Abuse Prevention

Waller County Sheriff's Office

Family Violence - What are the signs?

Missing School: They often aren't at school or come in really late for no clear reason.

Bumps and Bruises: They might have cuts or bruises that they can't explain.

Feeling Different: They might seem really sad, worried, or even angry a lot of the time.

Not Wanting to Talk: They avoid talking about their home life or get nervous when you ask about it.

Putting Themselves Down: They might say mean things about themselves or seem to think they're not good enough.

Scared to Go Home: They might say they're scared or don't want to go home after school.

Being Controlled: They seem to be told what to do all the time by someone at home and don't have a say in things.

Feeling Stressed: They might have trouble focusing in class or complain about feeling sick a lot.

National Domestic Violence Hotline - Identifying Abuse

Family Violence - What can I do about it?

Talk to Them: If you feel safe, gently ask your friend how they're doing. Let them know you care and are there to listen.

Encourage Them to Share: Suggest that they talk to a trusted adult, like a teacher or counselor, who can help.

Be Supportive: Let them know that it's not their fault and that they deserve to feel safe and happy.

Don't Pressure Them: It's important to let them decide what to do. They may not be ready to talk or seek help right away.

Report Your Concerns: If you think they are in immediate danger, tell a trusted adult or report it to school staff so they can help.

Know the Resources: Familiarize yourself with local resources, like hotlines or shelters, that can provide support.

Keep It Confidential: Respect their privacy. Avoid sharing their situation with others unless it's necessary for their safety.

Prevention of Child Abuse - What are the signs?

Physical Abuse

- Unexplained injuries
- Fear of going home
- Flinching or avoiding physical contact

Emotional Abuse

- Extremes in Behavior
- Depression or Anxiety
- Low Self Esteem

Neglect

- Poor Hygiene
- Malnutrition
- Inadequate Clothing
- Being Left Alone or Unsupervised

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services - Recognize the Signs of Child Abuse

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE?

- **Ensure the child's immediate safety:** If you believe the child is in immediate danger, call emergency services (911 in the U.S.) to ensure the child's safety. The safety of the child should be your first priority
- Report the Abuse In the U.S., each state has a child abuse hotline. The **Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-CHILD)** is available 24/7 and can direct you to the appropriate local agencies
- DO NOT CONFRONT THE ABUSER

Support the Child

- **Listen carefully:** If the child confides in you, listen without judgment or disbelief. Children who are abused often fear they won't be believed. Let them know you believe them, and it's not their fault.
- **Don't interrogate the child:** Avoid asking leading questions or pressing for details. Your role is to listen and provide support, not to investigate. Allow the authorities to handle that part.
- **Offer reassurance:** Reassure the child that they did the right thing by talking to you and that you'll do what you can to help keep them safe.

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services - When and How to Report Child Abuse

Dating Violence- Who is a victim?

- Does your partner get jealous when you go out or talk with others?
- Does your partner frighten or intimidate you?
- Does your partner put you down, but then tell you he/she loves you?
- Does your partner try to impose restrictions on the way you dress or your appearance?
- Have you been held down, shoved, pushed, hit, kicked or had things thrown at you by your partner?
- Are you afraid to break up with your partner because of fear for your personal safety?
- Has your partner forced or intimated you into having sex?
- If you answered yes to any of these questions you may be a victim of domestic or dating violence.

Love is Respect - Warning Signs of Abuse

Dating Violence - What can I do? How can I get help?

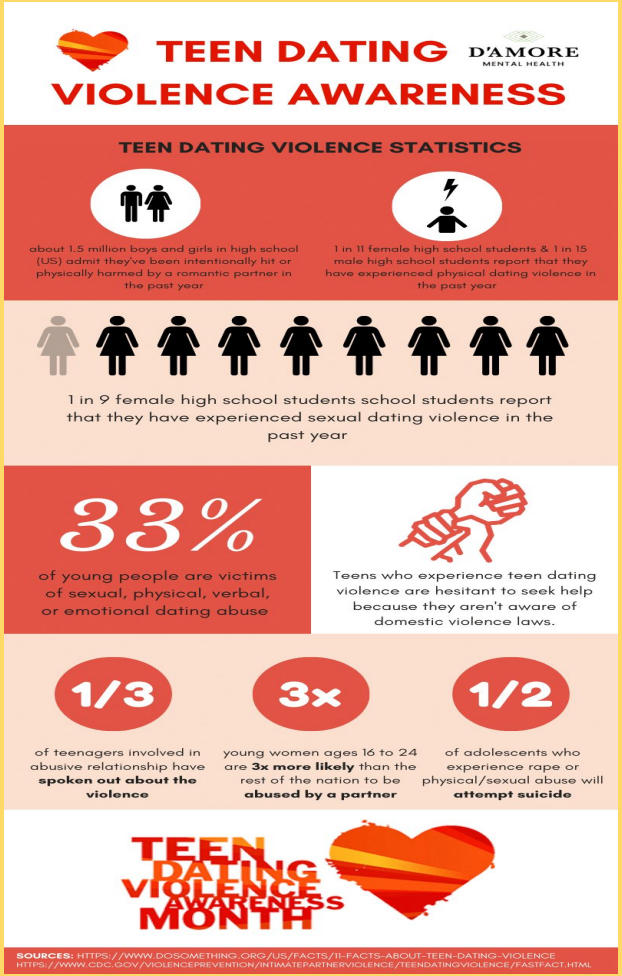
Acknowledge your friend is in a difficult and scary situation – Let your friend know she/he is not alone.

Be supportive – Listen and be available. Remember it may be difficult for your friend to talk about the abuse.

Be non-judgmental – Respect your friend's decisions. There are many reasons why victims stay in abusive relationships. Do not criticize the choice to stay.

Don't be afraid to show you are concerned – Describe what you see is going on and that you want to help. Let your friend know she/he deserves a healthy, nonviolent relationship.

If your friend breaks up with the abuser, continue to be supportive – Your friend may feel sad or lonely and be tempted to return to the abuser.



SEX TRAFFICKING: HOW IT HAPPENS

LURING

Establishing a connection, in person or online, with the intent of developing a relationship for the purpose of exploitation.

GROOMING

Identifying and fulfilling the needs and dreams of the individual, for example by showering them with gifts.

ISOLATION

Creating distance between the individual and their loved ones.

MANIPULATION & COERCION

Sending mixed messages, making claims like 'you owe me' or making threats to cause the individual to feel their only option is to participate in commercial sex acts.

EXPLOITATION

Ensuring ongoing participation in commercial sexual acts while taking away their earnings.

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline

1.833.900.1010

canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca

What are some red flags that could alert you to a potential sex trafficking situation?

- Person seems overly fearful, submissive, tense, or paranoid.
- Person is deferring to another person before giving information.
- Person has physical injuries or branding such as name tattoos on face or chest, tattoos about money and sex, or pimp phrases.
- Clothing is inappropriately sexual or inappropriate for weather.
- Minor is unaccompanied at night or falters in giving an explanation of who they are with and what they are doing.
- Identification documents are held by another.
- Person works long or excessive hours or is always available “on demand.”
- Overly sexual for age or situation.
- Multiple phones or social media accounts.
- Signs of unusual wealth without explanation—new jewelry, shoes, phones without any known form of income.

Attorney General of Texas - Red Flags for Sex Trafficking

What To Do If You Suspect Sex Trafficking?

It is important to know what to do if you suspect you have encountered a trafficking situation. If you see something suspicious, please report it. Include detailed information if you have it, including descriptions of who or what you observed. If you can safely take pictures or note license plate numbers, this can be helpful. Call quickly after the encounter, so that law enforcement can take action if appropriate.

Most importantly, do not interfere or intervene yourself. Traffickers are dangerous. Law enforcement needs to respond, not individuals.

Call 911

If the situation is an emergency or you believe someone is in immediate danger, you should first call 911 and alert the police. Tell them if you think it might be human trafficking.

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline

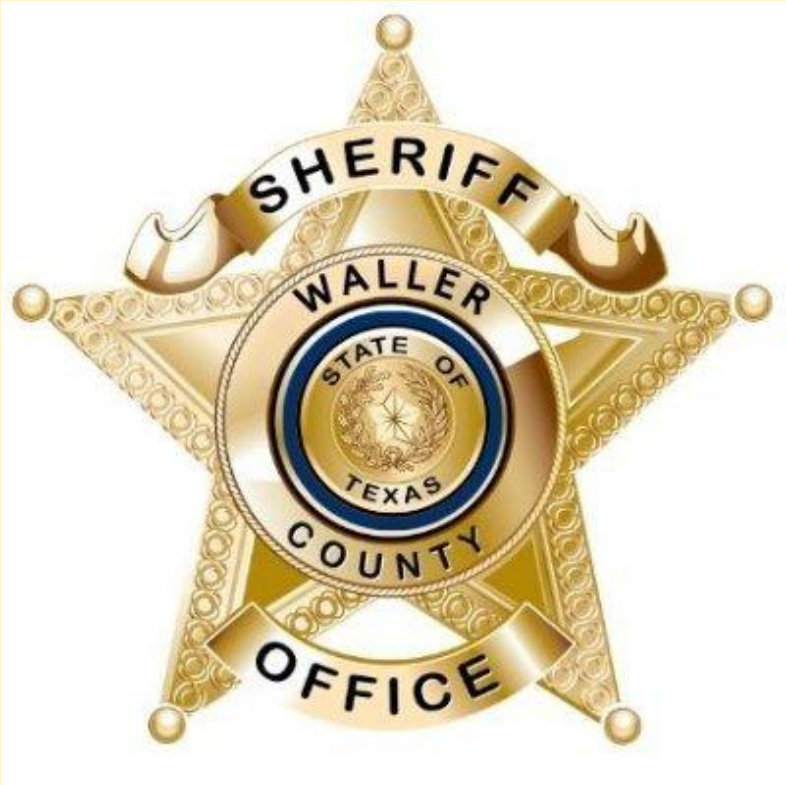
Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888, or text “Help” to 233722 or text “Info” to 233722.

Contact the Texas Attorney General, Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section

Email: humantrafficking@oag.texas.gov

Attorney General of Texas - How to Report Sex Trafficking

Resources



Waller County Sheriff's Office 979-826-8282

Waller County Crime Stoppers 979-826-8266

Crime Stoppers of Houston 713-222-TIPS

Houston Area Women's Center 713-528-6798

Domestic Violence Hotline 713-528-2121

Sexual Assault Hotline 713-528-7273

Texas Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400

National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 or text "START" to 88788

Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Resources for Survivors Link

Human Trafficking Section of Ken Paxton Attorney General of Texas Link

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Website

Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline 1-800-252-5400

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline 1-866-331-9474 or text " loveis" to 22522

StrongHearts Native Helpline 1-844-762-8483