

A Message to Parents: Tip to help keep your children and teens safe from human traffickers

- 1. Know who their friends are.** Your child may be friends with someone who is involved in a sex trafficking ring. Watch your child's friends closely. If you do not know who they are...find out! Middle school children are the prime target for human trafficking, so get involved in your child's school so that you know who is who.
- 2. Remind your child and teen to keep their Facebook pages and any social media profile pages private.** Predators use social media sites to find girls and boys they want to traffic.
- 3. Keep your child busy with healthy extracurricular activities that they enjoy.** Pimps and predators surf malls, parking lots, fast food restaurant parking lots and quick stop gas stations to find their next victims. They are recruiting kids where there is little adult supervision. Getting your kids involved in organized and supervised after school programs is the best prevention method. If your child is telling you they are going to "hang out", ask questions and check in with them frequently.
- 4. Educate your child about human trafficking.** It is a reality in our world and inform them of the forms of human trafficking, the reality of the dangers in our own community, typical recruitment methods, the red flags of human trafficking, and that recruiters can be male, female, strangers, or acquaintances. One of the main things for your child to know is that the pimp or predator will more than likely call them by name over to the car. They have usually found them on Facebook or through conducting some research. Tell your child to never walk over to a car that they do not know. Having said this, it is not uncommon for you and your child to know the pimp/predator. When your child heads out for the night, ask them who their safety buddy will be, and tell your child/teen to stick with this person.
- 5. Look into a GPS device for your child.** Many professionals recommend the [Amber Alert GPS system](#). The software can be added to a smart phone or can be a small device that your child keeps in a pant or coat pocket.
- 6. If you have suspicions, comb your child's computer, cell phones, iPads or any digital devices and their bedrooms looking for clues.** If you have a hunch that something is going on with your child that could put them in danger, your hunches are probably right. Cell phones, computer, and other mobile devices are privileges, not rights. Don't let your child make you feel guilty for keeping them safe. You are their parent...not their best friend. While you may also be a great friend, as a parent, it is your responsibility to keep your child safe.

Learn more: www.endhumantrafficking.org