

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
- 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
- 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