

CHILD ABUSE



DO YOU HAVE YOUTH WITH THE FOLLOWING **CSECY RED FLAGS**?

- Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods of time (over nights, days, weeks)
- Youth experiencing unstable housing including multiple foster home/group home placement
- Youth has current or past involvement with child welfare and/or juvenile justice system
- Youth shows signs of physical trauma
- Youth has tattoos, scarring, branding, indicating they are someone's property
- Youth uses language that suggests involvement in exploitation
- Youth receives or has access to unexplained money, credit cards, hotel keys, gifts, alcohol/drugs, transportation
- Youth travels to places that are inconsistent with their life circumstances
- Youth appears on edge, preoccupied with safety or hyper vigilant
- Youth has an abusive or controlling intimate partner
- Youth is exchanging sex for money or material goods (food, clothing, shelter) for themselves or others

ENGAGEMENT TIPS AND THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ The **relationship** is what matters
- ✓ **Asking** the question plants the seed
- ✓ **Maintain** a compassionate and non-judgmental attitude
- ✓ **Practice** a strength based and trauma informed approach
- ✓ CSECY is another form of complex **trauma**
- ✓ **Get consultation** when in doubt
- ✓ CSECY is a form of child abuse and needs to be **reported**
- ✓ **Follow through** on anything you say you will do
- ✓ **Provide information** relevant to the situation
- ✓ **Avoid** a "rescue" mentality
- ✓ **Identify** the youth's strongest healthy relationship and/or;
- ✓ **Connect** them to someone who can build the relationship

Report All Incidents/Episodes of Exploitation

If you suspect that a youth has been a first time or repeat CSECY victim, call:

DCFS Child Protection Hotline (800) 540-4000