

# PROVIDER GUIDE: SERVING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITION

- Human trafficking is the crime of using force, fraud, or coercion to induce another individual to sell sex or provide a service or in the case of sex trafficking when the person induced to perform such acts has not attained 18 years of age.
- Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is when a person under the age of 18 exchanges sexual acts for something of perceived value. CSEC, or child trafficking, is a form of child abuse.
- Traffickers assert a cycle of power and control over a person. This cycle is for the trafficker's own profit. For the victim, this may look like trading sex for housing, food, or substances.



## RED FLAGS

- Guards information, seems disoriented or unsure.
- Shows fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, or nervous/paranoid behavior. May avoid eye contact.
- Does not have access to personal documents or money
- Lives where they work, or not allowed to leave their living or working situation.
- Doesn't know where they are and are unable to clarify where they are living or the address.
- Is accompanied by a controlling older adult
- Is not allowed to speak for themselves.
- Is not allowed to contact friends or family.
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, starvation, or torture.
- Has tattoos with someone's name, high number of sexual partners, multiple STIs, pregnancies, or abortions.
- Uses emergency medical services frequently.
- Experiences abuse at work. Not allowed breaks, recruited for something different.
- Uses more than one phone.
- Displays sudden changes in behavior.
- Is a minor trying to pass as an adult.



**SALVATION ARMY NEW DAY TO STOP TRAFFICKING HOTLINE: (267) 838-5866**

*Confidential support and technical assistance available 24/7. Translation services available.*



## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

### Trauma Bonding

Clients you work with may have a strong trauma bond to their trafficker. This is an emotional attachment between an abuser and victim. Due to this bond, the client may not want to leave their trafficker and may want to protect them.

### Rapport Building

Establish a non-judgmental, unconditional positive regard toward your client. Use active listening skills, a calm demeanor, and a calm tone of voice. You can also build rapport through consistency and keeping commitments.

### Boundaries

Seek supervision to explore and maintain boundaries when helping others. Helpers can sometimes “overhelp.” In this case, they may overextend themselves or their resources. This can cause confusing and sometimes painful interpersonal interactions between client and helper.

### Safety

Clients may still be under the power and control of their trafficker. Work with the client to safety plan around technology, housing, and financial resources.

### Substance Use

Substance use is common for people experiencing trafficking. Clients may be unsure about entering treatment. Respect their decisions and offer options about harm reduction or treatment.

### Cultural Diversity

Approach clients with cultural humility and respect. Seek out books, trainings, and supervision to learn about your implicit bias and decolonize your helping practice.

### Criminal Justice System

Your client might be treated as an offender within the criminal or juvenile justice system and may have charges related to their trafficking victimization.



## USE TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

- Consistently emphasize safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment.
- Recognize how trauma affects all individuals involved with the program, organization, or system
- Engage in harm reduction and trust that your client knows how to keep themselves safe.
- Remember that your client can be involved in different systems and issues at the same time (family court, criminal charges, health care provider, etc.).
- Understand trauma triggers to minimize re-traumatization. Triggers are sensory experiences that prompt trauma survivors to relive a past traumatic experience. Use verbal de-escalation to support your client experiencing a trigger.
- Take specific steps to ensure clients' privacy and confidentiality.
- Promote autonomy in clients. Follow your client's lead during interactions.
- Recognize the signs of vicarious trauma, secondary traumatic stress, and compassion fatigue. Practice self-care to counterbalance these effects.



## COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

*If exploitation or trafficking of a child is suspected, immediately report to Childline: 1 (800) 932-0313*



## RESOURCES

### HOTLINES – 24 HOURS

**Salvation Army New Day to Stop Trafficking**  
(267) 838-5866

*Confidential support and technical assistance available 24/7. Connection to services for individuals experiencing trafficking or exploitation by the commercial sex industry. Translation services available.*

**Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline**

1 (866) 723-3014

*Confidential help available 24/7 with interpretation available.*

**WOAR Philadelphia Sexual Violence Hotline**

(215) 985-3333

*Call or text 24/7 for confidential assistance.*

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**

1 (888) 373-7888

*Call 24/7 for help or to report tips anywhere in the U.S.*

### EMERGENCY SHELTER / HOUSING

**Dawn's Place (18+)**

(215) 849-2396

*Residential services and on-site case management and therapy for survivors of sex trafficking.*

**Covenant House (18–24-year-olds)**

(215) 951-5411

*Residential services for runaway, homeless, and trafficked youth.*

**Salvation Army New Day New Home**

(267) 838-5866

*Housing supports and program for survivors of sex or labor trafficking.*

### TRAFFICKING-SPECIFIC THERAPY

**WOAR Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence**

(215) 985-3333

*Trauma therapy for survivors of sex trafficking and sexual assault.*

**Joseph J. Peters Institute (JJPI)**

(215) 701-1560, ext. 1

*Trauma treatment services for adult and children survivors of all types of trauma, including trafficking.*

**Philadelphia Children's Alliance (Youth-Specific)**

(215) 387-9500

*Therapy for minor victims of sex trafficking.*

### SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

**Community Behavioral Health (CBH)**

1 (888) 545-2600

*Connection to substance use and behavioral health providers.*

### LEGAL

**Women Against Abuse Legal Center**

(215) 686-7082

*Legal advocacy and representation in relationship violence-related legal matters, including Protection From Abuse, child custody, and child support.*

**Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

(610) 519-7183

*Legal representation in criminal record clearing and connection to pro bono representation in other legal matters.*

### IMMIGRATION

**Justice At Work**

(215) 733-0878

*Free immigration and legal assistance and representation for survivors of trafficking.*

**Nationalities Service Center**

(215) 893-8400

*Case management and immigration legal services for immigrant survivors of trafficking.*

**HIAS PA**

(215) 832-0900

*Immigration legal services for immigrant survivors of crime, including trafficking.*

### YOUTH SPECIFIC

**Support Center for Child Advocates**

(267) 210-4853

*Legal advocacy and representation of children who have experienced abuse and neglect, including trafficking.*