

YRDSB Quick Guide to Sex-Trafficking Response Requirements in Schools



When an educator or administrator receives a disclosure or suspects sex trafficking:

<p>Remember that making a disclosure is a highly vulnerable experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the student without judgement. • Consider your bias: it may be hard to understand or empathize with some of the choices students make, or the barriers they experience. • Be aware of and soften your body language. • Mirror their language e.g. if they say “boyfriend,” use this term. • Let them take the lead in sharing, avoid leading the conversation (do not probe for their story, instead connect the student with support). • Avoid making promises you aren’t able to keep (e.g. no confidentiality).
<p>If an educator receives a disclosure or suspects sex trafficking...</p>	
<p>Keep the student safe</p>	<p>*Always make the student aware that you are obliged to disclose any information regarding illegal activity with your administrator and possibly the Police and a Child Protection Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that a threat to their safety may be imminent and an immediate response and intervention is required. • Do not leave the student alone.
<p>Explain your role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that your role in supporting the student is to connect them with professionals who can help respond to the concern they have shared with you. These roles include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. reporting to the school Administration; b. the duty to report child protection concerns; c. contact social work for support with navigating Sex Trafficking resources and support; d. if the student identifies you as a key support, and the administrator determines this is appropriate, offering to be present in subsequent conversations between the student, administration, school social worker and community partners engaged in the response; e. in conjunction with administration, engaging appropriate YRDSB partners, including school social worker, to create a safety plan with the student and refer them to resources.
<p>Child Protection Agency – Duty to Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Agency - Duty to Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For students under 16 years of age, staff MUST report to the administrator and a child protection agency; b. For students 16 and 17 years of age, staff MUST report to the administrator and may report to a child protection agency. Please refer to Policy and Procedure #610 for guidance.
<p>Contact School Admin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately contact your school administrator regardless of the age of the student.

If an administrator receives a disclosure or suspects sex trafficking...

<p>Keep the student safe</p>	<p>*Always make the student aware that you may be obliged to disclose any information regarding illegal activity with the Police and a Child Protection Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure the student remains supervised by school staff. ● Ensure the student is not being re-victimized by having them repeat their story.
<p>Child Protection Agency – Duty to Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you received the disclosure or suspect sex trafficking, call a Child Protection Agency. ● If a staff member received the disclosure or suspects sex trafficking, verify staff has called Child Protection Agency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students under 16 years: Verify that staff who received the disclosure has called a Child Protection Agency and provided you documentation, or call the Child Protection Agency if disclosure is made to you. ○ Student 16 and 17 years: Verify whether the staff who received the disclosure has contacted a Child Protection Agency and provided you documentation. Record the decision to call a Child Protection Agency and contact your Superintendent for further consultation if the decision is made not to call. ● Contact Chief of Social Work Services for child protection questions
<p>Contact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call Superintendent ● Contact School Social Worker for consultation and resources ● To engage in consultation with Principal of Caring and Safe Schools
<p>Contact Parent/Guardian, except...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call parent/guardian prior to the police meeting with the student, except if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Directed not to contact parent/guardian by Child Protection Agency or YRP; ○ Student who is 18 years or older; ○ Student is 16 or 17 and has withdrawn from parental control.
<p>Contact Police</p>	<p>Suspected Case - Consultation Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HT Specific Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call directly to York Regional Police Human Trafficking Investigators ○ General Consult: Call School Protocol line 905-830-0303 Ext: 6708 for a consultation. <p>Disclosure - Response Requirements</p> <p>MUST follow the Police and School Boards Protocol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call YRP Non-Emergency Situation Line 905-830-0303 ext. 7008 to log the incident and have police dispatched. Request an officer skilled at working with vulnerable youth. ○ Meet with police first to outline known information before the police meets with the student.
<p>HT Hotline</p> <p>Optional Additional Support</p>	<p>If you or someone you know may be a victim, you may call the national human trafficking hotline at 1-833-900-1010 (24/7)</p> <p>It connects victims and survivors of sex trafficking to law enforcement, emergency shelters, transition housing, long-term supports, counselors, and a range of other trauma-informed services. Services offered in 200+ languages and are accessible to the deaf, hard-of-hearing and non-verbal.</p>