

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

RAIL



- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Someone other than the individual traveling has booked the tickets.
- ▶ The potential victim's living or employment situation at the destination is not verifiable, or the traveler does not know much about the employer.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The potential victim appears confused and disoriented at the station.
- ▶ The potential victim has few personal belongings while traveling.
- ▶ The potential victim is unclear who will pick them up at the station.

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.

- ▶ 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 potential victim:
 - ▶ Is not familiar with traveling by rail or they are relying upon someone else for guidance.
 - ▶ May have appropriate work documentation and identification but has not met the employer yet or spoken to them.
 - ▶ Is traveling to work and live in the same location.
 - ▶ Has no labor contract or the contract may be unsuitable or illegal.

MINOR

- ▶ The child discusses plans to meet someone in the destination city whom they have never met in person before.
- ▶ School-aged youth traveling on a train or bus during school hours.

EXAMPLE *They met online and have only communicated on social media.*

- ▶ The child discusses meeting a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” (or an associate of the “boyfriend” or “girlfriend”) in a new city rather than a family member.
- ▶ A child traveling alone, hours away from their home.

- ▶ Consider the potential victim’s journey to the station.

EXAMPLE *A passenger shares that their “boyfriend” dropped them off at the station to travel to a work opportunity.*

- ▶ The passenger appears to be on the phone with someone directing them about what to do when they reach their destination:
 - ▶ “What do I do when I get there?”
 - ▶ “What room am I going to?”
 - ▶ “How much should I charge?”
 - ▶ Listen for phrases like “play / making a play,” “dates,” “an account is down,” and “postings.”

- ▶ Request to speak with the child’s guardian to verify their permission for the child to travel to the destination; any documentation needs to match the information relayed by the child.
- ▶ If trafficking is potentially implicated, contact Amtrak Police 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 A child may delay disclosing abuse or harm.

ACTION

- ▶ If the potential victim is interested in speaking with law enforcement about their current situation, contact Amtrak Police.
- ▶ Otherwise, 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.
- ▶ If the “employer’s” name is known, report the employer to the Department of Labor where trafficking or labor violations are identified.

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