

The background of the slide is a photograph of a person's hand tightly gripping a dark, rusty metal chain. The person's face is blurred in the background, looking towards the camera. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is somber and serious.

4 SIGNS SOMEONE IS BEING GROOMED FOR TRAFFICKING

RED FLAGS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHAT IS GROOMING?

Simply put, grooming is the process a human trafficker uses to identify and ultimately control someone for the purpose of trafficking them.



Traffickers typically **identify** someone who is vulnerable and has a need.

They initially come across as friendly and attentive, but that is a tactic to **gain their trust**, learn more about them, and uncover their vulnerabilities.

They **fill** the victim's needs by showering them with affection, attention, gifts, and false promises - anything to hook them.

They **isolate** the victim and then the **abuse** begins. Traffickers demand sex as repayment and will use fraud, force or coercion to assert **control** over the victim.



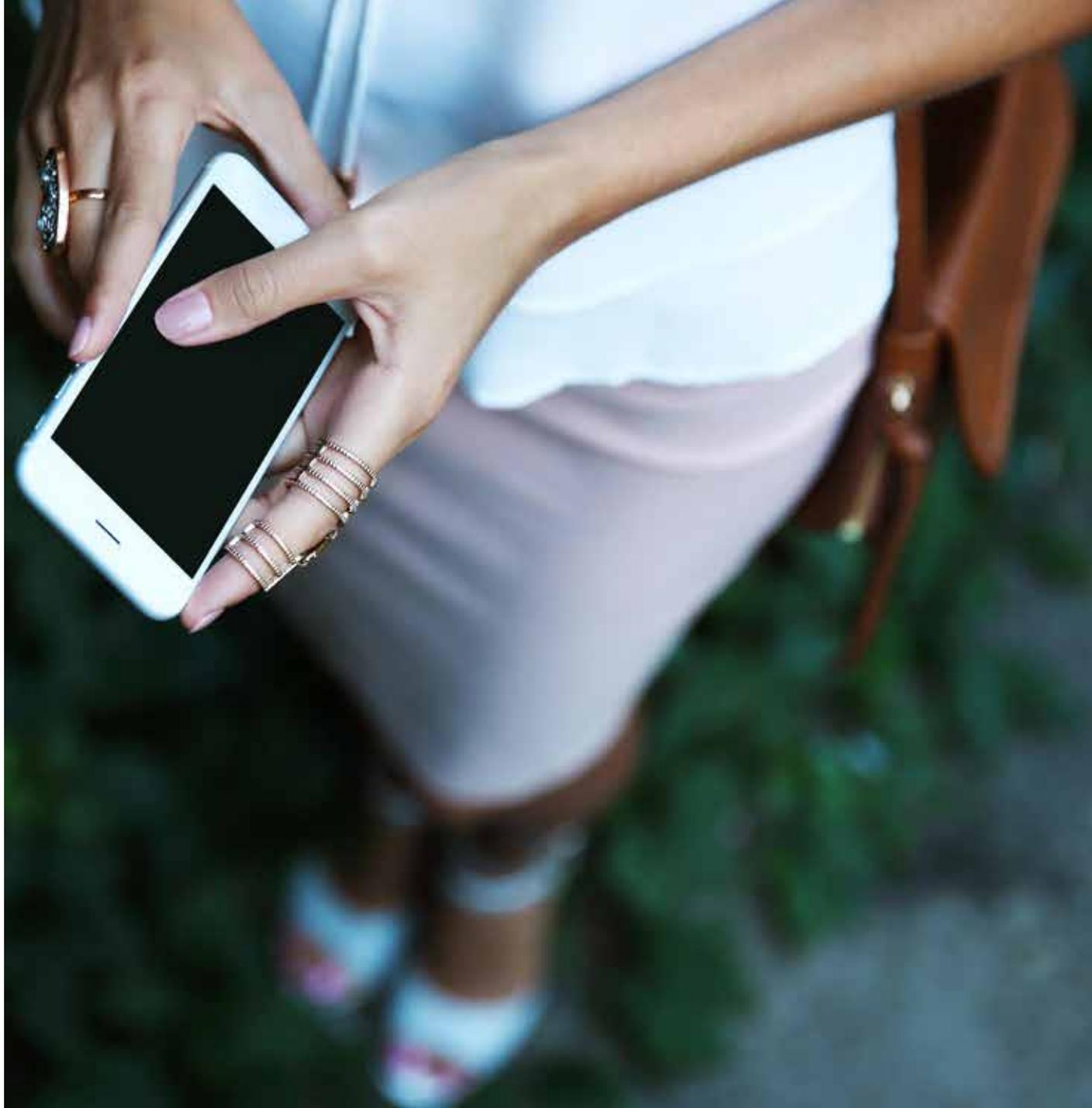
HERE ARE FOUR IMPORTANT
SIGNS THAT SOMEONE YOU MAY
KNOW IS BEING GROOMED FOR
TRAFFICKING.

1. NEW THINGS

Traffickers target vulnerabilities and play on a person's need for value, approval and love. They often play the role of dashing romantic or nurturing father while showering the victim with gifts and signs of affection in order to win them over.

The trafficker sees purchases of expensive gifts like purses, cell phones and fancy meals as an investment in their product, and they will later use these "gifts" as leverage while demanding sex as repayment.

Watch out for unusually expensive or out-of-place gifts that are not from parents or normal providers—these could be a sign of grooming.





2. CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDE

Very noticeable changes in a person's behavior or attitude could be a sign of grooming. And while teenage moodiness is not unusual, pay close attention if a young person's attitude drastically changes for no apparent reason.

Dig deeper to find out the root causes of these changes by considering questions like: Is the behavior change related to schoolwork? Is there drama with a friend? Is he or she being bullied? Did the change take place after new influences became involved?

3. NEW FRIENDS

Traffickers often connect with potential victims through social media or by “accidentally” running into them in seemingly safe spaces like church or community events. Once an initial relationship is established, the trafficker will often separate potential victims from those who are important to them in order to gain control. When this happens, you may see a change in friend groups as the victim pulls away from positive role models and people they are familiar with.

Once a victim has been led into altering their friend group, the trafficker often forces him or her to recruit other people by befriending new potential victims in a similar manner. The trafficked victim may brag about how wonderful their trafficker is (often referring to them as an older brother, an uncle or a boss) and may invite potential victims to parties where the trafficker is introduced.

Watch out for changes in behavior and/or friend groups when someone new comes into a young person’s life, as it may be a sign of grooming.





4. DISCONNECTING

In addition to separating victims from people they love, traffickers will coerce them into giving up the things they enjoy doing, too. The trafficker's goal is to isolate victims from everything he or she is familiar with in order to exert total control and become the one thing the victim is dependent on and loves.

If a young person suddenly disengages from things he/she used to love doing, like hobbies, after school activities, friend groups, etc, it could be a sign of grooming.

WHAT DO I
DO IF I SEE
THESE WARNING
SIGNS IN
SOMEONE
I KNOW?

CALL
THE NATIONAL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

888-373-7888

Speak with a trained and experienced
Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocate to learn
about the options and resources that are
available.

24 Hours a Day • Confidential • Toll-Free Hotline



VICTIMS ARE AROUND US.
LEARN HOW TO RECOGNIZE RED FLAGS AND TAKE ACTION.

TAKE THE RED FLAGS ONLINE TRAINING

LEARN MORE

