Identification of CSEC Youth

This list includes some red flags for social workers and service providers to look for when trying to identify if a youth may be a victim of CSEC. The presence of these indicators alone does not definitively mean that the child is a trafficking victim. However, a youth who displays multiple indicators on the list requires further assessment to make a determination as to if they have been a victim of CSEC.

- Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- Excess amount of cash in their possession (may be reluctant to explain its source)
- Hotel keys and key cards
- Lying about age/false ID
- Inconsistencies when describing and recounting events
- Unable or unwilling to give local address or information about parent(s)/guardian
- Presence or fear of another person (often an older male or boyfriend who seems controlling)
- High number of reported sexual partners at a young age
- Sexually explicit profiles on social networking sites
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse (that they may be reluctant to explain)
- Inability or fear of social interaction
- Demeanor exhibiting fear, anxiety, depression, submissiveness, tenseness, nervousness
- Is not enrolled in school or repeated absence from school
- Does not consider self a victim
- Loyalty to positive feelings toward pimp/trafficker
- May try to protect pimp/trafficker from authorities
- Prepaid cell phones/Prepaid cash cards
- Tattoos or branding of Traffickers name and/or items that denote financial gain i.e., dollar signs that are visible on the neck, face, or other areas