

CSEC Indicators

Frequently AWOL, sneaking out, unable or unwilling to provide home address

Romantic involvement with older teens or adults, or gang affiliation

Tattoos (branding) \$\$\$, "loyalty," a crown, "daddy," pimp name, gang name/sign

Chronically tardy or truant, sudden decline in grades, falling asleep in class, inability to concentrate

Atypical promiscuity, sexually provocative clothing or clothing unfit for weather conditions

Excess amounts of cash, pre-paid credit cards, hotel key cards, condoms, lubricant

Multiple cell phones, material possessions youth cannot afford, elaborate acrylic nails, fake ID

Change in demeanor or behavior, hypo/hyper-arousal, withdrawal from friends and family

Gives scripted or defensive answers, especially regarding their "boyfriend"

Taking/sending provocative photos or visiting websites known for selling sex

Multiple visits to the ER, STIs, bladder infections, pregnancies, or terminated pregnancies

Use of lingo from "the life" (Daddy, Wifey, King, Trick/Date, Stable, Quota, Blade, Izm)

"PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP
SOMETIMES LOOK A LOT LIKE
PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT HELP."



Trauma-Informed Engagement

- Hungry? Thirsty? Cold? Tired? Meet basic needs first.
- Have patience while building rapport. It takes time and consistency to show you can be trusted.
- Avoid making promises, and if you do, always follow through.
- Only ask for necessary details to prevent further traumatizing them.
- Be aware of your tone, facial expressions and body language.
- Spend time getting to know them. Hopes? Dreams? Hobbies? Interests?
- Re-victimization is a part of the CSEC recovery process. Welcome youth back with open arms.
- Use supportive language that reaffirms they're safe, not to blame & that you care about them and believe in them.
- Be consistent with your expectations, boundaries, and communication.
- Respect their physical boundaries.
- Hold youth accountable while expressing empathy & compassion.
- Focus on their strengths to create an environment that emphasizes positive change. Help youth construct a vision of their desired future.
- Set realistic & achievable goals WITH the youth.
- Redefine success for each child.
- Never miss an opportunity to highlight/praise their successes.
- Set realistic expectations for all interactions. Their trauma may cause them to forget details, be uncooperative, or defensive. Be proactive, not reactive.
- The smallest moments can have the largest impact- give a hug, call between visits, remember important dates and events in their life.