

How do I Identify Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is often “hidden in plain sight.” There are a number of red flags, or indicators, which can help alert you to human trafficking. Recognizing the signs is the first step in identifying victims. Victims of human trafficking may or may not admit they are victims, and may not ask for help.

Indicators Concerning a Potential Victim:

Behavior or Physical State:

- * Does the victim act fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid?
- * Does the victim defer to another person to speak for him or her?
- * Does the victim show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture?
- * Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- * Does the victim have few or no personal possessions including identifying documents, such as a passport or driver’s license?

Social Behavior:

- * Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
- * Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?
- * Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- * Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?

Work Conditions and Immigration Status:

- * Does the victim work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- * Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- * Is the victim’s salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- * Has the victim been forced to perform sexual acts?
- * Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
- * Is the victim in possession of his/her identification and travel documents? If not, who has control of the documents?

Minor Victims:

- * Is the victim a juvenile engaged in sexual practices to earn money?

Joint Anti-Trafficking Taskforce (JATT)

The Michigan State Police (MSP) and The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division (TSA) both received federal grants from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs; MSP from Bureau of Justice Assistance and TSA from Office for Victims of Crime. Together MSP and TSA are working to help combat human trafficking in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

A multi-agency collaborative taskforce, the JATT, was created to investigate and prosecute sex and labor trafficking cases and to provide services to victims. Law enforcement personnel assigned to the taskforce are investigating human trafficking cases involving all ages and genders. At the same time, TSA is working to align local victim services agencies to focus on the problem of human trafficking, utilizing the strengths and expertise of each organization.

The JATT is dedicated to preventing human trafficking and rescuing those being trafficked, both within the target area of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties, as well as across Michigan.



For additional information about the JATT, contact:
The Michigan State Police 517-284-3208
The Salvation Army 248-443-5500

www.michigan.gov/cjgrants
www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org/emi
www.humantraffickinghotline.org

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for labor or engage in sexual practices to earn money or other economic benefits.

Every year millions of men, women, and children are trafficked into forced labor situations and into the sex trade in countries around the world – including the United States – and throughout Michigan. Many of these victims are lured from their homes with false promises of well-paying jobs; instead, they are forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude, or other types of forced labor. Victims can be found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agricultural fields, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service.

Human trafficking is different from human smuggling. Trafficking is exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation.

Who are the Victims? Who is at Risk?

Trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Victims of trafficking can be men or women, young or old, US citizens or foreign nationals.

Traffickers prey on victims with little or no social safety net. They look for victims who are vulnerable because of their illegal immigration status and/or limited English proficiency, and those who may be in vulnerable situations due to economic hardship, political instability, natural disasters, or other causes.

The indicators listed on the back page are just a few that may alert you to a potential human trafficking situation. No single indicator is necessarily proof of human trafficking.

If You Suspect Human Trafficking

If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please **call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888** to get help or connect with a service provider in your area.

School administrators and staff who suspect a trafficking incident involving a minor should report the incident as they would any other child abuse situation using their school district's established protocol. In fact, state law now mandates school administrators and staff report suspected human trafficking to child protective services.

Non-law enforcement personnel should never attempt to directly confront a suspected trafficker or rescue a suspected victim. Doing so could put both your and the victim's safety at risk. By immediately informing law enforcement of your suspicions, you may be able to safely assist in the recovery of the victim and the dismantling of the trafficking operation.

Find additional information at www.humantraffickinghotline.org or www.polarisproject.org.

Report Suspected Human Trafficking to:
National Human Trafficking Hotline
888-373-7888

Blue Campaign. (2016, September 9). Retrieved October 14, 2016, from <http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/library>.

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