadmin/ncyl/youthlaw/publications/Ending-CSEC-A-Call-for-Multi-System_Collaboration-in-CA.pdf

Free posters, booklets and other human trafficking material from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/rescue-campaign>