ANDY WILSON
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Human Trafficking:
AN ONLINE THREAT

Human traffickers often use the anonymity of the web to find and victimize vulnerable members of society, especially young people, but anyone can be targeted.

Traffickers use social media as a tool by:

- Recruiting people with fake or misleading job posts.
- Posing as a peer to try to make friends and gain trust.
- Befriending those who seem lonely and emotionally vulnerable.
- Providing comfort for those being cyber-bullied.
- Asking for sexually explicit photos and using them as blackmail.

Protect yourself and your children by:

- Staying current with apps, social media and websites that your children may be using.
- Letting your children know that it is OK to talk to you about unsafe interactions with others.
- Never giving out personal, identifying information, such as your address or Social Security number.
- Never sending sexually explicit photos of yourself online or by phone.
- Monitoring your child's internet usage and talking to them about their activities, including online gaming.
- Never agreeing to meet someone you don't know in a private place.

PROTECTING ★ THE ★ UNPROTECTED

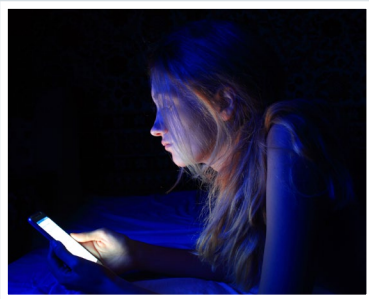
For more information on human trafficking, visit **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/HumanTrafficking**.

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About 85% of teen social media users agree that people can show different sides of themselves on social media that they cannot show offline.
Source: Pew Research Center

Here are some signs that a youth may be being groomed for trafficking:

- The youth's behavior or personality has changed drastically after online contact.
- The youth is isolated and spending all of his or her time online, often with "new" friends.
- The youth has lost interest in old friends and activities.
- The youth is hiding online activity and being secretive about online friends and/or his or her cellphone.



- The youth is relying on social media connections for emotional support and love.
- The youth is spending time talking to adults who offer flattery or compliments.
- Online users are sending the youth inappropriate materials.



About 42% of teens have seen someone else post something about them that they cannot change or control.
Source: Pew Research Center

Report suspicious activity

Call 911 if you think someone faces immediate harm; do not intervene. To report other suspicious activity, call

Ohio's Human Trafficking Hotline at 844-END-OHHT (844-363-6448),

which sends information directly to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Ohio Attorney General's
Human Trafficking Initiative
30 E. Broad St., 17th floor | Columbus, OH 43215