

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



GENERAL INDICATORS

- ▶ Potential victims lack information about where they are traveling, staying, or working.
- ▶ The potential victim has few personal belongings or is dressed inappropriately for the weather conditions.
- ▶ Potential victims of labor trafficking may show signs of physical neglect or abuse (scars, bruises, burns, etc.) and/or seem malnourished or disheveled. Note, victims of sex trafficking are less likely to show signs of physical abuse in areas like the face, arms, or legs.
- ▶ The potential victim is traveling alone and receives frequent calls or messages on their phone (from the trafficker), which cause visible anxiety.
- ▶ The potential victim may appear aggressive or hesitant to talk with law enforcement; some victims may appear to be anxious or fearful.
- ▶ Indicators of control by another person:
 - ▶ Other person is in control of the potential victim's identification documents
 - ▶ Other person speaks or translates on behalf of the potential victim
 - ▶ Potential victim appears apprehensive to speak in the presence of the person they came with or other potential victims
 - ▶ Potential victim is in frequent communication, e.g., by phone, when not in the presence of the potential perpetrator
 - ▶ Potential victim is dependent on another person (i.e. financially, emotionally, and/or for drugs)
- ▶ Body Language and Facial Expressions:
 - ▶ Seems disoriented or lost
 - ▶ Seems distrustful, hesitant, or hostile
 - ▶ Displays hopelessness, despondency, dejection, or desperation

While no single indicator confirms the existence of human trafficking, several indicators combined can increase the likelihood of exploitation. Even in the absence of these indicators, you can still make a report to the National Human Trafficking Hotline if you suspect exploitation.

888-373-7888
U.S. HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

LIVING & WORKING INDICATORS

While it is unlikely that you will ever see someone's working or living situation, they may tell you something that raises concerns.

- ▶ Potential victim lives and works in the same place

EXAMPLE *Victims sleep on the floor of the car wash where they work or live out of a hotel and have sex with "clients" in the same hotel.*

- ▶ Potential victim lives in accommodations that are overcrowded and/or dirty

EXAMPLE *Victims share a small two-bedroom farm house with 15 people.*

- ▶ Potential victim is not free to come and go as they please

EXAMPLE *If the victim leaves to go to a store, the trafficker calls every few minutes to determine their whereabouts.*

EXAMPLE *Traffickers may live with sex /labor trafficking victims or live very nearby to monitor the victims' movements closely.*

- ▶ Potential victim is underpaid or receives no pay

EXAMPLE *Victims are not paid regularly or at all because of the "debt" they owe their employers for basic amenities such as food or rent.*

EXAMPLE *Victims are not in possession of their own finances and believe their "lover/boyfriend" will provide for their needs.*

- ▶ Potential victim works excessively long hours, perhaps without any break

EXAMPLE *Victims work 15-hour days on a fruit farm, are not given any breaks until they have finished their daily quota, and are threatened if they try to leave.*

EXAMPLE *Sex trafficking victims appear overly tired, as they have a high quota of "clients" they must meet per day.*

- ▶ Potential victim is working to pay off a debt

EXAMPLE *Victims have not been paid despite having worked in a massage parlor for two months because the employer has stated they must work to pay off the cost of travel to the United States.*

- ▶ Potential victim is doing work that is different from what they initially agreed to

EXAMPLE *Victims may have the correct H2-B or H2-A work visas, but the work, pay, or conditions do not equate to the visa stipulations.*

EXAMPLE *Victims may be hesitant to speak with law enforcement or seek help after receiving threats against their loved ones back home and misinformation about deportation.*

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