



Human Trafficking & Exploitation

Recognition, Reporting & Response

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery involving the exploitation of people through force, fraud, or coercion for labor or commercial sex. It happens in every community—urban, suburban, and rural—and affects all demographics, though specific populations face heightened vulnerability.

Types of Trafficking

Sex Trafficking: Exploitation through commercial sex acts induced by force, fraud, or coercion. Any minor involved in commercial sex is automatically a trafficking victim, regardless of force.

Labor Trafficking: Exploitation for labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion. Common in agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, construction, and manufacturing.

Recognizing Potential Victims

Physical Indicators:

- Signs of physical abuse or malnourishment
- Lack of medical care
- Appears exhausted or sleep-deprived
- Branded or tattooed (ownership marks)

Behavioral Signs:

- Not free to come and go as they wish
- Fearful, anxious, or submissive
- Not in control of their own identification documents
- Not paid or paid very little
- Under 18 and involved in commercial sex
- Living at their workplace
- Answers appear scripted or rehearsed
- Someone else speaks for them



Vulnerable Populations

- Runaway and homeless youth
- LGBTQ+ youth facing family rejection
- Individuals with substance use disorders
- Undocumented immigrants
- People with disabilities
- Those experiencing poverty or economic instability
- Individuals with a history of abuse or trauma
- People in unstable housing situations

Common Trafficking Scenarios

False Promises: Job offers that seem too good to be true, modeling opportunities, travel offers

Romantic Relationships: "Boyfriend" or "girlfriend" who gradually introduces exploitation

Family Trafficking: Family members exploiting their own children or relatives

Debt Bondage: Forced to work to pay off fabricated or inflated debts

Online Recruitment: Social media, gaming platforms, and dating apps are used to target victims

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How to Report

If you suspect trafficking:

- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888
- Text: 233733 (BEFREE)
- Report online: humantraffickinghotline.org
- In emergencies or immediate danger: Call 911

When reporting, provide:

- Location and description of the situation
- Description of individuals involved



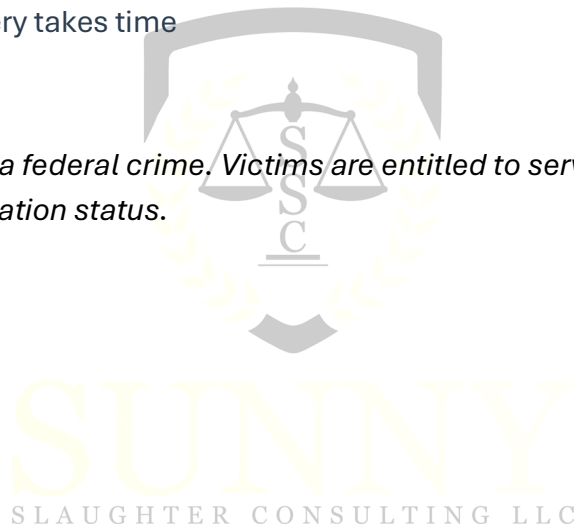
- Vehicle information if applicable
- Any other relevant details

You don't need proof—trained professionals will investigate the matter.

Supporting Survivors

- Approach with compassion, not judgment
- Understand trauma bonding and complex relationships with traffickers
- Connect to specialized service providers
- Recognize that leaving is a process, not an event
- Support their autonomy and decision-making
- Be patient—recovery takes time

Human trafficking is a federal crime. Victims are entitled to services and protection regardless of immigration status.



Professional Services Available

Need training, consulting, or speaking services on this or other topics? I work with businesses, organizations, agencies, institutions, and places of worship. Contact me to discuss customized solutions tailored to your team's needs.