

Understanding Victims of Human Trafficking

Understanding the mindset of human trafficking victims is important to helping them restore their lives.

Consider the following points when helping someone who may be a victim of human trafficking.

- Many victims do not speak English and do not understand American culture.
- Some victims do not know what city or country they are in because they are forced to move often.
- Most victims have a strong sense of distrust because they fear deportation.
- Many victims do not see themselves as victims and do not realize what is being done to them is wrong.



How Can I Report Human Trafficking?

If you suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking, please call the:

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-3737-888

This is a toll-free 24-hour hotline, available to help victims safely and securely rebuild their lives by connecting them to resources and services.

Call to:

- Report a tip
- Request training and technical assistance, general information or specific anti-trafficking resources.

To get help in San Joaquin County

Call our 24-Hour Help Lines:

Domestic Violence	(209) 465-4878
Sexual Assault	(209) 465-4997
Youth	(209) 948-1911
Youth (Toll-free)	1-(800) 769-4357

Main Office

620 N. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 941-2611

All services are free and confidential. Services are available in Spanish, Southeast Asian, and South Asian languages.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING MODERN DAY SLAVERY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Can you recognize victims of human trafficking among the people you see every day?



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What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, and is widespread throughout the United States today. It is the second largest criminal industry in the world, and it is the fastest growing. Traffickers may use rape, physical violence, threats, confinement, psychological abuse, debt-bondage, and false offers of employment, marriage, or a better life to control victims.

Human Trafficking is the exploitation of a person for labor services or commercial sexual activity through force, fraud or coercion. Victims of sex trafficking are often forced to engage in prostitution, exotic dancing, or pornography. Importantly, any sexually exploited child is a trafficking victim, even if there is no force, fraud, or coercion. Labor trafficking victims are often forced into domestic servitude, agricultural work, restaurant work, or sweatshop factory work.

Where are victims of human trafficking found?

- Commercial sex industry
- Factories
- Farming, landscaping or construction
- Peddling/begging rings or magazine crews
- Private homes (nannies or housekeepers)
- Restaurants
- Hotel and tourist industry

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of trafficking may be men, women, teenagers and young children. Here are questions you can ask yourself to help identify potential victims:

- Is the person accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
- Is the person rarely allowed in public?
- Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?
- Does a minor appear to be in a relationship with a much older person?
- Is the person being deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?
- Does the person seem submissive or fearful?
- Does the person have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?
- Does the person lack identification or documentation?
- Is someone else collecting the person's pay or holding their money for "safe keeping?"

Questions to Ask Potential Victims of Human Trafficking

If you get the opportunity to speak to or question the person alone, asking the following questions can help you determine if you are dealing with a victim:

- Can you leave your job or living situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your working and living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have permission to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door preventing you from getting out?
- Does someone prohibit you from socializing or attending religious services?



Before questioning a person who may be a victim of human trafficking, make sure the person is alone and feels safe. The trafficker may be posing as a spouse, family member or employer.