



## Wisconsin Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Indicator and Response Guide



The Wisconsin Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Indicator and Response Guide should be consulted if you have concerns that a child or youth you have contact with is being sexually trafficked or exploited. Review the indicators in this guide and follow the directions for the appropriate response. This indicator and response guide also alerts the reader to indicators or potential red flags that should continue to be monitored.

**Mandated Reporters** are required to report suspected abuse or neglect of any child, including those that you may learn about through discussions with the child of concern ([s.48.981\(2\) Wis. Stat.](#)).

Sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are both forms of child abuse, even if the perpetrator is unrelated to the child. Although sex trafficking and sexual exploitation share similar elements, they have distinct differences, as noted below:

**Sex Trafficking of a Child** involves another person benefitting from forcing, defrauding, or coercing a child into a commercial sex act with another person ([s.948.051 Wis. Stat.](#)).

**Sexual Exploitation of a Child** involves forcing, defrauding, or coercing a child to engage in a sexually explicit way for the purposes of recording, displaying, and/or distributing the recording ([s.948.05 Wis. Stat.](#)).

### Please review each level of risk

#### At-Risk

- ☐ Travel out of the area/to somewhere out of the ordinary or unusual for the child without caregiver permission and/or knowledge
- ☐ Child has a history of school truancy
- ☐ Child has a history of physical or sexual abuse
- ☐ Child has family/friends who have been or are currently involved in the commercial sex industry (e.g., sex worker, exotic dancing, pornography)
- ☐ Reports by child or adults that the child has a history of multiple sexual partners (known or unknown)
- ☐ Child has possession of money, electronics, or other material items that are unexplained, unusual, or out of the ordinary for that child (e.g., nails, hair, clothing, shoes)
- ☐ Child has sexually explicit pictures of themselves that may or may not be on the internet
- ☐ Child has an older boyfriend/girlfriend/partner, or is unwilling to provide information about the sex partner
- ☐ Child has a history of sexually transmitted infections and/or pregnancies
- ☐ Gang affiliation is reported, confirmed, or suspected

#### High Risk if you have checked YES to one or more of the following:

- ☐ **Three or more of the "At-Risk" factors have been checked**
- ☐ Child has a history of being missing/runaway/kicked out 2 or more times within the last 6 months (caregiver doesn't know where/who child is with)
- ☐ Confirmed or reported use of hotels for parties or sexual encounters
- ☐ Child has unexplained injuries
- ☐ Child has unusual, unexplained, or out of the ordinary tattoos

#### Confirmed if you have checked YES to one or more of the following:

- ☐ Child reported "consensual" participation in a sexual act in exchange for food, shelter, transportation, drugs, alcohol, money, status, or other items of value
- ☐ Child reported being forced or coerced into sexual activity for the monetary benefit of another person
- ☐ Law enforcement confirmed through an investigation that the child has been trafficked or engaged in any commercial, sexually-exploitative activity

1 or more High Risk items selected

1 or more Confirmed items selected

Fewer than 3 At-Risk items selected  
**AND** no High Risk or Confirmed items selected

3 or more At-Risk items selected

**REPORT** to the local Child Protective Services Agency or Local Law Enforcement if you have 3 or more At-Risk items **OR** 1 or more boxes checked in the High Risk or Confirmed sections. The agency will determine next steps. You can find contact information for the local agency on the backside of this page or at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/reportabuse>

Continue to **MONITOR** the child.  
**REFER** to the DCF Anti-Human Trafficking website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/aht> or the DOJ Human Trafficking website: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs/human-trafficking> for more information.