



Realtors Have Unique Access to Private Spaces Others Never See.

Realtors are often welcomed into homes that are not open to the general public — either through showings, inspections, open houses, or private viewings.

This gives them a rare chance to observe signs of distress or exploitation — including locked interior doors, surveillance cameras inside bedrooms, or signs that minors are living in inappropriate conditions.

Their access makes them natural frontline observers, able to spot red flags most others would never witness.

You Don't Have to Be Certain — Just Concerned

One of the biggest barriers to reporting is fear of being wrong. But you're not expected to prove trafficking — only to report suspicious activity. A simple report to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) can trigger a welfare check or open a broader investigation that could save a child's life.

Realtors already have a duty of care in their work — this is just an extension of that duty, aimed at protecting the most vulnerable.

There Are Real Cases Where a Realtor Spoke Up and Saved a Life

In various states, realtors have noticed children who seemed out of place, were afraid to speak, or never made eye contact.

One observant agent noticed a mattress on the floor, no personal belongings, and a security camera in the room during a showing. She reported it. Law enforcement later discovered multiple victims were being trafficked out of the home. That one tip interrupted years of abuse and led to arrests.

You may never know the full impact of your report — but *your silence could allow abuse to continue.*

Examples: Imagine walking into a house for a showing — everything seems normal until you get to the back bedroom. The windows are blacked out. There's a small mattress on the floor, no bedding, no toys — and there's a padlock on the outside of the door.

You see a young girl, maybe 13, avoiding eye contact. She doesn't speak. Her clothing seems inappropriate for the weather. You feel that something is wrong, but you're not sure what.

That feeling is enough.

In actual examples, one call to the National Human Trafficking Hotline led to a law enforcement investigation that found that multiple young girls were being trafficked in a house that was listed for sale property. The property owner was unaware because the trafficker had sublet from the tenant.

Because of one realtor, the girls were rescued from harm.

That Realtor didn't 'solve the case' — she just trusted her instincts and reported something that didn't feel right. That's all it took.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever walked into a home and something didn't feel quite right?
2. What signs would you look for now that you know what trafficking in a private home might look like?
3. Do you know what number to call if you saw something suspicious?



Spotting Signs of Child Trafficking in Homes

Red Flags Inside the Home

1. Locks on the outside of bedroom doors
2. Surveillance cameras inside bedrooms or common living areas
3. Mattresses on the floor with little or no bedding
4. Unusual number of electronics (phones, tablets) not matching the number of residents
5. Blackout curtains, covered windows, or boarded-up windows in bedrooms
6. Evidence that people are living in the house but there's no furniture, personal items, or decor
7. Presence of children's items in inappropriate settings (e.g., toys in a home that's supposed to be vacant or occupied by adults only)

Behavioral Red Flags

8. Children or teens who appear fearful, withdrawn, or avoid eye contact
9. Another adult speaks for the child or doesn't allow them to speak
10. Children who appear unsupervised or in areas of the home that seem unsafe
11. Minors who can't answer basic questions like their name, age, or where they live

Location/Property Concerns

12. Frequent short-term visitors or high turnover of occupants
13. Multiple vehicles coming and going at odd hours
14. Vacant homes with signs of habitation (e.g., food wrappers, clothing, or people present)

What To Do if You See a Red Flag

You do not need proof. If something feels off, report it.

You can report anonymously. Share what you saw, where, and when — even small details can help.

Call or text the National Human Trafficking Hotline [1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888) or 233733
Report online: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>

***If you see something, say something.
Your report could be the reason a child is rescued and given a future.***