

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

for Code Enforcement Officers

As a code enforcement officer, your top priority is public safety. You are in a unique position to recognize and report the signs of human trafficking due to your access behind the closed doors of both residential and commercial spaces often unseen by the public.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND WHO ARE VICTIMS?

The crime of human trafficking hinges on the exploitation of another person. Human trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender identity, sex, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, and socioeconomic class. It can occur in several legitimate and illegitimate industries.

SEX TRAFFICKING VS. FORCED LABOR

Both sex trafficking and forced labor are types of human trafficking. **Sex Trafficking** involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of commercial sex act in exchange for something of value, or in which the person performing the commercial sex act is under 18 years of age. **Forced Labor** occurs when individuals are compelled against their will to provide work or service through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Indicators of sex trafficking can be present in forced labor and vice versa.

INDICATORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOR

A potential victim of sex trafficking may:

- » Appear to be disoriented or confused, or show signs of mental or physical abuse (e.g., bruises).
- » Seem fearful, timid, or submissive.
- » Defer to another person to speak for them.
- » Appear to be coached on what to say.
- » Show signs of being denied food, water, sleep, medical care, or other necessities.
- » Appear to be engaged in commercial sex and under the age of 18.
- » Live in unsuitable conditions or an otherwise unstable situation.
- » Lack personal possessions, e.g., personal identification or travel documents.
- » Exhibit restriction of movement.

A potential victim of forced labor may:

- » Live in dangerous, overcrowded, or inhumane lodging provided by an employer.
- » Work under unsafe conditions.
- » Have been deceived about the work they do.
- » Have their identification documents held by their employer.
- » Show signs of fatigue and/or untreated work-related injury or illness.
- » Owe a significant debt to their employer or recruiter.
- » Appear physically or culturally isolated.
- » Have their movement restricted.
- » Appear frightened or withdrawn in the presence of authorities or the employer.

HOW TO REPORT

Do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker or alert a victim to your suspicions. Follow your organization's reporting protocol or call 911 or local authorities if someone is in immediate danger.

- » You can also report suspected human trafficking to: **Homeland Security Investigations Tip Line (HSI)** at **1-866-347-2423**, or submit an HSI tip form online at: <http://www.ice.gov/webform/ice-tip-form>.

To get victim support, contact the **National Human Trafficking Hotline** at **1-888-373-7888**.