

POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

Use this indicator checklist as a tool for identifying victims of sex trafficking and/or labor trafficking.

COMMON WORK AND LIVING CONDITIONS

The Individual in Question:

- ☐ Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- ☐ Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- ☐ Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- ☐ Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- ☐ Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- ☐ Is not allowed breaks and/or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- ☐ Lives at the workplace/with employer, or lives with many people in confined area
- ☐ Claims to be “just visiting” and/or is unable to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- ☐ Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in
- ☐ Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- ☐ Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- ☐ Works and/or lives in locations where high security measures exist (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- ☐ Is physically exhausted; works long hours
- ☐ Is responsible for child care, elder care, or cleaning – often hidden as chores
- ☐ May come from a culture where it is common for domestic workers to be children

POOR PHYSICAL HEALTH

The Individual in Question:

- ☐ Lacks health care
- ☐ Appears malnourished
- ☐ Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
- ☐ Has sleeping and eating disorders
- ☐ Has sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma, urinary difficulties from working in the sex industry
- ☐ Has chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular or respiratory problems from endless days toiling in dangerous agriculture, sweatshop or construction conditions

POOR MENTAL HEALTH OR ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

The Individual in Question:

- ☐ Is fearful, anxious, depressed, angry, aggressive, suicidal, tearful, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- ☐ Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- ☐ Shows evidence of mental, physical, or sexual abuse
- ☐ Expresses guilt and shame
- ☐ Has symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ☐ Appears traumatically bonded with the Trafficker

LACK OF CONTROL

The Individual in Question:

- ☐ Is not in control of his/her own money, financial records or bank account
- ☐ Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- ☐ Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

PERSONAL

The Individual in Question:

- ☐ Has few or no personal possessions
- ☐ Is inappropriately dressed, including oversized clothing or overtly sexy clothing
- ☐ Has poor personal hygiene
- ☐ Is in possession of large amounts of money
- ☐ Has an older boyfriend or male friend or relative
- ☐ Is withdrawn, uncommunicative
- ☐ Has been “branded” by a Trafficker (e.g., a tattoo of the Trafficker’s name)
- ☐ Is lying about age/false ID
- ☐ Is unable to make (or fears) eye contact
- ☐ Cannot or will not speak on his/her own behalf
- ☐ Has heightened sense of fear or distrust of authority
- ☐ Has gaps in memory
- ☐ Is experiencing a loss of sense of time
- ☐ Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- ☐ May use lingo such as, “The Life,” or “The Game,” refer to a boyfriend as “Daddy,” use “The Track,” or “Stroll,” or refer to Johns as “Tricks” or “Dates”

EDUCATIONAL

The Individual in Question:

- ☐ Is not on grade level
- ☐ Is a special education student with personal indicators mentioned above
- ☐ Is low functioning and/or developmentally delayed
- ☐ Has behavior issues in school
- ☐ Is truant and/or chronically absent
- ☐ Sleeps in class
- ☐ Is not enrolled in school (if child is attending school, child may opt to disclose to trusted teacher or school)
- ☐ Has learning difficulties

FAMILY FACTORS

The Individual in Question:

- ☐ Has unclear family relationships
- ☐ May not be the biological child of the “parent” in the home
- ☐ Has no evidence of a legal guardian
- ☐ May be aware that the “parents” are not actually his/her parents
- ☐ Is working for an “aunt” or “uncle”
- ☐ Is excluded from family events (i.e. going to church, vacation, parties)
- ☐ Is fearful of family s/he is living with (may or may not present as formal guardian)
- ☐ Is a runaway or throwaway child
- ☐ Lacks adult supervision
- ☐ Lacks adult support
- ☐ Has been sexually abused at home by a family member or friend
- ☐ Has a history with department(s) of Family and Children Services
- ☐ Has parents who abuse substances
- ☐ Has experienced and/or observed domestic violence
- ☐ Is living or hanging out in geographic areas known to be a gathering place for prostitution

LEGAL ISSUES

The individual in question:

- ☐ Is in the Juvenile Court system, probably on repeated status offenses
- ☐ Has fake identification and/or fake dance permits
- ☐ Has substance abuse issues
- ☐ Has a history of recruiting others into prostitution
- ☐ Frequents areas known for prostitution, adult entertainment venues, strip clubs, massage parlors, X-rated video shops and/or hotels

Adapted from Polaris Project, (2010), *Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking*, and Anna McCall (5/11/12) Atlanta Child Welfare <http://www.examiner.co/article/warning-signs-of-commercial-sexual-exploitation>