



Human Trafficking is the largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Victims of human trafficking include children, women and men who are subjected to sexual exploitation, with approximately 83% involving domestic victims and a majority being children. The US Justice Department has identified Kansas as an originating state for Human Trafficking which means it is our own kids who are at risk.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families is committed to protecting children from the commercial sexual exploitation of children. As parents, you can help protect your children by knowing how to identify key signs. Traffickers recruit victims using various means, including the internet and social media, and they prey on children who are vulnerable and seeking love and approval. Traffickers have online access, and you can take steps to prevent them from accessing your children.

Follow these tips with your children and ask them to sign the Online Safety Pledge today to help prevent them from becoming the next human trafficking victim.

Tips for Parents

- Talk to your children about sex trafficking and sexual abuse. Awareness is the first step in preventing it;
- Restrict use of the computer to the living room or other area of the house where other family members are present;
- Know your child's screen names and passwords, even if you have your child write them down and put them in a sealed envelope. If anything happens, you will be able to access your child's accounts to trace who he or she has been communicating with;
- Use the parental control settings on your computer to check the Internet history. Look for warning signs in your children, such as: mood swings and anxiety; new friends who are significantly older; and new gifts, pre-paid credit cards, clothes or cell phones that you did not purchase; and
- Let your children know that they can talk to you, or a trusted adult, about anything that makes them uncomfortable.



Sign the Pledge for Online Safety

I, _____, pledge:

- **NEVER** share inappropriate pictures of myself;
- **NEVER** to accept a "friend" request or other type of request from a stranger;
- **NEVER** to agree to meet with someone I've met online, or share my personal information, such as my home address, school name or phone number;
- To tell an adult immediately if a stranger uses a social media site, email or other form of communication to express love or admiration for me, promises me a ticket to another location or promises to make me a star; and
- To remember that I can talk to my parents, or a trusted adult, about anything.

Signature _____

Date _____

Cut this pledge out and tape it to your computer or post it in your room as a reminder of your commitment to online safety.