

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACT SHEET

DEFINITION

Human trafficking is when an individual, under force, fraud, or coercion, is made to perform commercial sex acts or forced labor, or when the individual induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years old.

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF A TRAFFICKING VICTIM

It is important to note that victims of human trafficking often display many of the signs below. With the exception of the first sign, there is not one sign in particular that flags someone as a human trafficking victim.

An individual who:

- Is under 18 and engaging in commercial sex work
- Displays fearful, anxious, or submissive behavior
- Shows signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, or fatigue
- Lacks freedom of movement or is heavily monitored
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse
- Has been recruited through false promises concerning the nature & conditions of his/her work
- Is unpaid or paid very little for his/her work
- Has a large amount of debt that he/she is unable to pay off
- Is dressed inappropriately for the climate or his/her age
- Lacks control over money, identification, or phone

HIGHLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

While human trafficking can affect anyone, there are some vulnerabilities that create a higher risk for human trafficking. More vulnerable populations include:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| ✓ Foster care youth | ✓ Individuals with a history of trauma or abuse |
| ✓ Runaway/homeless youth | ✓ Individuals with a history of substance abuse & addiction |
| ✓ Foreign nationals | ✓ LGBTQIA+ individuals |
| ✓ Individuals with disabilities | ✓ Low-income individuals |



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HOW TO IDENTIFY A POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING INCIDENT

For a situation to be considered human trafficking, one of the elements of **force, fraud, or coercion** must be present. Additionally, **something of value** must be given, promised, or received (indirectly or directly) by someone.

Force, Fraud, or Coercion

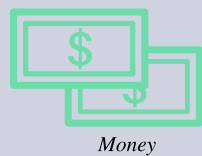
At least one of these three elements must be present to prove human trafficking. **The only exception is for individuals under 18 years old, where force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary to prove human trafficking.**

- Force** → Physical violence including kidnapping, rape, restraint, and confinement
- Fraud** → False offers of employment; promises of marriage, a better life, or a career
- Coercion** → Threats to victim and/or family; debt bondage; psychological abuse; shame; drugs/alcohol



Anything of Value

For human trafficking to occur, something of value must be given, promised, or received by any person. This can be *anything of value*, including:



Money



Alcohol



Clothes & Accessories



Housing



Drugs



Food/drink

= A Potential Human Trafficking Situation

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Do **not** intervene
- In case of emergency, **call 911**
- To report a tip or seek help, **call** the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or **text** "BEFREE" to 233733

