



### **SIGNS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

- Serious changes in behavior – children once open about friends and activities are now hostile, secretive, defensive about what they are doing and who they are spending time with.
- Going out in clothes that are 'too old for them' or that they have borrowed from older young women.
- Going places that you know they cannot afford.
- Coming home with expensive gifts such as mobile phones, jewelry – even drugs – and not being able to explain how they came by them.
- Frequently staying out late, without explaining why.
- Repeated truanting, missing from home regularly or for unusually long periods of time.
- Being found in areas where they have no reason to be or coming home after days or nights away, looking well-cared for even though they have had nowhere to stay.
- Getting into trouble with the police, committing crimes.
- Bruises, marks on the body, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse or self-harm.
- Repeated phone calls, letters, emails from adults outside family social circle.
- Strangers hanging about outside your home.
- Young people getting into cars with unknown adults.
- Associating with other young people known to be victims of sexual exploitation.
- Friends at school express concern for them.
- Agencies expressing concern them.
- Young people may try to tell you about their situation but not be able to.

***Source: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)***

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