

Indicators of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act, or in which the person performing the commercial sex act is under 18 years of age. Everyone has a role to play in combating human trafficking. Recognizing key indicators is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. Here are some common indicators to help recognize human trafficking:

- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?



The presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking. It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking. By identifying victims and reporting tips, you are doing your part to help law enforcement rescue victims, and you might save a life. Law enforcement can connect victims to services such as medical and mental health care, shelter, job training, and legal assistance that restore their freedom and dignity.

If you are concerned about someone's safety, please get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), call **1-888-373-7888** or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733). The NHTH is a national, toll-free hotline available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. The NHTH is not a law enforcement or immigration authority and is operated by a nongovernmental organization funded by the Federal government. The NHTH can help connect victims with service providers in the area.

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

*24/7 • Toll free
Confidential
200+ languages*



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TEXT
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