

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked into forced labor situations and into the sex trade worldwide. Many of these victims are lured from their homes with false promises of well-paying jobs; instead, they are forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude, or other types of forced labor. Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agricultural fields, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service.

Human trafficking is different from human smuggling, trafficking is exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation.

Who are the victims? Who is at risk?

Trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Trafficking victims can be men or women, young or old, American or from abroad, with or without legal status.

Traffickers prey on victims with little or no social safety net. They look for victims who are vulnerable because of their illegal immigration status, limited English proficiency, and those who may be in vulnerable situations due to economic hardship, political instability, natural disasters, or other causes.

The indicators listed are just a few that may alert you to a potential human trafficking situation. No single indicator is necessarily proof of human trafficking. If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please call the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip-line at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423). You can also report online at www.ice.gov/tips.

To reach a non-governmental organization for confidential help and information, 24 hours a day, please call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888.

For more information and more training, please visit www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign.

How do I identify human trafficking?

Human trafficking is often “hidden in plain sight.” There are a number of red flags, or indicators, which can help alert you to human trafficking. Recognizing the signs is the first step in identifying victims.

Here are some indicators to be aware of concerning a potential victim.

Behavior or Physical State:

- Does the victim act fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid?
- Does the victim defer to another person to speak for him or her?
- Does the victim show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture?
- Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Does the victim have few or no personal possessions?

Social Behavior:

- Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
- Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?

Work Conditions and Immigration Status:

- Does the victim work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
- Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Is the victim’s salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- Has the victim been forced to perform sexual acts?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action? Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?

Minor Victims:

- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?

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Contacts for various human trafficking coalitions, task forces and working groups in communities throughout the state are provided below.

Alachua County

Sherry Kitchens
352-494-3839
Sherry@childadvocacycenter.gainesville.org

Agent Micah Miller
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Bay

Agent Scott Springer
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Broward

Broward Human Trafficking Coalition
www.bhtc.us
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Miguel Figueroa
Homeland Security Investigations
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Citrus

See Hernando County

Collier

Agent James Roncinske
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Alex Olivares
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Marisol Schloendorn
Victim Advocate
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DeSoto

See Manatee County

Duval

Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition
Agent Micah Miller
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Michelle Thorne
FBI Victim/Witness Specialists
904-424-6115

Escambia

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Flagler

See St. Johns County

Gilchrist

See Alachua County

Hardee

See Polk County

Hernando

Special Agent Edie Neal
FDLE
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Highlands

See Polk County

Hillsborough

See Pinellas County

Indian River

See Martin County

Lake

Lt. Todd English
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Lee

See Collier County

Leon

RAC Ralph Bradley
Homeland Security Investigations
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Ralph.bradley@dhs.gov

Levy

See Alachua County

Manatee

Ida Lopez
World Relief
727-376-7733

Det. Theron Robinson
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Marion

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Sgt. Jerry Bevan
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Inspector Michael Mongeluzzo,
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Martin

Treasure Coast Human Trafficking
Coalition
Michelle Akins
Michelle_Akins@doh.state.fl.us

Van Lindsey
Homeland Security Investigations
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Miami-Dade

South Florida Human Trafficking
Task Force
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Lt. Israel McKee
Miami-Dade Police Department
Organized Crime Section
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Det. Tony Aquino
Homestead Police Department
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Okaloosa

Inspector George Collins
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KlaasKids
Brad Dennis
Search4missing@yahoo.com

Okeechobee

See Indian River County

Orange

Greater Orlando Human Trafficking
Task Force
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Sgt. Patrick Guckian
Metropolitan Bureau of
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patrick.guckian@cityoforlando.net

Palm Beach

Human Trafficking Coalition of the
Palm Beaches
Det. Dale Fox
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
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Sgt. Haas
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
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Sgt. Patrick Bolton
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Regina Bernadin
International Rescue Committee
Regina.Bernadin@rescue.org
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Diann Jasinski LCSW
561-775-9567

Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm
Beach
djasinski@catholiccharitiesdpb.org

Toll free numbers for victim's to call
in Palm Beach County 877-707-4012
(daytime) or 877-770-2901 (night).

Pinellas

Clearwater Area Human Trafficking
Task Force
www.catfht.org
Sergeant Steven Sears
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World Relief
Ida Lopez
727-376-7733

Polk

Polk County Rescue and Restore
Coalition
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Putnam

See St. Johns County

Santa Rosa

See Okaloosa County

Sarasota

See Manatee County

St. Johns

Northeast Florida Human Trafficking
Coalition
Michelle Thorne
FBI Victim/Witness Specialists
904-424-6115
Agent Micah Miller
Homeland Security Investigations
904-386-3311
Micah.S.Miller@dhs.gov

St. Lucie

See Martin County

Sumter

See Hernando County

Volusia

See St. Johns County

Walton

See Okaloosa County