

SEXUALIZED EXPLOITATION

A Quick Reference

INDICATORS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

No one indicator alone is indicative of exploitation, rather this list is for service providers to consider the lifestyle of the individual, to initiate conversation in regard to client well being.

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| 1 | Amount and type of material possessions does not match income, regularly in possession of new materials (e.g. Expensive items when little or no regular income) | 5 | Being branded or tattooed | 9 | Withdraws from/or dramatic change in friends/peer group |
| 2 | Personal grooming and aesthetics (e.g. Well maintained hair and nails) | 6 | Frequency and time of day of “meetings” or “appointments” (e.g. Noon, evening meetings) | 10 | Same method of transportation (e.g. Same drivers/cab drivers; who are unknown to family/service providers) |
| 3 | Visual signs of physical violence (e.g. Bruises) | 7 | No identification | 11 | Use of slang/terminology related to sex trade |
| 4 | Demonstrates signs of emotional abuse (e.g. Emotions do not appear to match situation) | 8 | Long-term “boyfriend”, never met by friends or family and/or suggestion of inequitable power dynamic within romantic relationship | 12 | In possession of two phones (e.g. Insists upon checking phone at regular intervals, one may not have SIM card) |

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND DUTY TO REPORT

If you have reasonable suspicion that anyone under the age of 16 may be involved in a sexually exploitative relationship, (or a youth has disclosed they are involved in such a relationship), a duty to report, as outlined in the Children and Family Services Act, is required. The duty to report abuse by a person other than a parent or guardian applies to children under the age of 16.

There is also a duty to report when there is reasonable suspicion that youth aged 16-18 may be abused by a parent or guardian. There is no legal obligation to report youth age 16-18 who may be involved in a sexually exploitative relationship with a third party, except where children under the age of 16 may also be at risk. The youth, age 16-18, can choose to consent to their own participation in an investigation.

OUR POSITION

There is a spectrum of exploitation that occurs within the sex industry. YWCA Halifax believes all people have the right to dignity, safety and well being in their lives. Our role is to support their efforts towards attaining dignity, safety and well being, as they define it for themselves.

