

# The Brain's Automotic responses to Trauma and Post-Traumatic Triggers Complex Post-Traumatic Stress | Post-Traumatic Stress | Adverse Childhood Experiences

#### FIGHT

- Self-preservation at all costs
- Anger—Explosive temper, outbursts
- Aggressive behavior
- Can't hear others points of view
- Pronounced sense of entitlement
- Dominate/Control others
- Demand perfection from others
- Pursue Power and Control
- Impulsive Decision Making
- Assertive "Bully"
- Incessant Criticizing/Raging
- Dictatorial tendencies

These behaviors are symptoms of the automatic trauma response. This trauma response often clinically labels a person with/as:

## FLIGHT

- Feelings of panic and anxiety
- 'Workaholic'
- Obsessive and/or compulsive behaviors
- Always on the go
- Staying busy
- Over worrying
- Perfectionist
- Over achiever
- Hyperactive, rushing around
- Over analytical
- Can't sit still/relax
- Tries to micromanage situations/other people

These behaviors are symptoms of the automatic trauma response. This trauma response often clinically labels a person with/as:

#### FREEZE

- Depression
- Dissociation
- Brain Fog
- Avoids human contact
- Detached
- Isolating self from the outside world
- Wants to hide from the world
- Struggles with making/acting on decisions
- Hibernating
- Couch potato
- Lifeless/feeling dead inside
- Feeling 'spaced out'
- Feeling unreal
- Dissociates
- Achievement-phobic

These behaviors are symptoms of the automatic trauma response. This trauma response often clinically labels a person with/as:

## FAWN

- Co-Dependent
- Has a hard time standing up or saying 'no'
- Scared to share their opinion
- Talks about 'other' instead of themselves
- Lack of boundaries, easily exploited by others
- Defers to others in decision making
- Avoids conflict
- Difficult to identify feelings, even when alone
- Feel like you have no identity
- Constantly trying to please people
- Appease the other person to avoid conflict
- Accept beliefs, thoughts, and truths of others
- Uncomfortable/threatened when asked opinion
- Concerned with social standing/acceptance
- 'Angel of Mercy' / Over-caring / 'Yes' person

These behaviors are symptoms of the automatic trauma response. This trauma response often clinically labels a person with/as:

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https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/addiction-and-recovery/202008/understanding-fight-flight-freeze-and-the-fawn-response https://themighty.com/2020/01/fight-flight-freeze-fawn-trauma-responses/ https://medium.com/@kathrynmintner/flight-fight-freeze-and-fawn-responses-in-cptsd-aaf91dbad17a

Most people have one or two dominant 'stress responses that they typically fall back into as their main mode of reacting to stressful triggers and situations, or perceived threats. The goal is to process the trauma with EMDR, not manage symptoms or learn to 'cope'.