

Playing it S.A.F.E.

Sexual Exploitation refers to situations where youth (under the age of 18) are forced or incited to exchange sexual acts or images for material items such as food, shelter, drugs, clothing and/or non-material items such as protection, love, and belonging through the use of power, control and manipulation. Some teens are tricked into believing they are in a loving/romantic relationship, or the abuser may use violence or intimidation to frighten and force a person into sexual activity.

If someone is a survivor of sexual exploitation - it is NOT their fault! There are people who can help you. Talk to a trusted grownup, and keep telling different grownups until someone helps you - use your HELP card or call SEMO-NASV at 1.573.332.1900. We are here to help you!



Many teens who are being Sexually Exploited do not even realize what is happening.

Examples of Sexual Exploitation

- Unwanted sexual touching
- Refusing to use safe sex practices
- Forcing a person to post/send inappropriate photos/films or have inappropriate online conversations.
- Forcing a person to perform sexual intercourse with another person.
- Demanding a sexual act in a way or making a sexual act a condition for any type of assistance.
- Given drugs or alcohol at a party and then being sexually assaulted by one, or more than one person.



Signs of Sexual Exploitation

Signs a teen is being sexually exploited:

- A teen being in a "romantic" relationship with an older adult
- Staying out late or overnight; being/active secretive
- Having a new group of friends
- Involved in criminal activity like selling drugs or shoplifting
- Having money, expensive clothes/gifts they cannot afford or explain
- Physical signs of abuse
- Alcohol or drug use
- Sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy
- Being frightened of certain people or places.

If you, or someone you know, is being sexually exploited you can do the following to stay safe:

- Go to a safe place - home, friend's home, police station or hospital
- Tell a grownup what is happening
- DO NOT confront the abuser
- For further assistance, call the National Sexual Assault Hotline @ 1.800.656.4673 or onlinerainn.org.
- Talk to a counselor.

