

# READY to STOP

## Child Trafficking in Ventura County

### RISK FACTORS

- Unstable home/family
- Frequently runs away
- Previous history of trauma, especially sexual abuse
- Mental health challenges
- Drug and/or alcohol use
- Involvement with child welfare or juvenile justice systems

### INTERNET SAFETY

- Remind child to keep personal information private: location, contact info, passwords, etc
- Tell child to never meet with someone they met online
- Use parental controls to help monitor online activity
- Limit child's internet and cell phone times

### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS

- Acting secretive with cell phone and/or isolating
- Referring to new friends as older
- Using words like: "the game, the life, daddy, manager"
- Behavioral and mood changes
- Possessing a second cell phone, large amounts of money, hotel keys, expensive items like clothes and shoes
- Sending inappropriate pictures online or over cell phones

### PREVENTION

- STAY CONNECTED - It's very important your child feels safe and is connected to family members
- Check privacy settings on computer/cell phone
- Encourage your child to ask questions about apps they are unfamiliar with.
- Come up with a "code word" with your child so they can text you with it if they need help or feel unsafe.
- Take devices away at night
- Don't judge or punish kids when they open up to you



Visit **READYTOSTOP.ORG** to learn more

References: Shared Hope International, Love 146.Org, GoZoe.Org and Additional Resources: SafeandSound.Org and InternetMatters.Org