Human trafficking is a difficult crime to detect because victims can be anyone and rarely self-identify.

There are several indicators that can help identify potential trafficking victims. Being able to recognize red flags and possible indicators is the first step to assisting the victim and arresting their trafficker.

The following indicators, however, are not all-encompassing.

Every human trafficking victim is different. Victims may exhibit only one of these indicators, or they may exhibit several.

### Indicators

#### Being Controlled
- Not in control of their own identification (ID or Passport)
- Not allowed or able to speak for themselves; refusal to make eye contact
- Has little personal property, wears the same clothes over and over again, or carries their belongings in a trash bag
- Paid mostly in cash; not in control of their own money or has no financial records or bank account

#### Workplace Conditions
- Recruited with false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his or her work
- Unpaid or paid very little by cash tips, off the record
- Has a pimp or manager or someone who will not leave their side
- Not free to come and go as they wish
- Works long or unusual hours
- Has a large debt that cannot be paid off
- Is under the age of 18 and performing sex acts in exchange for anything of value
- Exchanges commercial sex acts for needs like shelter, food, or other means of survival

#### Mental & Physical Health
- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous, or paranoid, especially around law enforcement
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture, such as bruises, cuts, etc.
- Has branding scars such as symbolic burns or tattoos
- Has little personal property, wears the same clothes over and over again, or carries their belongings in a trash bag
- Overly attached to one person or has one person overly attached to them
- Needs permission or directly to make simple decisions

### Human Traffickers Often

Manipulate their victims so that they are dependent on traffickers to do things that any other individual would have no problem doing on their own.
Contact local law enforcement and provide them all the details you have. Call 911 if you are witnessing an emergency situation.

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

REPORTING PROTOCOL

It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking. The best way to assist law enforcement is:

OBSERVE

What are the indicators? How are they acting? What do they look like? Where are they? Who are they with?

DOCUMENT

Covertly take down vehicle information and plate numbers. Note what time of day it is. Record the address where the encounter occurred.

REPORT

Contact local law enforcement and provide them all the details you have. Call 911 if you are witnessing an emergency situation.

Although you may feel the need to intervene, it’s important that you do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly, or alert a victim to any suspicions. DeliverFund cannot take tips from the public. Please always contact local law enforcement, and they will contact DeliverFund for assistance.

LEARN MORE

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