THE RED-FLAG CHECKPOINT

P.A.U.S.E. Before You Respond

An approachable safety check for messages, requests and online conversations.

P

Personal information

Is someone asking for details that should stay private?

A

Asking for secrecy

Are you told to keep the conversation or request hidden?

U

Urgency

Are you being pressured to decide, pay or respond right now?

S

Switching apps

Is someone pushing you to move to another app or private channel?

E

Emotions

Is fear, excitement, embarrassment or trust being used to rush you?

ONE RED FLAG IS ENOUGH TO PAUSE

Stop the interaction. Do not share more. Talk to someone you trust or independently contact the real organization.

Use with students, families or teams. A red flag does not prove a scam; it tells you to verify first.