

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



OFFICE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Annual Report 2023

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Iowa Office to Combat
Human Trafficking

www.stopthiowa.org



**2023 ANNUAL REPORT
of the
OFFICE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

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PREFACE

“Human trafficking uniquely affects Iowa given our proximity to major metropolitan areas (like Kansas City and Chicago) and the intersection of two major interstate systems. Our goal is to provide the knowledge and tools to quickly identify and respond to human trafficking so together we can prevent this from happening in our state – because even one victim is one too many.”

**DPS Commissioner
Stephan Bayens**

The Office to Combat Human Trafficking was designed to facilitate a more effective enforcement response, to raise public awareness of the issue, and to coordinate the efforts of the many dedicated professionals and volunteers who are committed to the reduction and ultimate elimination of human trafficking.

Any successful effort to combat criminal activity requires the engagement of many groups. Law enforcement may begin the process of holding traffickers accountable, but simply knowing what has occurred will not stop it. Even as cases proceed through the legal system, and some individual offenders are imprisoned and fined, there are many others who are willing to take their place in the trafficking arena.

Genuine efforts to address human trafficking require commitment from everyone: government officials who address child welfare and labor issues; community-based groups that raise public awareness and assist in raising funds for community programming; medical and legal professionals who encounter victims and traffickers and have opportunities to ensure that a fair and just response can occur; and religious and educational groups and charitable organizations that work with their constituencies to reshape community values and expectations, and also provide assistance in prevention, deterrence and broad-based community efforts to combat human trafficking.

The Department of Public Safety takes seriously the obligation to seek out all who engage in human trafficking, and to play a role in the coordination of resources and efforts to combat human trafficking in Iowa and elsewhere.

II. UPDATE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Coordinated efforts by many government agencies and non-government organizations have improved awareness among members of the public, advocacy groups, justice system officials, health providers and other service providers. In 2023, the Office to Combat Human Trafficking (OCHT) has made a considerable effort to educate and raise awareness of human trafficking issues with law enforcement, prosecutors, advocacy groups and the public, and this awareness has spurred action in many different arenas. Law enforcement agencies are sharing information with each other at an increased pace, leading to more investigations and more successful outcomes.



Legal Issues

On May 16, 2023, Governor Kim Reynolds signed bill HF 630 into law. The bill increases penalties for people found guilty of human trafficking. HF 630 increased the penalties of a person convicted of human trafficking from a Class D Felony to a Class B Felony, and if a person is convicted of trafficking a person under 18 years of age the penalties was increased from a Class C felony to a Class A Felony. If a person is convicted of knowingly engaging in human trafficking by causing or threatening to cause serious physical injury to another person, the penalties increased from a Class C Felony to a Class A Felony. HF 630 removed the ability of a person convicted of human trafficking to receive a deferred judgement or suspended sentence. All the increased penalties and changes to Iowa Code Section 710A.2 are included in Appendix B, signed HF 630.

Over the past couple of years, a number of human trafficking cases have been prosecuted in Iowa's federal courts. The United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Iowa opened eight (8) new cases in 2023 (which doubled from the year prior). The United States Attorney's Office reported several recent court-related convictions and indictments.

- On March 20, 2023, the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Iowa reported that two United States residents/Federated States of Micronesia citizens were sentenced to 48 months imprisonment, placed on three (3) years of supervised release, and ordered to pay nearly \$70,000 dollars in restitution for withholding passports to coerce the labor of two men in a meat processing plant in Ottumwa. In December 2019, the defendants convinced two victims to leave their homes in Micronesia, by promising them work in the United States and advising they would be able send money back to their families in Micronesia. Once in the United States, the defendants confiscated the victims' passports and obtained jobs for them at a meat processing plant in Ottumwa, Iowa. The defendants took the victims to cash their paychecks and seized most of the money as payment. The defendants used various means to compel the victims into labor and

services, including confiscating the victims' passports and social security cards; imposing debts on them; limiting and monitoring their communication with family; physically and socially isolating them; and creating a system of total financial dependance on the defendants.¹

- On October 26, 2022, an Iowa City resident/Zambia native was sentenced to 264 months in prison for Conspiracy to Engage in Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud, and Coercion and Felon in Possession of Firearm in the Southern District of Iowa. The defendant recruited several young women and sexually exploited them by force, fraud and coercion. The defendant assisted in posting advertisements and profiles of the victims advertising sex acts for money. The defendant promised the victims things of value and glamorized the lifestyle to lure them into performing commercial sex acts, which the defendant profited. The defendant provided victims drugs and drove victims to different states for the purpose of sex trafficking.²
- The State of Iowa Uniformed Crime Reporting 2023 Data (2023 UCR Data), which includes state charges and events from reporting Iowa law enforcement agencies, documents six (6) state cases involving commercial sex acts, where someone induced a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or in which the person induced to perform such acts has not attained 18 years of age; and one (1) state case involving involuntary servitude, where obtaining a person through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such person by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Human trafficking may be underrepresented in our judicial system as criminal offenses are frequently charged that do not readily implicate trafficking even if said activity is occurring. Often, human trafficking is accompanied by other types of crimes, such as fraud, financial crimes, identity theft crimes, drug offenses, and other vice offenses (e.g., pimping, pandering, or prostitution). These other offenses may be prosecuted in order to hold offenders accountable, without requiring the vulnerable trafficking victims to testify.

While it would be ideal to always prosecute human trafficking crimes, sometimes the victims who have survived the trafficking are struggling to regain their lives and may find that participation in the criminal process does not aid in their healing process. Sometimes survivors are justifiably concerned for their own safety and the safety of their loved ones should they testify. More and more, prosecutors are sensitive to the risks involved in victims' participation, and prosecutors may choose other avenues to prosecute offenders besides human trafficking offenses. This approach can hold offenders accountable while protecting the interests of the crime victims.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/micronesian-couple-sentenced-withholding-passports-coerce-labor-two-men-meat-processing-plant>

² <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdia/pr/iowa-city-man-sentenced-federal-prison-human-trafficking-charges#:~:text=DAVENPORT%2C%20Iowa%20%E2%80%93%20An%20Iowa%20City,in%20Possession%20of%20a%20Firearm.>

III. IOWA PERSPECTIVE

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of youth under the age of 18 for commercial sex; the exploitation of adults for commercial sex through force, fraud, or coercion; and the exploitation of any individual for compelled labor.³ Human trafficking does not require the transportation of individuals across state lines or that someone is physically restrained. Signs that a person is being trafficked can include working excessively long hours, unexplained gifts, physical injury, substance abuse, running away from home, isolation from others, or being controlled or closely monitored by another.

Like most crimes, human trafficking may be hidden from public view, and it can be challenging to determine the incidence and prevalence of the crime.⁴ Many public and private sector agencies and individuals are making efforts to focus on public awareness, including enhanced media attention.



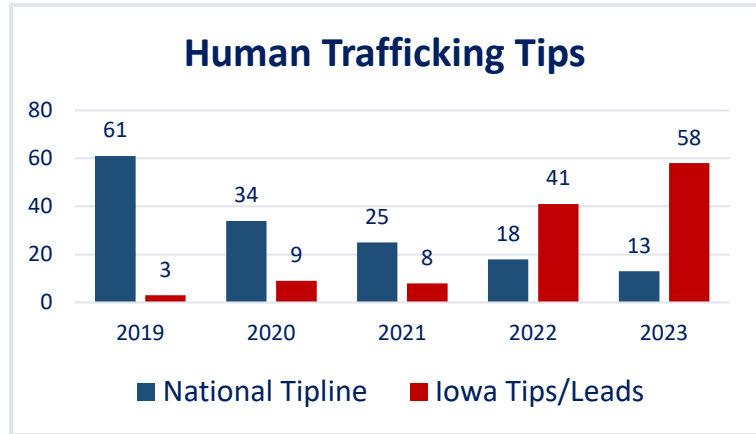
Law enforcement awareness and training efforts in Iowa have likely impacted the volume of human trafficking reporting. In previous years, Iowa human trafficking tips and leads from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), part of the Polaris Project, have typically exceeded those from other sources. The Iowa OCHT has seen a shift as the majority of tip reporting is now coming from other sources. In 2022, the Iowa OCHT added a tip reporting mechanism to the stopptiowa.org website for the general public to report potential trafficking information.

- From January through October 2023, the Iowa OCHT documented 71 human trafficking tips and leads, with 58 of those received from law enforcement field encounters, the Crime Stoppers tip line, and the stopptiowa.org website. The remaining 13 were received from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH).

³ Hilinski-Rosick & Lee, Contemporary Issues in Victimology: Identifying Patterns and Trends (Lexington Books, 2018).

⁴ Incidence refers to how many crimes occur during a particular period of time. Prevalence measures how many people experience a particular crime during their lifetimes. National Institute of Justice, Measuring Frequency, <https://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/rape-sexual-violence/campus/Pages/measuring.aspx>

- Tips from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) have decreased significantly over the previous five years (61 tips in 2019 compared to 13 tips in 2023).
- Conversely, law enforcement field encounters, the Crime Stoppers tip line, and the stopthiowa.org website has seen a 41% increase in tips since the stopthiowa.org website was launched in 2022 (41 tips in 2022 compared to 58 tips in 2023).



- The Iowa OCHT processed 722 requests for information (RFI's) regarding human trafficking investigative leads.

IV. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TRAINING

In July of 2020, the Iowa Legislature passed legislation designed to enhance the reporting, training, and prevention of human trafficking.

Iowa Code section 80.45A requires the Iowa OCHT, in collaboration with other government agencies, non-governmental agencies, and community organizations, to develop a human trafficking prevention training program. The legislation requires lodging providers to certify that their organizations have completed human trafficking training before receiving any governmental expenditures. The training must focus on accurate and prompt identification and reporting of, or response to, suspected human trafficking. At a minimum, the training must include the following:



- A general overview of human trafficking.
- A general overview of state law on human trafficking.
- The definition of human trafficking and the commercial exploitation of children.
- Guidance on the difference between labor trafficking and sex trafficking.
- Guidance on how to recognize potential human trafficking victims.
- Guidance on how to recognize potential human traffickers.
- Guidance on how to identify activities commonly associated with human trafficking.
- Safe and effective responses to human trafficking situations, including but not limited to how to report suspected human trafficking to proper law enforcement officials.



The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety is charged with approving the training curriculum, and also is tasked with adopting rules to implement and administer the training as necessary under Iowa Code chapter 17A.

Since the implementation of Iowa Code section 80.45A, the Iowa OCHT has certified more than 680 lodging providers and provided training to approximately 21,988 individuals. The Iowa OCHT is in the process of developing a multi-media outreach campaign to notify and educate businesses and the public on how to identify human trafficking victims. The OCHT has partnered with the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and the Iowa High School Athletic Association to educate Iowa high school athletes and school officials on the dangers associated with human trafficking and how to identify and report human trafficking incidents. A website was created (stopthiowa.org) to provide a training platform, resource information, approved lodging provider information, and a tip reporting system, which has generated actionable tips and intelligence information to combat human trafficking.

In March of 2022, the Iowa OCHT added a Human Trafficking Coordinator who is tasked with conducting outreach to lodging providers that have not sought certification, performing audits on random certified lodging locations to verify continued compliance, and to answer any questions regarding the certification process. The OCHT Human Trafficking Coordinator has conducted 69 audits of certified lodging providers, and has met with 37 lodging properties to promote and explain the lodging provider certification process.

The Iowa OCHT has focused on outreach to the public/private sector and our law enforcement partners to educate, train, and share intelligence information regarding human trafficking in hopes of identifying organizations, businesses, or subjects who are trafficking victims. The Iowa OCHT provided training to 1,805 individuals from various public and private entities from January to October of 2023.



The Iowa OCHT has also partnered with the Secretary of State's program, Businesses Against Trafficking; the Iowa Department of Transportation; the Attorney General's Office; the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services; Dorothy's House; and Truckers Against Trafficking. The Iowa OCHT presented human trafficking training at the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau Conference; Iowa Sheriff's and Deputies Association Conference; Iowa County Attorney's Conference; and to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

In June of 2023, the Iowa OCHT hosted Imran Ali, Director of Training and Consulting for Eckberg Lammers Attorney's at Law (a nationally known prosecutor), for training regarding human trafficking investigations involving illicit massage and service industry businesses. In September of 2023, the OCHT hosted Dan Nash of the

Human Trafficking Training Center (a nationally- recognized training organization) for training regarding general human trafficking investigations.

OCHT Training Initiatives Through October 16, 2023

- Iowa Certified Lodging Facilities – 680
- Number of certified lodging staff who successfully completed the Human Trafficking Prevention Training Certification – 21,988
- Number of law enforcement and the public/private sector individuals trained in identifying human trafficking – 1,805 (January 2023 – October 2023)
- The Iowa State Patrol hosted nine (9) public training sessions to help identify human trafficking victims.

Appendix A

Iowa Code Chapter 710A: Human Trafficking

710A.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

1. “*Commercial sexual activity*” means any sex act or sexually explicit performance for which anything of value is given, promised to, or received by any person and includes, but is not limited to, prostitution, participation in the production of pornography, and performance in strip clubs.

2. “*Debt bondage*” means the status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge of the debtor’s personal services or a person under the control of a debtor’s personal services as a security for debt if the reasonable value of such services is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined.

3. “*Forced labor or services*” means labor or services that are performed or provided by another person and that are obtained or maintained through any of the following:

a. Causing or threatening to cause serious physical injury to any person.

b. Physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain another person.

c. Abusing or threatening to abuse the law or legal process.

d. Knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported passport or other

immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document, of another person.

4. a. “*Human trafficking*” means participating in a venture to recruit, harbor, transport, supply provisions, or obtain a person for any of the following purposes:

(1) Forced labor or service that results in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

(2) Commercial sexual activity through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, except that if the trafficked person is under the age of eighteen, the commercial sexual activity need not involve force, fraud, or coercion.

b. “*Human trafficking*” also means knowingly purchasing or attempting to purchase services involving commercial sexual activity from a victim or another person engaged in human trafficking.

5. “*Involuntary servitude*” means a condition of servitude induced by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that if the person did not enter into or continue in such condition, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint or the threatened abuse of legal process.

6. “*Labor*” means work of economic or financial value.

7. “*Maintain*” means, in relation to labor and

services, to secure continued performance thereof, regardless of any initial agreement on the part of the victim to perform such type of services.

8. “*Obtain*” means, in relation to labor or services, to secure performance thereof.

9. “*Peonage*” means a status or condition of involuntary servitude based upon real or alleged indebtedness.

10. “*Services*” means an ongoing relationship between a person and the actor in which the person performs activities under the supervision of or for the benefit of the actor, including commercial sexual activity and sexually explicit performances.

11. “*Sexually explicit performance*” means a live or public act or show intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires or appeal to the prurient interest of patrons.

12. “*Venture*” means any group of two or more persons associated in fact, whether or not a legal entity.

13. “*Victim*” means a person subjected to human trafficking.

2006 Acts, ch 1074, §2; 2009 Acts, ch 19, §1; 2012 Acts, ch 1057, §2

Referred to in §80.45, §232.68, §915.51, §915.87

710A.2 Human trafficking.

1. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking is guilty of a class “D” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” felony.

2. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by causing or threatening to cause serious physical injury to another person is guilty of a class “C” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “B” felony.

3. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain another person is guilty of a class “D” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” felony.

4. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by soliciting services or benefiting from the services of a victim is guilty

of a class “D” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” felony.

5. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by abusing or threatening to abuse the law or legal process is guilty of a class “D” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” felony.

6. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document of a victim is guilty of a class “D” felony, except that if that other person is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” felony.

7. A person who benefits financially or by receiving anything of value from knowing participation in human trafficking is guilty of a class “D” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” felony.

8. A person’s ignorance of the age of the victim or a belief that the victim was older is not a defense to a violation of this section.

2006 Acts, ch 1074, §3; 2012 Acts, ch 1057, §3; 2013 Acts, ch 90, §187

Referred to in §9E.2, §272.2, §692A.102, §710A.3, §710A.5, §802.2D, §911.2A, §911.2B, §915.94, §915.95

710A.2A Solicitation of commercial sexual activity.

A person shall not entice, coerce, or recruit, or attempt to entice, coerce, or recruit, either a person who is under the age of eighteen or a law enforcement officer or agent who is representing that the officer or agent is under the age of eighteen, to engage in a commercial sexual activity. A person who violates this section commits a class “D” felony.

2012 Acts, ch 1057, §4; 2013 Acts, ch 90, §188

Referred to in §692A.102

710A.3 Affirmative defense.

It shall be an affirmative defense, in addition to any other affirmative defenses for which the victim might be eligible, to a prosecution for a

criminal violation directly related to the defendant's status as a victim of a crime that is a violation of section 710A.2, that the defendant committed the violation under compulsion by another's threat of serious injury, provided that the defendant reasonably believed that such injury was imminent.

2006 Acts, ch 1074, §4

710A.4 Restitution.

The gross income of the defendant or the value of labor or services performed by the victim to the defendant shall be considered when determining the amount of restitution.

2006 Acts, ch 1074, §5

710A.5 Certification.

A law enforcement agency investigating a crime described in section 710A.2 shall notify the attorney general in writing about the investigation. Upon request of the attorney general, such law enforcement agency shall provide copies of any investigative reports describing the immigration status and cooperation of the victim. The attorney general shall certify in writing to the United States department of justice or other federal agency that an investigation or prosecution under this chapter has begun and that the person who is a likely victim of a crime described in section 710A.2 is willing to cooperate or is cooperating with the investigation to enable the person, if eligible under federal law, to qualify for an appropriate special immigrant visa and to

access available federal benefits. Cooperation with law enforcement shall not be required of a minor victim of a crime described in section 710A.2. This certification shall be made available to the victim and the victim's designated legal representative.

2006 Acts, ch 1074, §6

710A.6 Outreach, public awareness, and training programs.

The crime victim assistance division of the department of justice, in cooperation with other governmental agencies and nongovernmental or community organizations, shall develop and conduct outreach, public awareness, and training programs for the general public, law enforcement agencies, first responders, potential victims, and persons conducting or regularly dealing with businesses or other ventures that have a high statistical incidence of debt bondage or forced labor or services. The programs shall train participants to recognize and report incidents of human trafficking and to suppress the demand that fosters exploitation of persons and leads to human trafficking.

2015 Acts, ch 138, §138, 161, 162

Referred to in §915.94

Establishment of human trafficking enforcement fund; 2015 Acts, ch 138, §141; 2016 Acts, ch 1137, §20

Appendix B

House File 630

Section 1. Section 710A.2, Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

710A.2 Human trafficking.

1. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” “A” felony.
2. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by causing or threatening to cause serious physical injury to another person is guilty of a class “C” “A” felony, ~~except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “B” felony.~~
3. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain another person is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” “A” felony.
4. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by soliciting services or benefiting from the services of a victim is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” “A” felony.
5. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by abusing or threatening to abuse the law or legal process is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” “A” felony.
6. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported government identification of another person is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony, except if that other person is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” “A” felony.
7. A person who benefits financially or by receiving anything of value from knowing participation in human trafficking is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony, except that if the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “C” “A” felony.
8. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by knowingly providing or facilitating the provision of a forged, altered, or fraudulent license purportedly issued pursuant to chapter 152C or 157, or a forged, altered, or fraudulent government identification to another person, to force, coerce, entice, assist, facilitate, or permit the other person to perform labor or services is guilty of ~~an aggravated misdemeanor or~~ a class “D” felony, except if that other person is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony.
9. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by knowingly forcing, coercing, enticing, assisting, facilitating, or permitting another person in possession of a forged, altered, or fraudulent license purportedly issued pursuant to chapter 152C or 157, or a forged, altered, or fraudulent government identification, to produce such license or government identification upon request of a peace officer pursuant to section 152C.5B or 157.4A, is guilty of ~~an aggravated misdemeanor or~~ a class “D” felony, except if that other person is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class “D” “B” felony.
10. A person’s ignorance of the age of the victim or a belief that the victim was older is not a defense to a violation of this section.
11. A person who is found guilty, or who enters a plea of guilty, ~~receives a deferred judgment, or receives a deferred or suspended sentence for~~ to a violation of this chapter shall be ineligible for a license pursuant to chapter 152C or 157 for a period of not less than five years from the date of conviction, plea, judgment, or sentence.
12. A person who is sentenced under the provisions of this section shall not be eligible for a deferred judgment or a deferred or suspended sentence.

Sec. 2. Section 907.3, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2023, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (15) The offense is a violation of section 710A.2.

Sec. 3. Section 907.3, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2023, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (9) The offense is a violation of section 710A.2.

Sec. 4. Section 907.3, subsection 3, Code 2023, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. *h.* A sentence imposed pursuant to section 710A.2.

Appendix C

Human Trafficking Indicators

The following list of indicators is has been published by the Polaris Project.⁵ Please note that not all indicators will be present in all situations. The type of trafficking and the content or environment are all important to take into account.

Common Work and Living Conditions: The individual(s) in question

- Is not free to leave or come and go at will
- 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 or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- 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
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Is living and working on site
- Experiences verbal or physical abuse by their supervisor
- Is not given proper safety equipment
- Is not paid directly
- Is forced to meet daily quotas

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement or immigration officials
- Shows signs of substance use or addiction

Poor Physical Health

- Shows signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, and/or fatigue
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Lack of Control

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is frequently monitored
- Is not in control of their own money, financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of their own identification documents (ID or passport)

⁵ <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognize-signs>

- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Other

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where they are staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Appear to have lost sense of time
- Shares scripted, confusing, or inconsistent stories
- Protects the person who may be hurting them or minimizes abuse

This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. The red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases. Each individual indicator should be taken in context, not be considered in isolation, nor should be taken as “proof” that human trafficking is occurring. Additionally, cultural differences should also be considered.