

## Madison Police Department - Special Victims Unit

**Madison Human Trafficking Tip and Resource Line: 608-261-9991 / [HT@cityofmadison.com](mailto:HT@cityofmadison.com)**

THE TIP AND RESOURCE LINE NUMBER AND EMAIL ARE TWO OTHER AVENUES AT MPD TO REPORT POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING INCIDENTS, AS WELL AS TO REQUEST HELP AND SPECIFIC RESOURCES. WHILE THE LINES ARE MONITORED, THE INFORMATION RELAYED OVER THE TIP LINE MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATELY REVIEWED. IF YOU ARE WISHING TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH AN OFFICER OR REQUIRE A MORE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, CALL EITHER THE NON-EMERGENCY LINE (608-255-2345) OR 911 IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

1. You will be asked if you are reporting a tip or needing resources. You can remain anonymous through the process.
2. If you are reaching out as a victim of human trafficking, you will be asked how you choose to be helped. While MPD works to foster an environment where individuals are comfortable and supported through the reporting process, the focus will be on providing the support and resources you need at that time. The decision to report the incident will always remain your choice. *Please note, that with incidents involving children, as mandatory reporters MPD may be obligated to report the incident to Child Protective Services.*
3. If you choose to report the incident, a detective will reach out and further walk you through the reporting process and next investigative steps.
4. Since we collaborate with organizations who are victim advocates or who provide support, you may be referred to them based on your specific needs.

Understanding the numerous and significant barriers that come with seeking resources for or reporting human trafficking incidents, the Madison Police Department's Special Victims Unit (SVU) has created a Human Trafficking Resource and Tip email ([HT@cityofmadison.com](mailto:HT@cityofmadison.com)) and phone line (**608-261-9991**).

Human trafficking is a vastly underreported crime with traffickers often preying on vulnerable populations (e.g. drug addiction, missing juveniles, persons with societal disadvantages, etc.). Understanding this, the Madison Police Department believes it is essential that we make it as easy as possible to receive and collect information from victims and witnesses of human trafficking, who may otherwise be deterred by the standard reporting practices.

Furthermore, a designated phone line and email will help add needed stability to the human trafficking detective position, allowing for a consistent point of contact for human trafficking resources and reporting, no matter who is currently assigned to the role.

At the Madison Police Department, we believe in a people-centered approach in our SVU investigations. While a small change, we believe that this Human Trafficking e-mail and phone number will help create a more flexible system, where we are able to better support and address the unique needs of all those seeking MPD's services.

City of Madison Police Department Special Victims Unit – Det. Shannon Siirila