

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INFORMATION

for Ohio's Law Enforcement Officers



Definition: *Human Trafficking* is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others.

Sex Trafficking: Any commercial sex act that is compelled by force, fraud or coercion. Under federal law, any minor under the age of 18 induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking.

Labor Trafficking: 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, debt bondage or slavery.

Human Trafficking Laws – Under Ohio law, *Trafficking in Persons* is a first-degree felony with a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison.

You may encounter victims: (Source: Department of Homeland Security)

- During routine traffic stops and domestic disturbance calls
- From first responders and healthcare professionals who notice signs while responding to emergencies or treating patients at hospitals
- From health and safety inspectors who find victims working in restaurants, factories, construction sites, farms, massage parlors, etc.

Remember: There is not a sole profile of a human trafficking victim or a trafficker.

Signs of Human Trafficking - Sex Trafficking: For both minors and adults, look at the whole context of the situation.

- Trading sex for money, food, shelter, drugs or other items
- Signs of physical abuse or neglect
- Exhibiting poor mental health
- Lack of control (i.e. individuals are not in control of own identification documents and/or are not able to speak for themselves)
- Minors: Presence of a controlling, abusive or older adult; possession of gifts and/or cash; runaways
- Minors at hotels, street tracks, truck stops or strip clubs
- Signs of prostitution, exotic dancing or stripping

Signs of Human Trafficking - Labor Trafficking:

Look for possible indicators of labor trafficking where you may not expect it. (Source: International Association of Chiefs of Police)

- Businesses within your community: *Could any serve as fronts for trafficking?*
- Building security: *Is it used to keep people out or to keep people in?*
- Working conditions: *Do workers have freedom of movement? Do they live and work in the same place? Do workers owe a debt to their employers? Do the employers have control over their workers' immigration documents?*
- Appearance and mannerism of the workers: *Are there signs of trauma, fatigue, injuries or other evidence of poor care? Are workers withdrawn, afraid to talk or is their communication censored?*

Note: A single indicator does not predetermine an instance of human trafficking; however, multiple indicators increase the possibility of an instance of human trafficking.

FOREIGN NATIONAL VICTIMS:

Under federal law, foreign national victims of human trafficking are not subject to immigration or smuggling penalties and have the right to legal protections and social services. (22 U.S.C. 7105).

Important Next Steps:

Local law enforcement must report information about human trafficking cases annually to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation through the online OHLEG portal (O.R.C. 109.66).

- Document your observations and ask questions to verify as many indicators as possible while you are on the scene.
- When officers document human trafficking incidents with more detail, then detection, apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators is more probable.

RESOURCES & CONTACTS

**Ohio State Highway Patrol Hub Watch Desk:
614-799-6633**

The OSHP Hub's tethered intelligence gives any law enforcement officer in Ohio immediate access to intelligence resources to aid law enforcement against human trafficking and other crimes.

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline:
1-888-3737-888**

Hotline has translators available for non-English speaking victims.

Victims can text INFO or HELP to: BeFree (233733)

**For additional resources visit
www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov**