

# INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING & SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**SAVIS**  
of Halton  
Sexual Assault & Violence  
Intervention Services | No Names  
No Judgement  
Just Support

**HCAHT**  
Halton Collaborative Against  
Human Trafficking

## A PERSON BEING TRAFFICKED MAY:

- [ ] Be unaware of local surroundings; may claim to be 'just visiting'
- [ ] Show evidence of control, intimidation or abnormal psychological fear; excessive concern about displeasing partner; may have strict rules they have to follow that seem unreasonable
- [ ] Be frequently accompanied by their trafficker; they aren't allowed to move freely, or must regularly 'check in'
- [ ] Have tattoos that act as 'branding' from the trafficker
- [ ] Be dressed in inappropriate clothing for the context or the weather
- [ ] Be unable to speak for themselves; an accompanying person speaks or translates for them
- [ ] Uses slang terms and lingo from within the sex work subculture (telly, THOT, daddy/pimp, bottom, etc.)
- [ ] Suddenly have expensive clothes, purses, shoes, hair and nail services, etc., that are outside of their own financial reach
- [ ] Not be permitted access to a phone (or alternatively, they may have 2-3 cellphones used for contact with clients and trafficker)
- [ ] Have their ID and money held by someone else
- [ ] Not be allowed to hang out with friends or family; may not be allowed to contact them at all
- [ ] Have bruises or show other signs of abuse or malnourishment; denial of basic needs
- [ ] Have experienced acts of violence or threats against themselves/friends/family/pets (or threat of informing others of their activities) – they may be punished for discussing their activities with outsiders
- [ ] Be forced to, or encouraged to, engage in other criminal activities (taking and selling drugs, recruiting other girls)
- [ ] Be taught to distrust outsiders, especially law enforcement. They have a sense of fear and distrust toward the government and police (i.e. fear of deportation in international cases)
- [ ] Be unlikely to self-identify as a trafficked person or may feel a dependency on their trafficker;
- [ ] Feel that they have to 'pay back' someone for 'debt' - gifts, clothes, drugs, money, accommodations, etc.
- [ ] Have been given false promises – they're told one story, but then the conditions quickly change or they're forced to provide sexual services that they didn't agree to
- [ ] Indicate that they are an independent sex worker, but that they have a nightly 'quota' they have to meet, or a manager/'daddy'/'pimp'
- [ ] Have their money withheld for their independent sex work, or they are forced to accept less money, drugs or other services in return for their sex work that they didn't agree to

**Note:** these indicators do not prove that an individual has been trafficked or sexually exploited, but are signs of potential trafficking or recruitment. It is also not your responsibility to identify 100% that a person is being trafficked. If you suspect an individual is at risk and needs help, refer them to the resources on the back of this page to help them access the services they may want in order to exit a situation of exploitation.

(Sources: Halton Regional Police Services, Elizabeth Fry Society, Walk With Me (Timea Nagy), Roos-Remillard Consulting Services, Canadian Council for Refugees, Waterloo Region Anti-Trafficking Coalition)

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU WITNESS OR SUSPECT TRAFFICKING OR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

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## REPORTING TO POLICE:

*\*Note: individuals can choose not to consent to police involvement (if they are over 16 years of age).*

**Halton Regional Police Services**  
905-825-4777 and  
Ask for on-duty VICE Unit Officer

**Crimestoppers (Anonymous Crime Reporting)**  
1-800-222-TIPS

## CRISIS SUPPORT OR COUNSELLING:

**SAVIS of Halton 24/7 Crisis Line**  
905-875-1555

**Distress Centre Halton**  
905-849-4541

**COAST (Mental Health Support)**  
1-877-825-9011

## PEER ACCOMPANIMENT OR MOBILE SUPPORT WORKERS:

**SAVIS of Halton**  
905-825-3622

**Elizabeth Fry Society  
of Peel-Halton**  
905-459-1315

**YMCA**  
(Youth in Transition Worker)  
905-526-8452

## EMERGENCY SHELTER OR PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE:

**Halton Women's Place**  
905-878-8555 (North)  
or 905-332-7892 (South)

**Salvation Army Lighthouse**  
905-339-2918

**Victim Services**  
905-825-4810

## HEALTH CARE SUPPORT (or if they've been sexually assaulted or physically abused):

**Any Hospital  
Emergency Room**

**Nina's Place**  
905-336-4116

**Public Health**  
905-825-6000  
(Ask for nearest location)

## SUPPORT FOR THOSE UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE, OR WHO HAVE DEPENDENTS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE:

**Halton Children's Aid Society**  
905-333-4441

**Halton Regional Police Services**  
905-825-4777 and  
Ask for on-duty VICE Unit Officer

*For interpretation services, please contact HMC Connections (905-842-2486) or MCIS Language Solutions (416-467-3087).  
To learn more about Human Trafficking in Halton, visit [www.savisofhalton.org/human-trafficking](http://www.savisofhalton.org/human-trafficking) or call 905-825-3622.*