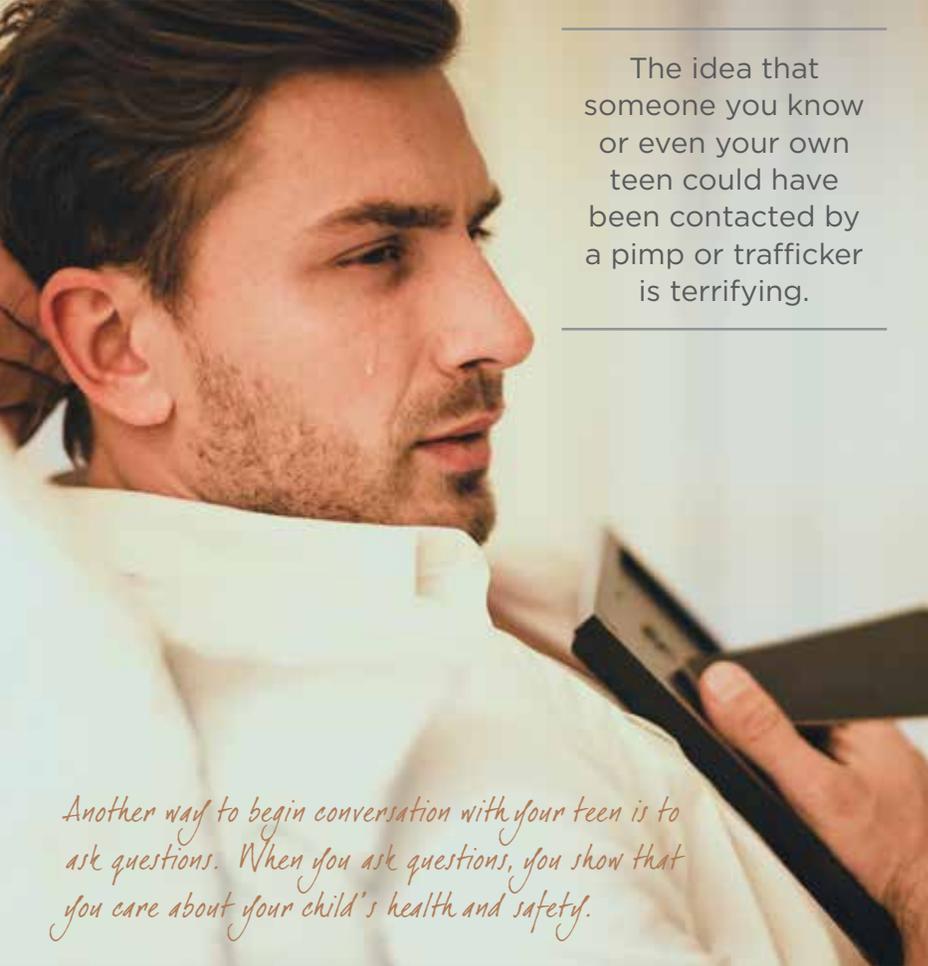


## Parents should trust their instincts

Parents should trust their instincts. If something “feels” wrong with their child, it probably is. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. “What if?” questions are a great opportunity to practice scenarios with your teen. Role playing is a powerful way to teach kids how to handle difficult situations. These “what would you do” conversations may help ease apprehension about the topic.

“What would you do if a good looking guy came up to you at the mall and told you that he wanted you to take some pictures for his modeling business?” You will probably hear, “Oh mom, seriously?” In the end, it is better to upset your teen so that she thinks twice when potentially faced with a dangerous situation.



The idea that someone you know or even your own teen could have been contacted by a pimp or trafficker is terrifying.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

1. “What would you do if a good looking older guy came up to you at the mall and said he thought you were pretty enough to be a model?”
2. “Would you give someone you just met your phone number?”
3. “Is it ok for a stranger to take pictures of you?”
4. “Have you ever known someone at school that had an much older boyfriend?”
5. “Have any of your friends ever talked about getting paid to go on dates?”
6. “Do you know what sexting is?”
7. “Has anyone ever sent you a picture that made you feel uncomfortable?”
8. “What would you do if someone sent you an inappropriate picture or asked you for one?”

*Another way to begin conversation with your teen is to ask questions. When you ask questions, you show that you care about your child's health and safety.*

### RED FLAGS FOR PARENTS

- ▶ missed a lot of school without your permission and/or running away and unexplained periods of time away from home
- ▶ presence of, or reference to, older boyfriend
- ▶ sudden possession of expensive clothing, purses, or electronics that you did not purchase and she cannot afford
- ▶ sudden change in dress/appearance
- ▶ unusual new tattoo
- ▶ unexplained cash
- ▶ “second” cell phone in her purse or wallet
- ▶ hotel room keys in her purse or wallet
- ▶ fake ID in purse or wallet
- ▶ reference to new “modeling job” or music video job
- ▶ sudden change in behavior such as new signs of depression, anger or appearance
- ▶ sudden academic decline
- ▶ surprising change in friendships/relationships with peers
- ▶ uncharacteristically promiscuous behavior or references to sexual situations either in person or on social media
- ▶ signs of physical abuse or restraint (cuts or bruises)
- ▶ signs of self mutilation (cutting)
- ▶ sexually transmitted infection/disease
- ▶ use of terminology like “the game” “the life” “daddy” “manager” “date/trick”
- ▶ suicide attempt
- ▶ starts using drugs
- ▶ starts drinking alcohol
- ▶ gang affiliation

**If you suspect Human Trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888**