

## **Questions to ask when identifying Sexual Exploitation/ Trafficking**

**When initially coming into contact with a youth you think may be sexually exploited or sex trafficked focus on emotional abuse dynamics initially. A lot of the time these youth and/or adults will be unidentified or misidentified because they will not identify themselves as being exploited.**

### **1. Do you feel safe?**

## **Questions when working with runaway/homeless youth**

- Have you ever left home without parent/guardian knowledge? Why?
- How long have you been away from home?
- What are some of the ways you take care of yourself well away from home?
- Do you need money when you are away from home? How do you make money? Do you ever feel like you have to do things that make you uncomfortable in order to get what you need?
- Who have you been staying with?
- How have you been getting access to food/transportation? Do you ever feel like you have to do things that makes you feel comfortable in order to get what you need?
- Do you drink or do drugs? If so, how are you getting access /paying for this?
- Has anyone hurt you or tried to hurt you while you have been away from home?
- Have you ever done any traveling since being away from home? Who were you with? Good parts? Bad parts?

## **Questions to ask about a possibly unsafe relationship**

- Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend? Partner?
- What are some of the things that person does to show they care for you? Do they currently show that same affection for you?
- What are some things about the relationship you don't like?
- How did you meet this person? (online big risk, mall ,park ,friend)
- How old is he/she?
- Does (your partner) let you "hang out" with your family or friends? Or are they constantly checking up on you when you're not together?
- Has (your partner) ever hurt you physically or forced you to do something sexually that you didn't want to do?

**Direct questions should only be used when rapport is built, these questions should not be read verbatim. Document if any of this information is disclosed but do not ask directly early in the process.**

- Is anyone forcing you to do something you don't want to do?
- Have you ever done sexual acts in exchange for a place to stay, food, diapers or other necessities?
- Have you ever done sexual acts in exchange for money, drugs, alcohol, jewelry or something else of value?
- Has anyone ever used threats, force, pressure, manipulation, a sad story, or other tricks to get you to perform some kind of sexual activity (including dancing, stripping, sexual contact, pornography etc.) so that they could get something they wanted or needed?
- Do you know anyone who has or may be at risk for exchanging sexual acts to meet basic needs? Do you exchange sexual favors to meet your needs?

**Indicator youth are highly at risk; we will also be serving at risk youth, this definition is according to our discretion**

- 3 or more incidents of running
- History of sexual child abuse
- Peer to peer relationships w/ other exploited youth, or family member
- Internet Safety

\*There are several more ways youth can be at risk for being sexually exploited, it is our discretion as an agency to decide if ongoing case management services should be offered. This is something our team should continue to discuss as we get involved with youth cases. Other examples include gang affiliation, low self-esteem, or dating older men.

### **Identification/Risk Factors**

- Evidence of controlling dominant relationship (repeated phone calls, always displeasing partner)
- Express Interest in Older men or in a relationship with older man
- Fear/Anxiety/Hyper Vigilance
- Not in control of their own money
- Use slang such as “the life” “daddy” “track” “johns” “square”
- Vagueness about whereabouts, working late nights, unusual hours
- Tattoo she won’t explain (on neck or hand)
- Explicit online profile
- Truancy, homeless, living in group home
- Changes in age or other identification factors when telling stories