

# Human Trafficking

# RED FLAGS



## For EMS, Fire Department, Law Enforcement, & Other Emergency Care Professionals

If you come in contact with anyone exhibiting one or more of the following indicators, they may be a victim of human trafficking:

- Rooms may have numerous beds on the floor and/or small rooms throughout the residence that have locks on the outside of the doors.
- Locks may be on many/all of the windows that keep people from coming in AND getting out.
- Victims may exhibit signs of physical and/or sexual abuse such as: bruises, burns, scars, broken bones, black eyes, poor hygiene, and/or malnourishment.
- Victims may demonstrate signs of intense fear or depression.
- Victims may not make eye contact with anyone.
- Victims may not have control over their own personal identification documents. Typically, traffickers take/control victims' ID documents.
- Victims typically are not left alone. There may be someone attempting to speak for them, and this person may appear very controlling over the group. Victims may seem dependent on this person.
- Communication with victims may seem scripted and/or vague, inconsistent.
- Victims may be living and working in the same location.
- Victims may have false or fraudulent identification documents.
- Victims may not speak English.
- Victims are likely to be very distrustful of law enforcement. Therefore, victims may not admit that they are victims and may not ask for help.

### Here are some questions to ask potential victims:

- How did you get here?
- Where do you live, eat, and sleep?
- What type of labor/services do you do?
- How long have you been working here?
- What are your hours of work?
- Have you been paid? If so, what were you paid?
- Describe the conditions of your workplace.
- Has your family been threatened?
- Is someone keeping your legal/travel documents?
- Have you or anyone you work with been abused at the workplace (slapped, hit, sexually violated)?
- Who are you afraid of?
- Does your boss take anything out of your pay? If so, for what?
- Do you owe someone money? If so, what do you owe them for?
- Are you allowed to come and go freely? Are you afraid to leave? What would happen if you tried to leave?

Sources:

- 1) Donna, Sabella, *The Role of the Nurse in Combating Human Trafficking*
- 2) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- 3) Kay Jones, *Prevention of Human Trafficking*, INCASA
- 4) Polaris Project, *Polaris Master Training, Trafficking in Persons (2003)*
- 5) *The Crime of Human Trafficking, A Law Enforcement Guide to Identification and Investigation, Field Reference Pocket Guide on Human Trafficking*,
- 6) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Administration for Children & Families*



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NJ Office of the Attorney General • Division of Criminal Justice • NJ Human Trafficking Task Force