



Health, Wellness & Safety Committee

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES A FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a serious federal crime with penalties of up to imprisonment for life. Federal law [U.S.C. 7102(8)] defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as: (A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or (B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.”

In short, human trafficking is a form of modern slavery. Those who recruit minors into commercial sexual exploitation (or prostitution) violate federal anti-trafficking laws, even if there is no force, fraud, or coercion.

WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES?

An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are trafficked within the country for sexual servitude and force labor. Contrary to a common assumption, human trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and the U.S. territories. Victims of human trafficking can be children or adults, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, male or female.

Common examples of identified child trafficking cases include the following:

Commercial sex	Prostitution
Au pairs or nannies	Stripping
Restaurant work	Pornography
Family pimping out children for sex	Massage parlors
Forced begging	Hair and nail salons
Magazine crews	Agricultural work
Arranged marriages	Drug sales and cultivation
Exotic dancing	

HOW DO I IDENTIFY A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Indicators that school staff and administrators should be aware of concerning a potential victim:

- Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis and/or has unexplained absences
- Frequently runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, or fear

- Lacks control over his or her schedule and/or identification or travel documents
- Is hungry, malnourished, deprived of sleep, or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Has coached/rehearsed responses to questions

Additional signs that may indicate sex trafficking include the following:

- Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, personal hygiene, relationships, or material possessions
- Acts uncharacteristically promiscuous and/or makes references to sexual situations or terminology that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older
- Attempts to conceal recent scars

Additional signs that may indicate labor trafficking include the following:

- Expresses need to pay off a debt
- Expresses concern for family members’ safety if he or she shares too much information
- Works long hours and receives little or no payment
- Cares for children not from his or her own family

HOW DO I REPORT A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- In the case of an immediate emergency, call your local police department or emergency access number.
- To report suspected human trafficking crimes, or to get help from law enforcement, call toll-free (24/7) 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at www.ice.gov/tips.
- To report suspected trafficking crimes, get help, or learn more about human trafficking from a nongovernmental organization, call the toll-free (24/7) National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.
- To report sexually exploited or abused minors, call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s (NCMEC) hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST, or report incidents at <http://www.cybertipline.org>.

RESOURCES TO CONTACT & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1-800-THE-LOST, <http://www.cybertipline.org>)
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center (1-888-373-7888)
- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Victims of Human Trafficking & Other Crime
- CO Network to End Human Trafficking (1-866-455-5075)
- Prax (US) 720-421-4311

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