



Human Trafficking **“Red Flags”** for Health Care Professionals

Human trafficking victims often exhibit one or more of the following:

- A potential victim often is escorted by someone who does not want them out of their sight. This person is usually controlling and may speak for the victim.
- Victims often have no control over their identification documents, their money, or even the conversation.
- Victims commonly have inconsistencies in their story, and are unclear or non-specific as to how they were injured or contracted a disease.
- Victims may have injuries or signs of physical/sexual abuse, malnutrition, or health risks associated with sex trafficking.
- Victims may exhibit fear, anxiety, depression, nervousness, hostility, flashbacks, or suicidal tendencies, and commonly avoid eye contact.
- Victims often present with evidence of prolonged lack of healthcare: old or untreated injuries, drug/alcohol addiction, or advanced symptoms of disease.
- Victims may have multiple STDs, or want certification that they are “clean”.
- Victims may have brands, scars, or tattoos indicating someone else’s ownership.
- Victims or their escorts will likely pay in cash.
- Victims may not admit that they are victims, and may not ask for help.

Human trafficking situations can be dangerous to your office. If you suspect human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-3737-888, or call 9-1-1.