Potential Trafficking Indicators

Use this indicator checklist as a tool for identifying victims of sex trafficking and/or labor trafficking.

**Common Work and Living Conditions**

The individual in question:

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- 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 and/or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Lives at the workplace/with employer, or lives with many people in confined areas
- Claims to be “just visiting” and/or is unable to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in
- Owe a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- Works and/or lives in locations where high security measures exist (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Is physically exhausted; works long hours
- Is responsible for child care, elder care or cleaning—often hidden as chores
- May come from a culture where it is common for domestic workers to be children

**Poor Physical Health**

The individual in question:

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture
- Has sleeping and eating disorders
• Has sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma, urinary difficulties from working in the sex industry
• Has chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular or respiratory problems from endless days toiling in dangerous agriculture, sweatshop or construction conditions

**Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior**

The individual in question:

• Is fearful, anxious, depressed, angry, aggressive, suicidal, tearful, submissive, tense or nervous/paranoid
• Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
• Shows evidence of mental, physical or sexual abuse
• Expresses guilt and shame
• Has symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
• Appears traumatically bonded with the trafficker

**Lack of Control**

The individual in question:

• Is not in control of his/her own money, financial records or bank account
• Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
• Is not allowed or able to speak for himself/herself (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

**Personal**

The individual in question:

• Has few or no personal possessions
• Is inappropriately dressed, including oversized clothing or overtly sexy clothing
• Has poor personal hygiene
• Is in possession of large amounts of money
• Has an older boyfriend or male friend or relative
• Is withdrawn, uncommunicative
• Has been “branded” by a trafficker (e.g., a tattoo of the trafficker’s name)
• Is lying about age/false ID
• Is unable to make (or fears) eye contact
• Cannot or will not speak on his/her own behalf
• Has heightened sense of fear or distrust of authority
• Has gaps in memory
• Is experiencing a loss of sense of time
• Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
• May use lingo such as, “The Life,” or “The Game,” refer to a boyfriend as “Daddy,” use “The Track,” or “Stroll” or refer to Johns as “Tricks” or “Dates”

**Educational**

The individual in question:

• Is not at grade level
• Is a special education student with personal indicators mentioned above
• Is low functioning and/or developmentally delayed
• Has behavior issues in school
• Is truant and/or chronically absent
• Sleeps in class
• Is not enrolled in school (if child is attending school, child may opt to disclose to trusted teacher or school)
• Has learning difficulties

**Family Factors**

The individual in question:

• Has unclear family relationships
• May not be the biological child of the “parent” in the home
• Has no evidence of a legal guardian
• May be aware that the “parents” are not actually his/her parents
• Is working for an “aunt” or “uncle”
• Is excluded from family events (i.e. going to church, vacation, parties)
• Is fearful of family he/she is living with (may or may not present as formal guardian)
• Is a runaway or throwaway child
• Lacks adult supervision
• Lacks adult support
• Has been sexually abused at home by a family member or friend
• Has a history with the Kansas Department for Children and Families or other similar social service agencies
• Has parents who abuse substances
• Has experienced and/or observed domestic violence
• Is living or hanging out in geographic areas known to be a gathering place for prostitution

**Legal Issues**

The individual in question:

• Is in the juvenile court system, probably on repeated status offenses
• Has fake identification and/or fake dance permits
• Has substance abuse issues
• Has a history of recruiting others into prostitution
• Frequents areas known for prostitution, adult entertainment venues, strip clubs, massage parlors, X-rated video shops and/or hotels