



How To Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking

Download and use in conjunction with 'Developing a Protocol for Reporting Victims of Human Trafficking' PDF available at www.hopeforjustice.org/professionals under 'USA Professionals PDFs'.

Some initial clues a patient might be a victim of human trafficking:

- Fear of making eye contact
- Displays attitude of shame
- Appears to be lying when answering questions
- Trying to act older than appears
- False ID
- Restricted communication (you get the idea they are not telling you everything)
- Presence of an overly controlling 'boyfriend' or 'family member'
- Appearance of being denied food, water, or sleep
- Vocabulary and knowledge of sexual matters that is not age appropriate
- Scripted answers or inconsistent stories
- Distrust of law enforcement
- Not in control of their own personal identification documents
- Appears unusually anxious
- Misinformation about medical history

Physical evidence a patient might be a victim of human trafficking:

- Physical abuse: bruising, scarring, burns, mutilations
- Signs of chronic abuse:
 - Unattended back injury
 - Hearing problems from loud work environment
 - Respiratory difficulty from working in a dangerous environment
- Signs of inadequate/delayed medical care
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- Poor immunization status
- Unusual infections endemic to other countries





- Malnourishment
- Chronic dental neglect
- Vaginal bleeding/urinary difficulties
- Pelvic pain/rectal trauma
- Stunted growth
- Poorly formed or rotted teeth
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Unusual tattoos/branding (i.e. 'property of...')
- Psychiatric signs:
 - Disoriented
 - Phobias
 - Confusion
 - Panic attacks

If your patient has multiple signs of being a victim of human trafficking, please review the suggested questions below and course of action provided in the 'Developing a Protocol for Reporting Victims of Human Trafficking' PDF.

Questions to Ask Potential Victims of Trafficking:

International victims

- Who is the person who came with you today?
- Can you tell me about them?
- Were you ever promised something and it didn't happen?
- Has anyone taken and kept your passport or other legal papers?
- What are your living conditions?
- Are you able to leave your job and find another job if you desired to?
- Are you able to leave your room when you want or are you locked in?
- Do you have to ask permission to go to the bathroom?
- Are you able to shower or take a bath as often as you would like?
- Are you in any physical danger?
- Has someone threatened you or your family?





- Do you owe anyone any debts?
- Do you have to work or do something you don't want to do to pay that debt?
- Have you ever been told to have sex with people you don't want to have sex with?

Domestic victims:

- Who is the person who came with you today?
- Can you tell me about them?
- Were you ever promised something and it didn't happen?
- Does anyone monitor your conversations with family or friends?
- Do you ever feel pressured to do something you don't want to do?
- How do you feel pressured?
- Do you feel you were tricked or lied to?
- Has anyone ever threatened you?
- Has anyone ever physically abused you?
- Have you ever had to trade sex for money or something else you needed?
- Do you have to meet a quota of money each night before you return home?
- Have you ever been told to have sex with people you don't want to have sex with?