

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM IDENTIFICATION FAQs

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts or labor against their will.

*In Louisiana, the law states that if a person is under the age of 21 and engaging in commercial sex acts (trading sex for something of value such as food, shelter, or money), they are considered a victim of human trafficking-- regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion. This means that any person in Louisiana under the age of 21 who is engaging in commercial sex acts is a victim of a crime, not a criminal.

For people over the age of 21, the elements of force, fraud, or coercion must be present for labor or sex trafficking to occur.

* Note. See Revised Statute 14:46.2 and 14:46.3

What are Force, Fraud, and Coercion?

Traffickers use the tactics of force, fraud, and coercion to recruit, exploit, and control victims.

FORCE refers to the use of physical force or physical control to break down victims. This can include: physical harm, sexual violence, and confinement.

FRAUD refers to methods of deception or false promises of employment, wages, love, marriage, or a better life. This can include: withholding wages, falsifying documents, and contract fraud.

COERCION refers to the mental or psychological control that traffickers exercise over their victims. This can include: threats of harm, threats of arrest or deportation, debt bondage, psychological manipulation, or document confiscation.

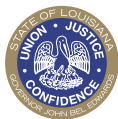
What are some indicators of human trafficking?

- The person is disoriented, confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse.
- The person cannot freely contact friends or family.
- The person is fearful, timid, or overly submissive.
- The person was forced to perform commercial sexual acts.
- There is evidence of a sexually explicit online advertisement.
- The person was recruited for a job but was forced to engage in work without compensation.
- The person does not have freedom of movement.
- The person lives at their workplace.
- The person lacks personal possessions such as identification or money and appears not to have a stable living situation.
- The person is often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers to speak on his or her behalf.
- The person is closely monitored at all times.

How Do I Report?

- To report suspected human trafficking activity, call the Louisiana State Police 24/7 Hotline at 800-434-8007.
- For more information about statewide efforts to address human trafficking or to find services for victims of human trafficking in your region, please visit the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention at humantrafficking@la.gov.

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