



What Is County Lines?

It starts with trust... then turns into control.

Understanding County Lines

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation where young people are used by gangs or organised crime groups to transport drugs, weapons, or money from one area to another – often from cities into smaller towns or rural areas.

The term “lines” refers to the phone numbers or communication routes used to run the operations.

What looks like “helping out,” “making money,” or “being part of a team” is often grooming and coercion.

How It Usually Starts

- A person shows kindness, protection, or gives gifts.
- You feel seen, valued, or part of something powerful.
- They offer money, clothes, or promises of loyalty.
- Then small requests begin: “hold this for me,” “deliver this,” “just one trip.”
- Over time, pressure, threats, or debt traps appear – and leaving feels impossible.

What begins as friendship can become fear.

Signs of County Lines Involvement

- Unexplained money, phones, or new clothes.
- Long or frequent trips to different towns.
- Missing from home or school for long periods.
- Carrying packages or unfamiliar substances.
- Tiredness, injuries, or unexplained fearfulness.
- Sudden change in appearance, attitude, or confidence.
- Speaking about “owes,” “runs,” or “bosses.”

These are warning signs – not labels. They mean someone might be at risk and needs support, not punishment.

