

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

AVIATION



- ▶ The potential victim lacks significant information on where they are traveling to, staying, or working.
- ▶ Indicators of control by another person:
 - ▶ The other person is in control of the potential victim's identification documents - particularly if the victim appears to be at an age capable of handling their own documentation.
 - ▶ The other person speaks or translates on behalf of the potential victim.
 - ▶ The potential victim appears apprehensive to speak in the presence of the person(s) they came with or they look to the person(s) they came with to respond for them.
 - ▶ The potential victim is in frequent communication, by phone, when not in the presence of the potential perpetrator.
 - ▶ The potential victim appears to be dependent (but may not use this phrase to describe themselves) on another person (financially, emotionally, and/or for drugs).
- ▶ The potential victim is dressed inappropriately for the weather conditions in their intended destination.
- ▶ The potential victim has unrealistic expectations about the visa process.
- ▶ The potential victim believes they have a "legitimate visa" because the prospective employer offered to arrange their visa. However, they have not signed or seen any documentation.
- ▶ Body Language and Facial Expressions:
 - ▶ Seems disoriented or lost
 - ▶ Seems distrustful, fearful, or hostile
 - ▶ Displays hopelessness, despondency, dejection, or desperation
- ▶ May appear aggressive or hesitant to talk with law enforcement; some victims may appear to be anxious, nervous, or fearful.
- ▶ Potential victims of sex trafficking may have tattoos given as a form of branding by their trafficker - strong indicators are street names, crowns, dollar signs, and anything with pimp-related language.
- ▶ They are traveling from where they live to "make money" for the week or weekend.
- ▶ They are traveling to meet their partner whom they met on social media. They are not in possession of their own finances or they believe their partner will provide for any of their needs.
- ▶ Travel was booked by someone other than the individual traveling.
- ▶ The potential victim has few personal belongings while traveling.
- ▶ Travel was booked last minute i.e. the night before or the week of travel.

NOTE Potential victims of trafficking may show signs of physical neglect or abuse (scars, bruises, burns, etc.) and/or seem malnourished or disheveled. Please note that victims of sex trafficking may be less likely to show signs of physical abuse in areas like the face, arms, or legs, but may sustain injuries in less visible areas, such as on their lower back or on their head, underneath the hair.

- ▶ The potential victim:
 - ▶ Is unclear who will pick them up at the airport.
 - ▶ Has minimal understanding of travel processes or they are relying upon someone else for guidance.
 - ▶ Is traveling to work and live in the same location.
 - ▶ May have the appropriate work documentation and identification, but has not met the employer or spoken to them.
 - ▶ May have no labor contract or the contract may be unsuitable or illegal.
- ▶ The living or employment situation at the destination is not verifiable, or the traveler does not know much about the employer.

NOTE Foreign nationals may not always arrive from an international location, as they may have crossed the border and then traveled via a domestic flight from a bordering state.

MINOR

- ▶ The child discusses plans to meet someone they have never met in person before in the destination city.

EXAMPLE *They met online and have only communicated on social media.*
- ▶ The child discusses meeting a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” in a new city rather than a family member.
- ▶ A child traveling alone, hours away from their home.

- ▶ Indicators of other suspicious behavior is present.

EXAMPLE *Victims sleep on the floor of the car wash where they work or they live out of a hotel and have sex with “clients” in the same hotel.*
- ▶ The individual has false identification documents.

EXAMPLE *The potential victim relays they have never been on a flight before, but they have a passport with a lot of immigration stamps.*
- ▶ Consider the passenger’s journey to the airport and not just the destination.

EXAMPLE *The potential victim’s “boyfriend” dropped them off at the airport for a job at their final destination.*

- ▶ If trafficking is potentially implicated, contact federal law enforcement at the airport and Child Protective Services in the destination city.

Suspected child sex trafficking can be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-THE-LOST or cybertipline.org.

NOTE Although many minors can fly without a form of identification or proof of parental/guardian knowledge, confirm the travel plans with the parent/guardian if you are concerned about the minor’s well-being.

ACTION

- ▶ If the “employer’s” name is known, report the employer to the Department of Labor where trafficking or labor violations are identified.
- ▶ If the potential victim is interested in speaking with law enforcement about their current situation, contact federal law enforcement within the airport.
- ▶ You can report your observations to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Reports of even limited information are helpful, as other callers may have reported the same situation.
- ▶ Follow your organization’s internal reporting procedures, such as contacting law enforcement and your line manager.

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