



The
**Kentucky Statewide
Human Trafficking Task Force**

The Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force is a multi-disciplinary task force bringing together law enforcement, victim advocates, service agencies, and survivor leaders to combat human trafficking in Kentucky. The task force is joint project between The Office of the Attorney General and Catholic Charities of Louisville funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice of Assistance and the Office for Victims of Crime.

Policies and Protocols

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Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce

Policies and Protocols

Purpose of the Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force Protocol Document

The purpose of this document is to provide law enforcement, service providers, government agencies, and individuals with best practices for responding to human trafficking incidents in the state of Kentucky. The goal is to provide a victim-centered response that ensures the safety of victims, prosecution of perpetrators, and public awareness of human trafficking in Kentucky.

The purpose of a policies and protocols document is to promote a collaborative response among all stakeholder agencies; as such, this document will be updated as appropriate.

Task Force Mission

The Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce is a collaboration of services providers, government agencies, and law enforcement representatives working together to increase identification of human trafficking crimes, engage in proactive victim-centered investigations and prosecutions, provide comprehensive victim services, and improve data collection, training, and outreach in Kentucky communities. The collaborative efforts of the Task Force focus on both sex and labor trafficking of adults and minors of any race, ethnicity, gender, identity, sexual orientation, or nationality.

The Task Force is a joint project of the Kentucky Office of Attorney General and Catholic Charities of Louisville, and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office for Victims of Crime.

Core Team Partners

Kentucky Office of the Attorney General

The Attorney General is uniquely equipped to lead the Statewide Task Force and provide training opportunities to its members. As the top law enforcement official, attorney, and manager of the 177 prosecutors' offices, the Attorney General's reach is unlike any other single state entity. The Office of the Attorney General houses expert attorneys, victim advocates, and investigators who can work closely together to fight human trafficking in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Office of the Attorney General will act as the primary law enforcement agency, taking the lead to provide overall direction in facilitating the changes necessary to make human trafficking a priority for law enforcement, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and throughout Kentucky's communities. Additionally, the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General will:

- Conduct proactive, victim-centered investigations of labor and sex trafficking cases involving both minor and adult victims;
- Co-facilitate Task Force Meetings;

- Provide management level support for Task Force membership and meeting attendance;
- Act as fiscal agent for the Kentucky Statewide Enhanced Collaborative Model, as the law enforcement grantee, including providing programmatic and financial reports as required;
- Provide law enforcement and administration support as needed on a case-by-case basis;
- Identify training needs related to human trafficking crimes within the Attorney General's Office and in the Commonwealth of Kentucky;
- Facilitate the training of local law enforcement officers and prosecutors on specialized victim-centered investigations and prosecutions related to labor and sex trafficking of both adults and minors;
- Provide guidance and support on policy and legislative matters related to human trafficking;
- Assist with community awareness activities and outreach initiatives to increase victim identification and reporting;
- House the human trafficking investigator and program manager funded by the enhanced collaborative model grant.

Catholic Charities of Louisville

The Human Trafficking Program at Catholic Charities was established in 2008 to increase public awareness of human trafficking in Kentucky, increase identification and service provision for victims, and increase service capacity. Since the program began, a total of 364 human trafficking victims have been identified throughout the state, of which 66% were domestic victims and 26% were foreign nationals, representing more than 27 different countries worldwide. (Catholic Charities, September 2016 Statistics). More than 26,000 people have been trained throughout Kentucky, by Catholic Charities staff and partner agencies, to increase awareness of human trafficking and better identify victims. Catholic Charities has assisted with establishing eight human trafficking task forces in the state by providing training and technical assistance as well as leadership and facilitation of the task forces.

Catholic Charities is the only agency in Kentucky providing comprehensive case management and services to victims of labor or sex trafficking, and is one of a handful of agencies providing training and technical assistance on human trafficking. The agency provides case management services and assists with the short and long-term needs of identified victims including (but not limited to) housing, food, clothing, therapy, medical care, immigration legal services, family legal services, advocacy, benefits assistance, and certification through the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

Catholic Charities of Louisville will act as the primary victims' services provider and provide overall direction in facilitating the changes necessary to make human trafficking a priority for law enforcement, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and throughout Kentucky's communities. Catholic Charities of Louisville will also:

- Co-facilitate Task Force Meetings;
- Act as a liaison for victims and the involved law enforcement entities when needed and requested;
- Act as fiscal agent for the Kentucky Statewide Enhanced Collaborative Model as the victims' services grantee, including providing programmatic and financial reports as required;
- Coordinate assistance with other social service providers as needed for cases referred to the Task Force;

- Provide comprehensive services to victims of severe forms of human trafficking, both labor and sex trafficking of adults and minors;
- Provide victims of human trafficking with information about their rights and options so that victims can make informed choices;
- Facilitate the communication of victims' needs during investigation and prosecution;
- Assist with requests for development and coordination of training and provide training related to human trafficking identification, reporting and victims' services;
- Assist with community awareness activities and outreach initiatives to increase victim identification and reporting.

Partner Agencies

Each member agency agrees to support the overall mission of the task force to identify and assist victims of human trafficking and to proactively investigate, identify, apprehend, and prosecute the perpetrators of human trafficking. In order to facilitate the goals of the Mission Statement, the partner agencies agree to the following participation responsibilities:

U.S. Attorney's Office

The U.S. Attorney's Office will provide an Assistance U.S. Attorney as the primary point of contact for case investigative direction and guidance related to the prosecution of human trafficking cases. The U.S. Attorney's Office will also:

- Provide victim and witness services or referrals to human trafficking victims in all cases brought for prosecution through the U.S. Attorney's Office in both labor and sex trafficking cases of minor and adult victims;
- Provide an Assistant U.S. Attorney to attend Task Force meetings and to assist with Task Force related activities as appropriate.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide support for Task Force membership and attendance. The FBI will also:

- Provide victim and witness services or referrals to human trafficking victims in all cases being investigated by the FBI;
- Provide support to investigation and victims' services coordinated by the Task Force upon request.

Kentucky State Police

Kentucky State Police will provide support for Task Force membership and attendance, as well as provide support to investigations and victims' services coordinated by the Task Force upon request. They will also oversee and coordinate all human trafficking tips from the National Hotline and work to educate law enforcement and dispatchers on best-practice response and investigations.

Lexington Police Department

The Lexington Police Department will provide support for Task Force membership, as well as provide victim and witness services or referrals to human trafficking victims in all cases investigated by the LPD. LPD will also provide support to investigations and victims' services coordinated by the Task Force upon request.

The Department of Criminal Justice Training

Department of Criminal Justice Training provides accredited law enforcement training to an average of 18,000 Kentucky officers annually. The law enforcement training curriculum, overseen by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council, is continuously updated to meet Kentucky Police Officer Professional Standards as mandated by state statutes.

Contributing Agencies

Contributing agencies attend Task Force meetings, participate in subcommittee meetings, and aided in the drafting of Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force Protocols Document.

The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice

The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice is responsible for prevention programs for at-risk youth, court intake, pre-trial detention, residential placement/treatment services, probation, community aftercare/reintegration programs and youth awaiting adult placement or court.

Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice strives to promote a comprehensive array of cost-effective services for at-risk youth directed toward preventing delinquency, providing efficient rehabilitation services, and altering the rate of recidivism with appropriate aftercare, while minimizing risk to the community. In providing services, the Department supports and believes in the complete involvement of both the family and the community in the rehabilitation process.

Kentucky Department of Education

The Kentucky Department of Education is a service agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The department provides resources and guidance to Kentucky's public schools and districts as they implement the state's P-12 education requirements. Victoria Fields and Rae Burgess are program consultants with KDE working with Safe Schools initiatives. They hope to increase awareness about the crime in addition to developing a protocol to aid educators in dealing with children who are being trafficked.

POLARIS Project

For a decade, Polaris has operated the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), which serves as a lifeline to victims of human trafficking seeking assistance, law enforcement and service providers in need of referrals to serve victims, and community members to report tips and receive resources about human trafficking. Since its inception, the Hotline has received close to 130,000 calls identifying over 31,000 cases of human trafficking, involving both labor and sex trafficking, U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, adults and minors, and men, women, and gender minorities. Polaris responds to the needs of

all types of victims and survivors through the delivery of critical, victim-centered support and specialized services on a 24/7 basis with the goal of helping them get out of their trafficking situations.

Polaris has built relationships with over 3,000 social service providers and law enforcement entities in each state and local community across the country. The differentiating factor of Polaris helplines is it not only allows for trust to be built with a victim, often through numerous phone calls, which ensures that victims and survivors receive the most appropriate referrals, resources, and support based on their unique needs and situation, but it also allows for the collection of robust data about their trafficking situation.

The Department for Community Based Services

The Department for Community Based Services provides family support; childcare; child and adult protection; eligibility determinations for Medicaid and food benefits; and administration of an energy cost-assistance program. The department administers the state foster care and adoption systems and recruits and trains parents to care for the state's children who are waiting for a permanent home.

With offices in every county, DCBS provides services and programs to enhance the self-sufficiency of families; improve safety and permanency for children and vulnerable adults; and, engage families and community partners in a collaborative decision-making process.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare

St. Elizabeth Healthcare is one of the oldest, largest and most respected medical providers in the Greater Cincinnati region. For more than 150 years, St. Elizabeth has been the heart and soul of healthcare in Northern Kentucky. Founded with one small hospital in 1861, St. Elizabeth Healthcare now operates seven facilities throughout Northern Kentucky – St. Elizabeth Covington, St. Elizabeth Edgewood, St. Elizabeth Falmouth, St. Elizabeth Florence, St. Elizabeth Ft. Thomas, St. Elizabeth Grant and St. Elizabeth Owen.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare's mission is to provide comprehensive and compassionate care that improves the health of the people we serve. We accomplish this through state-of-the-art technology and our dedicated associates, led by a well-respected board and executive leadership team who love this organization and our community.

The History of the Task Force

The Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce was created by human trafficking advocates in 2013 to assist with the implementation of the Human Trafficking Victims Rights Act (HTVRA), passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in the same year. Passing of the HTVRA created a robust legal structure to equip law enforcement with key tools to strengthen penalties for traffickers and set up a safe harbor pathway for victims to obtain relief services.

The Statewide Taskforce is co-chaired by representatives from the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General and representatives from Catholic Charities. The Task Force, from its inception, has had strong partnerships between federal and local law enforcement and victim services providers. In 2016, the Statewide Task Force was awarded funding for the first time from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and

the Office for Victims of Crime to improve collaboration between federal, state, and local enforcement, state agencies, and victim services providers.

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce is to:

- Combat all forms of human trafficking through a statewide, multi-disciplinary approach intended to increase victim-centered investigations and successful prosecutions at the state and federal levels.
- Establish effective and cohesive collaboration between law enforcement and victim services providers.
- Provide comprehensive services to all victims of human trafficking in which the victim's wishes, safety, confidentiality, and well-being take priority in all matters and procedures.
- Create targeted outreach, awareness and training for victim advocates, prosecutors, law enforcement and the public to identify and respond to human trafficking.

The Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force envisions:

- Collaborative planning among partner agencies in conducting proactive human trafficking investigations.
- Development of new partnerships and information sharing initiatives throughout the state on the federal, state, and local levels.
- Improvement and sustainment of investigative and intelligence gathering methods.
- Improvement of information sharing protocols with victim service providers.
- Implementation of trauma-informed victim interaction and interviewing policies.

Guiding Principles:

- Human trafficking violates a person's human rights.
- All agencies share a commitment to the victim-centered approach and respecting the rights of trafficked persons under Kentucky and federal law.
- Victims will be treated with respect, compassion, and in a culturally appropriate manner. Victims with disabilities or limited English will be provided with the appropriate accommodations, including but not limited to, interpreters (Caregivers, friends, and family members will not be used as interpreters).
- Victims from underserved groups, including but not limited to, LGBTQIA victims, homeless victims, victims without legal status, victims with substance abuse addiction, victims with mental illness, and victims from rural areas will be given appropriate services and support.

Task Force Structure

The Core Team

The core team consists of the funded partners under the Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking. This group consists of representatives from the Kentucky Office of the Attorney

General and representatives from Catholic Charities of Louisville. This group steers taskforce goals and strategies in the statewide effort to combat human trafficking. There are several subcommittees established within the task force to address specific topics.

Subcommittees

- Law Enforcement
- Victims Services
- Data Collection and Evaluation
- Public Awareness

Data Collection and Evaluation

The core team partners of the Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force track information using OVC's Trafficking Information System (TIMS) and BJA's Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). These systems record the number of trafficking victims served as well as the number of identified cases, suspects, and prosecutions.

Data Collection and Evaluation Goals:

- Establish and sustain effective task force leadership and a structure to support identification of victims of all forms of trafficking.
- Increase capacity of law enforcement office, service providers, and other community stakeholders to identify and respond to human trafficking through training and public awareness campaigns.
- Conduct proactive investigations of sex and labor trafficking to increase the number of successful prosecutions at the state and federal level.
- Provide high quality and timely comprehensive services to victims of all forms of trafficking.
- Improve inter-agency collaboration and coordination on human trafficking prosecution and investigations.

Definition of Terms

Human Trafficking is modern day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are used for sexual, labor, and other forms of exploitation by means of force, fraud, or coercion. Victims include men, women, and children of every race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, nationality, and religion. Elements of sex and labor trafficking often overlap. Human Trafficking occurs in all states in both rural and urban areas.

- **Sex Trafficking:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which such an act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18.¹

¹ Office on Trafficking in Persons: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fshumantrafficking>

- **Labor Trafficking:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.²

Smuggling involves illegal crossing of a country's border with the consent of the person being transported. While the smuggling is illegal, these individuals are traveling voluntarily and are free upon arrival. Trafficking is based on the exploitation of an individual and does not require any type of movement across borders or within a country. Trafficked persons are being used against their will.

Trauma-Informed Care is a treatment framework for survivors that involves recognizing, understanding, and treating all types of trauma with emphasis on the physical, psychological, and physical safety of survivors to encourage empowerment and rebuild a sense of self-determination.³

Fraud

False representation of a matter or situation that is intended to deceive an individual so that he or she makes unknowingly makes a decision(s) that will cause them harm.

Coercion

The use of intimidation to compel an individual to act against his or her will by the use of physical force, psychological pressure, or threats of harm to the individual or loved ones.

Kentucky Laws on Human Trafficking

Kentucky passed its first law making human trafficking a crime and granting rights to victims of human trafficking in 2007. In 2013, Kentucky passed Human Trafficking Victims' Rights Act (HTVRA) to strengthen penalties for traffickers and set up a safe harbor and pathway to services for child victims. This law created a robust legal structure to bring about justice in cases of human trafficking, and to equip law enforcement with key tools, including training and asset forfeiture and seizure for perpetrators. In 2014, Kentucky passed a law granting victims the right to raise an affirmative defense and seek expungement of crimes committed as a result of being trafficked. For more information about Kentucky laws on human trafficking, see Seeking Justice for Victims of Human Trafficking in Kentucky: A Practical Guide for Judges and Attorneys.

Kentucky Statistics

In 2013, there were 40 reports of child trafficking to the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), 14 state charges of human trafficking, 13 state cases prosecuted, and 1 federal prosecution. In 2014, there were 57 reports of child trafficking to DCBS, 31 state charges of human trafficking, 4 state prosecutions, and 5 federal prosecutions. In 2015, there were 96 reports of child trafficking to DCBS, 27 state charges of human trafficking, and 3 federal prosecutions. The number of youth victims reported in the three-year period totaled 235⁴

² Office on Trafficking in Persons: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fshumantrafficking>

³ Definition from Trauma Informed Care Project

⁴ Data compiled from Kentucky State Police 4/13/16 and Administrative Office of the Courts 4/26/16

The Department for Juvenile Justice began screening for human trafficking in late 2015. Between the dates of 7/1/2015 to 4/25/2016, 236 youth were identified as victims of human trafficking, indicating a higher number of youth victims reported in a ten-month period than in the previous three years combined.⁵

A 2016 study from The University of Louisville's Kent School of Social Work, titled Youth Experience Survey (YES): Exploring the Scope and Complexity of Sex Trafficking in a Sample of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Kentuckiana, found that 40.9% of respondents had been sex trafficked. Of the respondents, 47.6% of females reported being trafficked and 32.3% of males reported being trafficked. The most common reasons were for money (55.6%), a place to stay (48.1%) or drugs (37%).⁶

Identifying a Trafficking Victim

VIDEO: National Human Trafficking Hotline, [Human Trafficking 101](#)

Visual Clues

- Malnourished
- Nervous
- Avoids Eye Contact
- Injured
- Does not speak
- Signs of physical or sexual abuse

Behavioral Clues

- Submissive
- Inability to Concentrate
- Appears afraid to speak
- Cannot give a home address
- Lack of Documentation
- Observable psychological disorder
- Defiant or combative

Other Indicators

- Victim is being coached what to say to law enforcement.
- Someone else holds identification or travel documents.
- Garnishing of salary.
- Cannot freely contact friends or family.
- Cannot freely engage in social activities or religious services.
- No identifiable source of income.

⁵ Data compiled from the Department of Juvenile Justice 4/24/16

⁶ Youth Experiences Survey (YES): Exploring the Scope and Complexity of Sex Trafficking in a Sample of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Kentuckiana: <https://louisville.edu/kent/research-special-programs-projects/current-projects/kentucky-2016-yes-report>

- Victim has been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action.

Community Response

Human trafficking is hidden in nature and traffickers will go to great lengths to avoid law enforcement in order to hide and control their victims. Creating community awareness in identifying and reporting human trafficking is a critical step to ending this form of modern day slavery.

Community Members Who May Encounter a Victim

- Food/Clothing Banks
- Food Delivery
- Hotel/Motel workers
- Landlords
- Postal Workers/Newspaper Delivery/Delivery Companies (DHL, UPS, FedEd)
- Real Estate Agents
- Sanitation Workers
- Social Workers
- Transportation Services (taxi, bus, airport)
- Utility Workers
- Healthcare Staff
- Clergy
- Cable, Internet, Phone installers
- Bank Employees
- Building Inspectors
- Animal Control
- Youth/Runaway Program Workers
- Home Repair Workers (AC, appliance repair)

What Should Community Members Look For?

- Controlled exits, locked gates, secured entry
- Sparse living conditions with several people in residence
- Individuals acting as guards
- Individuals speaking for others
- Victims may avoid eye contact
- People who are injured or who appear to lack control

How Do Citizens Report Suspected Human Trafficking?

Do not intervene on your own. Leave the premises. If you fear there is an immediate threat to the suspected victims, call 911. If there is no immediate threat, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.

Kentucky Law Enforcement Protocol

Goals:

1. Create a highly efficient and effective law enforcement response to human trafficking complaints.
2. Standardize law enforcement and victim advocate responses to human trafficking complaints across Kentucky.
3. Better prepare law enforcement for an effective response to human trafficking complaints through training and development of best practice standard operating procedures.

Overview:

The Polaris National Human Trafficking Hotline will continue to be the central intake for the public to report complaints of potential labor and sex human trafficking.

A central dissemination point, Kentucky State Police HQ Radio, will receive all (24/7) human trafficking complaints by phone from Polaris. HQ Radio will immediately contact the appropriate law enforcement agencies statewide (local, state and federal) by radio or phone to ensure an effective and efficient response. The Office of the Attorney General will assist Kentucky State Police with identifying law enforcement agencies and dispatch centers with best practice human trafficking response and investigation capabilities.

Polaris will generate a detailed email report of the complaint, which will be disseminated to HQ Radio, designated task force stakeholders, Department for Community Based Services Human Trafficking Coordinator, Catholic Charities Human Trafficking Coordinator, and the FBI Coordinator.

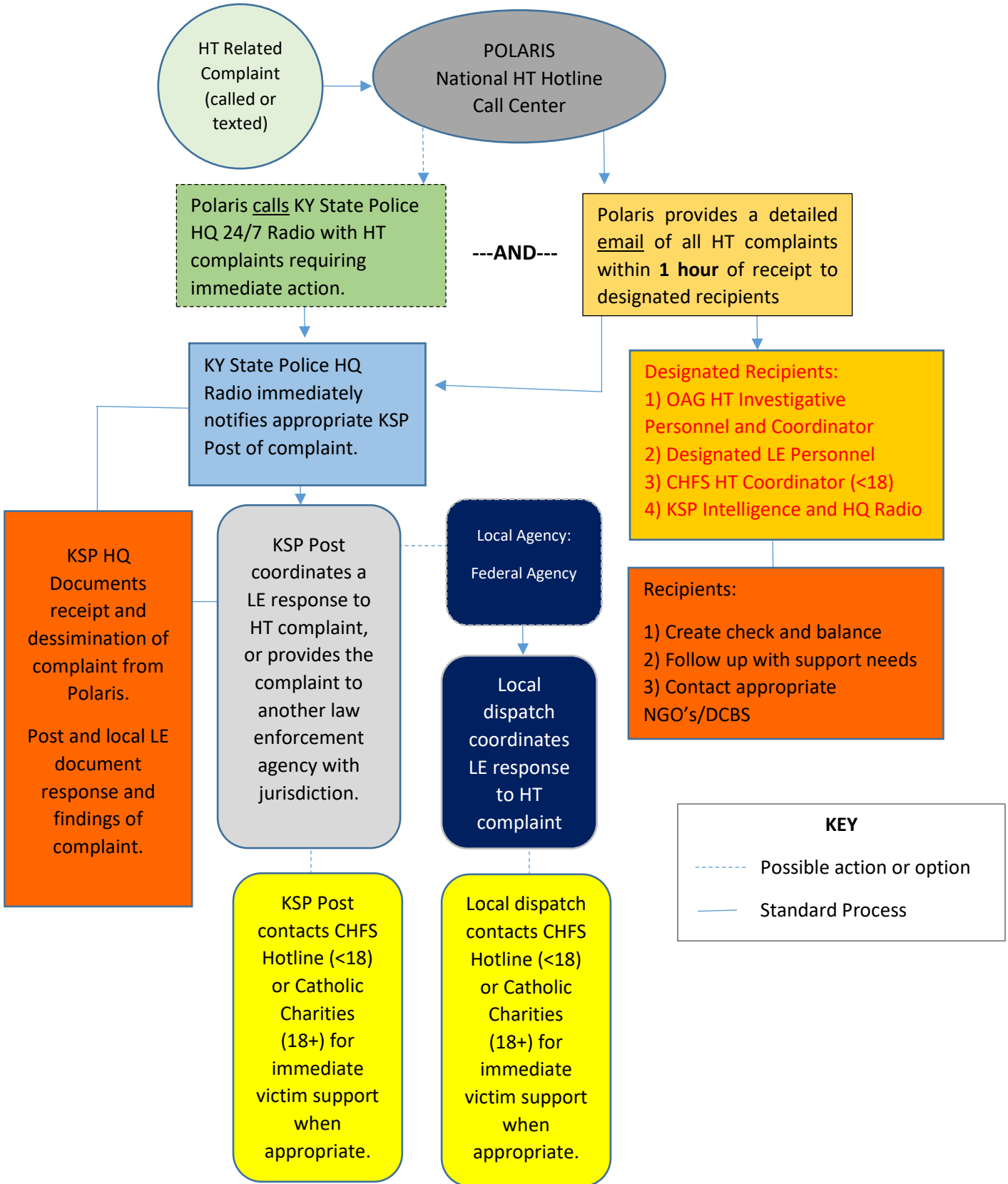
The Kentucky State Police will create standard operating procedures and train all in-line personnel to include, but not limited to; HQ radio dispatchers and supervisors, all Kentucky State Police post dispatchers, all Kentucky State Police post troopers, detectives, and operation supervisors. Additionally, Kentucky State Police will train intelligence analysts, special operations detectives, academy staff, and command staff. The Office of the Attorney General will assist Kentucky State Police with initial training and procedure development.

The Office of the Attorney General will continue teaching local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors with best practice response, investigation and prosecution techniques.

The Kentucky State Police will continue to collect human trafficking related Uniform Crime Reports and will take the lead with human trafficking related intelligence and analytics for the Commonwealth. Kentucky State Police will provide human trafficking related analytic and intelligence services for any law enforcement agency.

The Office of the Attorney General DCI will focus investigative resources on proactive investigations and assisting law enforcement agencies with best-practice investigative techniques.

National Human Trafficking Hotline Notification Process for Kentucky



Human Trafficking Response Protocol for Adult Victims

This resource provides guidance to service providers⁷ who work with survivors of human trafficking. In the first section, we review emergency and immediate concerns. In the second section, we review guiding principles for victim services, and in the third section we provide further resources.

Section1: Emergency/Immediate Response

Emergency situations may include, but are not limited to, victims who cannot exit a situation safely; a crisis situation where violence or deadly force appears imminent; or if the victim is a minor (in Kentucky this is a person under the age of 18).

- **Identify the victims' emergency safety concerns:**
 - ***Is this person in immediate danger?***
 - With victim permission, contact 911
 - If an adult victim does not wish to contact 911, is it possible to get them to safe place or help them develop a safety and/or escape plan?
 - ***Does the victim require medical attention?***
 - Assist person to the emergency room if necessary.
 - Agency should arrange for an advocate, with victim's permission, to accompany them to the hospital if agency personnel is unable to do so.
 - ***Does the victim need immediate shelter?***
 - Contact programs with emergency shelters or emergency placement plans to ensure a safe place of residence in the short term.

Other Needs

The needs listed below are immediate, but are not necessarily an emergency. Advocates should use professional judgement in making determinations of emergency and non-emergency needs.

- **Arrange for interpreter services if the victim or family member is "Limited English Proficient,"** (has difficulty reading, writing, understanding, or speaking English).
 - NOTE: Interpreter services should be provided by a competent interpreter. Use of relatives or friends is not appropriate.
- **Assess if the situation involves labor or sex trafficking (or both) by utilization of an established trauma-informed screening tool.**
- **Explain to victim their rights and services available to them.**
 - Link: [Kentucky Crime Victims' Rights](#)
- **Identify the victim's primary and immediate needs (obtaining as much information as possible).**
 - Safety, shelter, food, transportation, medical assistance

⁷ Service providers include, but are not limited to, advocates, allied professionals, case workers, or healthcare professionals, although there may be additional protocols which can determine the appropriate response with respect to HIPPA compliance. There is also a separate section for healthcare settings.

- If this victim is in need of safety from their trafficker, identify if they are willing to work with law enforcement
- If the victim prefers not to involve law enforcement, develop a personal safety plan.
- **Make appropriate referrals to other service agencies if necessary.**
 - Seek victim permission before making any referrals.
 - This may include, but is not limited to, shelters, residential programs, law enforcement agency, legal assistance, housing programs, etc.

Section 2: Guiding Principles for Serving Victims of Human Trafficking

Working with victims of human trafficking has some overlap with services for the trauma experienced by victims of sexual assault or domestic violence, however human trafficking is a specific crime with its own variances and challenges in regard to service needs. Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking which means that individuals with disabilities, foreign nationals, LGBTQ, children, adults, males, females, labor trafficking, etc. are all populations for which services may be required.

Service needs can span from the most basic, immediate needs (safety, emergency housing, food, and medical care) to long-term needs (therapy services, immigration relief, substance abuse treatment, case management, and long term housing). While one agency may not provide all of these services, it is important to know that these services are available and to provide coordination for victims to access these services.

Goals for Kentucky in Serving Victims of Labor and Sex Trafficking

- Enhance the range of holistic services available to victims.
- Develop best practice guidelines and standards for victim services.
- Develop survivor leadership in human trafficking efforts.
- Identify available victim services statewide.

Victim-Centered Approach

The cornerstone of providing effective, holistic services to victims of human trafficking is the victim-centered approach. A victim-centered approach places emphasis on a victim's self-determination and seeks to minimize re-traumatization while providing information so the victim may make informed choices by providing:

- Support from victim advocates and service providers.
- Empowerment for survivors as engaged participants in the process.
- The opportunity to play a role in the criminal justice system if they so choose.
- Trauma-informed services that recognize the physical, emotional, and social impact of trauma on the individual as well as the professionals who help them.

Safety should be paramount, and the initial issue addressed by service providers. Once a victim is safe, they are better-positioned to utilize services. Service providers should ensure sufficient time to explain who they are, the agency they work for, and their role in service provision, while

allowing time to address any questions the victim may have. It's important to acknowledge and address any fears or concerns expressed by the victim and be patient as they begin their recovery process.

Service providers should ensure they are providing an arena for a survivor to make choices on their own behalf and to encourage personal agency. A service provider's role is to offer information, resources, and tools to assist the survivor. This can be accomplished by presenting as much detail as possible about a service or resource so that the survivor can make an informed choice. Service providers should not make decisions on behalf of a survivor without their consent.

The Philosophy of Trauma-Informed Care

Advocates trained in trauma-informed care advocate for the victim while avoiding behaviors that may mirror the trafficker or limit survivor choices. Trauma-informed care also recognizes the importance of patience and perseverance in serving victims. The goal of the trauma-informed approach is ***“placing priority on restoring the survivor’s feelings of safety, choice, and control.”***⁸

A trauma-informed approach begins with understanding the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the individual, as well as on the professionals who help them. This incorporates three elements:

1. Realizing the prevalence of trauma.
2. Recognizing how trauma affects all individuals involved with the program, organization, or system, including its own workforce.
3. Responding by putting this knowledge into practice

-OVC TTAC Task Force E-Guide

Trauma can manifest in various ways such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and dissociative identify disorder, among others. It is important for service providers to understand the impacts of trauma so that the service provider does not trigger or re-traumatize a survivor. Collaboration with mental health providers that are trauma informed can be imperative in providing trauma informed care. Knowing what the specific traumas are and how they impact the victim will lead service providers to a better understanding of what they need.

Best Practices in Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Care

The Office for Victims of Crime urges agencies to adopt “smart practices” in their work with survivors of trafficking.

“All professionals involved in human trafficking cases must advocate for the victim. Avoid activities that can ostracize a victim, those that mirror the behavior of the

⁸ OVC Model Standards Glossary <https://www.ovc.gov/model-standards/glossary.html>

trafficking, however unintentionally, by limited or not offering a victim choices in the recovery process. It will require patience, empathy, and compassion from you, as well as from your partners involved in the effort.”⁹

- **Religious and spiritual self-determination**
 - Services should not be contingent on religious participation and must be client-directed.
- **Confidentiality and Safety**
 - Service providers must ensure safety, protection of personal information, and protection against re-traumatization;
 - Work with the victim to develop a safety plan
 - Ensure that survivors have ownership of their own story
 - Never share information without informed consent
 - Recognition of the natural power imbalance between service provider and survivor
- **Ethics and Professionalism**
 - Service providers should have the appropriate education and skills to provide services.
 - Evidence-based programs, practices and interventions should be used in conjunction with research and evaluation of those practices.
 - Validated screening tools should be used by trained professionals.
- **Non-Discrimination**
 - Agency policies should be in compliance with state and federal law.
 - Services should be culturally and linguistically appropriate for each survivor; language barriers should be addressed by providing a neutral interpreter.
 - Service considerations for LGBTQ and other vulnerable communities.
 - Services and buildings should be accessible for those with disabilities.
 - Consider the needs and requirements of substance abuse disorders.
- **Survivor Informed**
 - All efforts should be made to include survivors in anti-trafficking work, including informing policies, training, outreach, and services.
 - Agencies should include survivors as staff and provide the appropriate support and training.
- **Self-Care and Support for Professional Staff**
 - Agencies should provide for self-care of staff
 - Survivor advocates should have appropriate support for secondary trauma
- **Collaborative Approach**
 - A collaborative team approach is most effective for empowering victims because all needs cannot be met by one service agency.
 - A collaborative approach increases access to services, improves outcomes for victims, and lays the ground work for continued work across service agencies.

⁹ <https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/1-understanding-human-trafficking/13-victim-centered-approach/>

- A lack of coordination may bring harm to the victim, restricting or limiting access to services, safety, and justice.

Building Strong Victim-Centered Services

As a service provider, the following are important concepts to consider in providing victim-centered, trauma-informed services for victims of human trafficking. If you are already providing services, these suggestions can help ensure your agency is considering the full range of best practices and including them in your work.

This framework can be helpful to service providers considering service expansion, applying for funding to serve human trafficking victims, engaging in research or evaluation, or starting a new program to serve victims.

(It is understood that not all service providers are capable of engaging in every service on this list. For example, not every agency provides substance abuse treatment, just as every agency does not provide residential programs.)

The Victim-Centered Framework¹⁰

- **Ethical Standards**
 - Adherence to a code of conduct/ethics as evidenced by agency records. This may include background checks on employees, confidentiality agreements, and mandated training for staff.
- **Media Standards**
 - This includes practices that ensure the identities of trafficked persons are protected and their dignity is preserved. Participants should have the ability to make informed decisions about their involvement with media and agency fundraising efforts.
- **24/7 Crisis Response Line**
 - Ensure that trained responders are available to link victims with support services and the agency's staffing schedule indicates 24/7 coverage with appropriate supervision and response times.
- **Emergency Response**
 - Ensure appropriately trained staff and supervisors who can assess situations, evaluate immediate needs, coordinate safe removal, coordinate temporary shelter, provide language interpretation, and provided referral services.
- **Survivor Peer Support**
 - Ensure that the survivors providing support have achieved a personal level of healing that is strong enough to prevent self-harm and inadvertent harm of others. Training on mentoring is strongly encouraged.

¹⁰ Adapted from Ohio Human Trafficking Commission Standards for Service to Trafficked Persons <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/files/publications-files/publications-for-victims/ohiohumantraffickingcommissionstandardsforse>

- **Trauma Specific Therapy**
 - Providers should be in good standing with the state licensing body, adhere to all professional ethical standards, seek survivor input in program design and delivery, and provide licensed/registered/certified professionals who have a minimum of a Master's Degree in one or more of the following: Mental Health Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social, Psychology, or related field.
- **Sheltering and Short Term Housing for Adults**
 - Shelters should employ a CSW (Certified Social Worker), LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), LPCC (Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor), or LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor); shelter should meet local zoning/licensing requirements, ensure adequate staff coverage, have a safety plan in place, use survivor input in designing and delivering services.
- **Residential Program**
 - Employ a CSW, LCSW, LPCC, or LPC, provide a safe and secure housing facility in compliance with safety standards and regulations, provide adequate trained staff for 24/7 coverage, access to transportation services, include residents in the decision making process regarding the home, and allow participants to make a self-determination in regard to participating in religious practices or services.
- **Alcohol and Drug Treatment**
 - Provide staff experienced in observing and diagnosing alcohol and other drug trauma issues; provide employee training of agency policies relative to alcohol and drug dependency counseling; provide a licensed professional to perform addiction treatment services.
- **Case Management/Victim Advocacy**
 - Provide ongoing personal support, outreach, visits, and calls; provide comprehensive services or referrals to services along with a tracking system; provide a needs assessment and Individual Service Plan (ISP); provide advocacy for the participant; seek survivor input in designing and implementing programs.
 - Victim advocates must be employed at a state agency that provides services to crime victims and performs duties consistent with this description; Social Workers must be licensed with the State and must be supervised by an LCSW; LPCC must have a license with the state; Nurse Case Managers must have an active RN in the state.
- **Street Outreach**
 - Must be supervised by a staff person who has completed training; agency should seek survivor input in designing and delivering services.
- **Drop-in Center**
 - Staff and volunteers must be supervised by a staff person who has received appropriate training; the agency will assess and meet basic immediate needs, volunteers will be screened and receive training, the agency will engage in safety and crisis planning for each participant; seek out survivor input in designing and implementing services.

Section 3: Resources

- **Office for Trafficking in Persons (OTIP)** is an office in the Administration for Children and Families and funds human trafficking training and awareness efforts, as well as victim services. OTIP offers SOAR Training for health care providers, and has a technical assistance department known as the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC). <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>
- **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** is within the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and funds human trafficking programming throughout the United States and US territories. Most OVC funding is specific to funding services for victims of human trafficking. OVC also has a Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC), which has a wealth of resources available online related to services for victims, including the OVC TTAC Task Force E-guide. <https://ovc.gov/>
- **Polaris** is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. which runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) which is a 24/7 hotline for reporting human trafficking and connecting potential victims to resources. Polaris does a lot of work to disrupt trafficking systems and networks throughout the United States through the development of resources, information, and response systems. The National Hotline may also be utilized to assist with local crisis response, but leveraging their hotline for use with a local protocol. <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>
- **Project REACH** is a program in The Trauma Center at the Justice Resource Institute of Boston and provides consultation and brief mental health services to survivors of human trafficking throughout the United States. Project REACH is an excellent resource for training on trauma and mental health, and also provides direct assistance such as psychiatric evaluations, which may be helpful both in long-term service provision, as well as for legal needs such as a visa application. http://www.traumacenter.org/clients/reach_svcs.php
- **Freedom Network USA** is a national coalition of human trafficking experts from around the United States, advancing a human rights approach to addressing human trafficking. The Freedom Network hosts the annual Freedom Network Conference which addresses current issues, trends, challenges, and new approaches to addressing human trafficking. <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/>

- **National Human Trafficking Training & Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC)** focuses on public health and human trafficking. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac>

Human Trafficking Response Protocol for Healthcare Providers¹¹

The following best practices in healthcare response are taken from the Northern Kentucky Response Initiative to Guide Human Trafficking Services (RIGHTS) in partnership with St. Elizabeth Healthcare. Their entire response protocol can be found here (insert link).

Healthcare workers are frequently the first professionals to have contact with individuals who are victims of human trafficking. Emergency departments, urgent care centers, and clinics see individuals who have suffered injuries or illness related to their enslavement.

Red Flags Indicators of Human Trafficking for Healthcare

Healthcare providers may suspect human trafficking if the following indicators are present:

- Evidence of physical violence including torture, restraint, or confinement.
- Delayed presentation for medical care
- Discrepancy between the stated history and clinical presentation or patterned injuries.
- Scripted, memorized, or mechanical recitation of history.
- The individual appears younger than stated age.
- An accompanying individual answers questions or otherwise controls the pace and content of the encounter.
- An accompanying individual insists on providing interpretation.
- An accompanying individual refuses to leave the room.
- Evidence of lack of care for previously identified or obviously existing medical conditions.
- Branding (tattoos or insignias).

Visual cues of human trafficking include:

- Appears to have physical injuries: scars, cuts, contusions, bruises, burns – especially to the head, face, mouth.
- Evidence of sexual abuse
- Appears malnourished or shows signs of exposure to harmful chemicals.
- Avoids eye contact
- Extremely nervous
- Doesn't speak or is incoherent

Behavior cues of human trafficking include:

- Lack of documentation or in the possession of an accompany party.

¹¹ All Healthcare response language is taken from the Northern Kentucky Response Initiative to Guide Human Trafficking Services (RIGHTS) and St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

- Shy and submissive
- Fearful or hyper-vigilant demeanor
- Lack of concentration while speaking
- Observable psychological disorders
- Appears to be afraid to speak.

Initial Response

If a healthcare provider suspects that a patient may be a human trafficking victim, additional screening and assessment should be completed. Clinical stability must be assured and stabilizing care provided. The patient should be separated from accompanying individuals during any additional screening. An interpreter must be engaged if the patient is non-English speaking.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center recommends the following screening questions for medical professionals:

- Have you been forced to engage in sexual acts for money or favors?
- Is someone holding your passport or identification documents?
- Has anyone threatened to hurt you or your family if you leave?
- Has anyone physically or sexually abused you?
- Do you have a debt to someone you cannot pay off?
- Does anyone take all or part of the money you earn?

Documentation of indicators for human trafficking is completed in the medical record.

In regional healthcare organizations that do not offer a Forensic Nursing Response, the following agencies may be offered to the patient if they are over the age of 18 years old.

- Catholic Charities of Louisville Bakhita Empowerment Program: 502-432-5223
- National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-3737-888
- Local Law Enforcement

If the patient is less than 18 years of age, the healthcare professional will notify:

- Child Protection Hotline: 1 877 597-2331 (1 877 KYSAFE1)

Recommended medical assessment

When human trafficking is suspected, the patient should receive a medical assessment including, but not limited to, the following conditions as appropriate:

- Physical injuries
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Skin lesions or infections
- Dental issues

Trauma Informed Response: Tips for Interaction

- Ask for client's consent to contact local resources. Provide information about Community Service providers. Provide client with Catholic Charities and / or National Trafficking hotline number if client does not want to connect with services at this time.
- Assess safety and help client build a safety plan.
- If the victim is a minor, follow mandatory reporting protocols.
- Consider safety! Assess if there are any immediate safety concerns, such as if the trafficker is present or if they suspect there are others (especially minors) who may be in danger. Consult with supervisor regarding any immediate safety concerns.
- Speak with the individual alone.
- Contact Catholic Charities of Louisville or the National Hotline to assist with assessment or screening needs.
- Use a professional, neutral interpreter whenever possible.
- Environment:
 - Ensure privacy for the victim.
 - Engage in judgment-free active listening to help the victim feel comfortable sharing.
 - If you need to take notes, let the patient know why you're taking notes and for what purpose they will be used. If possible, do not take notes about the meeting until after the interview has ended.
- Language
 - Prioritize having a 3rd party interpreter available.
 - Use non-technical language.
 - Ask open-ended questions.
 - Focus on their service needs and building a rapport. It may take multiple interactions with an individual before they feel comfortable opening up about their trafficking situation.
 - Consider mirroring the language that the potential victim uses. *Example: If a potential victim refers to her controller as her boyfriend, referring to the controller as a "pimp" or "trafficker" may impede your ability to build trust.*

Messages to share to build trust with human trafficking victims:

- My first priority is your safety.
- We can help you seek assistance.
- I'm going to let you decide what you need; I just want to give you options.
- Emphasize confidentiality.
- Be transparent and honest with potential victims.
- Do **NOT** promise any outcomes or services that may or may not be available.

- When fear of law enforcement is shown, explain that police would be contacted to offer them support in reporting the crime against them. Police aim to advocate for victims by pursuing justice.
- Share that the National Hotline can be called, and describe what that response can look like.

Human Trafficking Response Protocol for Child Victims

Identifying Trafficked Youth

Ideally, all members of a community should be prepared to recognize and respond to potential signs of labor and sex trafficking. Traffickers, as well as victims, can be male, female, family members, guardians, romantic partners, foreign nationals, U.S. citizens, or strangers. Often times, the trafficker and their victim will share similar national, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds.¹²

While anyone can become a victim of human trafficking, certain groups are more vulnerable than others. These include:

- Children in the child welfare and juvenile justice system
- Runaway and homeless youth
- Migrant workers
- Children working in agriculture
- Rural populations
- People with disabilities
- Individuals identifying as LGBTQ
- People with limited English proficiency
- Drug-addicted individuals, or children from households experiencing drug addiction
- Foreign nationals working in domestic households

Red Flags of Trafficking in Youth¹³

Physical

- Signs of physical abuse or indicators of neglect
- Poor dental hygiene
- Malnourished

¹² National Human Trafficking Hotline <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/traffickers>

¹³ Protocol for Serving Child Victims of Human Trafficking in Ohio <https://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/HT-Child-Protocol.pdf>

- Exhaustion
- Wounds or bruises
- Evidence of alcohol or drug abuse/addiction
- Over-sexualized behavior
- Branding/tattoos
- Burns or chemical burns (possibly related to machinery)
- Repetitive Stress Injuries

Social

- Violence, drug abuse or alcoholism at home
- History of physical or sexual abuse
- Runaway or homeless
- Limited English proficiency
- No form of identification
- Unsure of address or unable to describe one's home
- History of STD's or multiple sex partners
- Guardianship by someone who is not a relative
- Evidence of being controlled or unable to speak freely
- Possessions that appear to exceed income level
- Possessing multiple cell phones, condoms, large amounts of cash, or prepaid credit cards.

Psychological

- Depression, hostility, distrustful, anxious, suicidal ideation or history of suicide attempt(s)
- Lack of eye contact and/or emotion
- Fear of significant other, employer, or caregiver
- Memory impairment
- Low self-esteem

Legal

- Formal charges: truancy, theft, prostitution, drug/alcohol charges
- Circumstances of arrest, such as hotels, restaurants, truck stops or massage parlors (considered high-risk locations).
- If a foreign national, no formal identification and limited English language proficiency

What should I do if I suspect a child is a victim of trafficking?

- If someone is in immediate danger, call **911** to access emergency services.

- Kentucky is a [mandated reporter state](#)¹⁴, meaning that suspected trafficking of a minor **MUST** be immediately reported to the **Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331**. You may also use the CHFS reporting website (<https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse/>), or the Regional Intake Hotline numbers (see below). The website is monitored from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday. **Reports WILL NOT be reviewed during evenings, weekends or state holidays.**

Best Practice Reporting Procedures

While it is required by law to report suspected child trafficking to the Child Protection Hotline or law enforcement, the following procedures are recommended as best practices ***in addition to*** contacting the Child Protection Hotline:

- The 24-hour **National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888)** takes reports of suspected trafficking and can assist with locating victim services and law enforcement.
- If the youth is a foreign national or has resided in another state during the past year, call the **National Human Trafficking Resources Center (1-888-373-7888)** or The **Bakhita Empowerment Initiative at Catholic Charities of Louisville at 502-974-4941**.

When reporting, document the date, time, and the name of the individual who took the report. **DO NOT** attempt to conduct your own investigation as this can lead to a dangerous situation for both you and the victim.

Human Trafficking Response Protocol for Child Welfare Professionals

Child service agencies in Kentucky should use a validated human trafficking screening tool for children with identified risk factors. Agencies should develop internal policies outlining when screening should take place. If a child is identified as a possible human trafficking victim, or if they report to be a victim, it must be reported to the proper authorities.

Kentucky is a mandated reporter state¹⁵; “[a]ny person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of human trafficking”¹⁶ must immediately initiate a report. **(KRS**

¹⁴ Mandated Reporter State ([KRS 620.030](#)) means that the individual who identifies the child as a possible victim of abuse, neglect, dependency, or human trafficking is legally required to notify the proper authorities.

¹⁵ Mandated Reporter State means that the individual who identifies the child as a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or human trafficking is legally required to notify the proper authorities.

¹⁶ "Human trafficking" refers to criminal activity whereby one (1) or more persons are subjected to engaging in:
(a) Forced labor or services; or

620.030¹⁷). In accordance with KRS 620.030, all suspected cases of human trafficking should be reported to either The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), Kentucky State Police (KSP), local law enforcement, or the Commonwealth's or county's attorney.

If there is imminent danger, call 911 to access emergency services and then make a report to CHFS. You may also contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888, which is considered a "Best Practice" procedure.

If there is no imminent danger, CHFS should be notified first through one of the following methods:

- The state **Child Protection Hotline Number, 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331**
- The **Regional Central Intake Hotline Number** (listed on the next page)
- The **reporting website at <https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse/>**
 - The website is monitored from 8am to 4:30pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Reports WILL NOT be reviewed during evenings, weekends, or state holidays.

When reporting, document the date, time, intake identification number, and the name of the individuals who took the report. Ask for a timeframe for CHFS response. **DO NOT attempt to investigate the situation.** There are individuals with specialized training who will conduct interviews and investigations.

If the youth is a foreign national, call the **Bakhita Empowerment Initiative at Catholic Charities of Louisville** at 502-974-4941 to request assistance with an eligibility letter and coordination of support services. This letter ensures that the individual will receive case management services and assistance with receiving a T-Visa or Continued Presence.

If the youth is not a resident of Kentucky, and has resided in another state during the past year, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

Screening for Human Trafficking

Screening should be conducted by trained professionals in youth services. Child service agencies in Kentucky should use a validated human trafficking screening tool for children with identified risk factors. Professionals should be trauma-trained interviewers.

If a child is identified as a possible human trafficking victim, or if they report to be a victim, this information must be reported to the proper authorities as dictated in [KRS 620.030](#).

(b) Commercial sexual activity through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, except that if the trafficked person is under the age of eighteen (18), the commercial sexual activity need not involve force, fraud, or coercion

¹⁷ [KRS 620.030 Duty to Report](#)

Child Protection Regional Intake Numbers

Cumberland Region 606-330-2192

(Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Wayne & Whitley)

Eastern Mountain Region 606-788-7132

(Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike & Wolfe)

Jefferson Region 502-595-4550 and 502-595-4803

(Jefferson)

Northeastern Region 888-351-8901

(Bath, Boyd, Bracken, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson & Rowan)

Northern Bluegrass Region 859-292-6550

(Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Kenton, Nicholas, Owen, Pendleton & Scott)

Salt River Trail Region 888-403-5090

(Anderson, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Franklin, Grayson, Hardin, Henry, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Washington & Woodford)

Southern Bluegrass Region 859-245-5258

(Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer & Powell)

The Lakes Region 270-388-4818

(Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Todd & Trigg)

Two Rivers Region 270-651-0287

(Allen, Barren, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Hancock, Hart, Henderson, Logan, McLean, Metcalfe, Monroe, Ohio, Simpson, Union, Warren & Webster)

Human Trafficking Response Protocol for Educators

What are some indicators that a child might be a victim of trafficking?

Educators have a critical role to play in recognizing human trafficking since victims sometimes still attend school while they are involved in trafficking. The school setting allows the victim to interact with caring adults without the controller present. The first step for educators is to be aware that trafficking does exist in Kentucky and then to learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking. [The National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) has created a [Human Trafficking Assessment Tool for Educators](#) which lists these red flags and indicators:

- **Exhibits changes in behaviors or school participation**, i.e. spike in truancy; or performs severely under grade level.
- Student shows **signs of frequent migration, periodic homelessness**, disorientation, uncertainty of surroundings.
- **History of homelessness or running away from home.**
- **Reveals signs of abusive or inattentive caregivers**, such as untreated illness or injury, bruises, or scars.
- Displays **heightened sense of duty or obligation to family**, has **unreasonable or inappropriate chores or duties**.
- **Works for little or no pay**, or the **employer keeps identification documents and/or confiscates wages**.
- **Accumulates debt to employer** while at work or recruited for work with promises of easy money.
- Exhibits **sexual behavior that is high risk and/or inappropriate for his/her age**.
- Has an **explicitly sexual online profile** via internet community or social networking sites.
- **Involved in relationship with an older man**, receives frequent gifts, may be picked up from school by controller.
- **Engages in sexual activity in exchange for money or anything of value** (can include clothing, food, shelter, other goods and resources). No force, fraud, or coercion necessary if the student is under 18.
- **Knowledge of the commercial sex industry**. Uses lingo: “The Life,” “The Game,” “Daddy,” for boyfriend, “Track” or “Stroll,” refers to dates as “Johns” or “Tricks.”

What do I need to do if I suspect a child is a victim of human trafficking?

- If the child is in **immediate danger**, call **911** to access emergency services.
- Pursuant to [KRS 620.030](#), Kentucky is a **mandated reporter** state meaning that suspected trafficking of a minor **MUST** be immediately reported to the Cabinet. You may call the **Child Protection Hotline (1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331)** or use the Kentucky Child/Adult Protective Services Reporting System website (<https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse/>). The website is monitored from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday. Reports WILL NOT be reviewed during evenings, weekends, or state holidays. When reporting, document the date, time, intake identification number, and the name of the individual who took the report.

- The best practice is to also contact the 24-hour [National Human Trafficking Hotline \(1-888-373-7888\)](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking). This toll-free hotline is available to take reports of suspected human trafficking and can assist with notification of law enforcement and locating services for victims. You may also submit an anonymous report through their on-line reporting form (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking>).
- If the youth is a foreign national or has resided in another state during the past year, call the [National Human Trafficking Hotline \(1-888-373-7888\)](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking) or The **Bakhita Empowerment Initiative** at [Catholic Charities of Louisville \(502-974-4941\)](https://www.catholiccharitiesoflouisville.org/). If the child is currently located in Kentucky, the report can be made to the Kentucky Child Protection Hotline referenced above.
- Follow your district or school policy in notifying other school personnel about your suspicions.

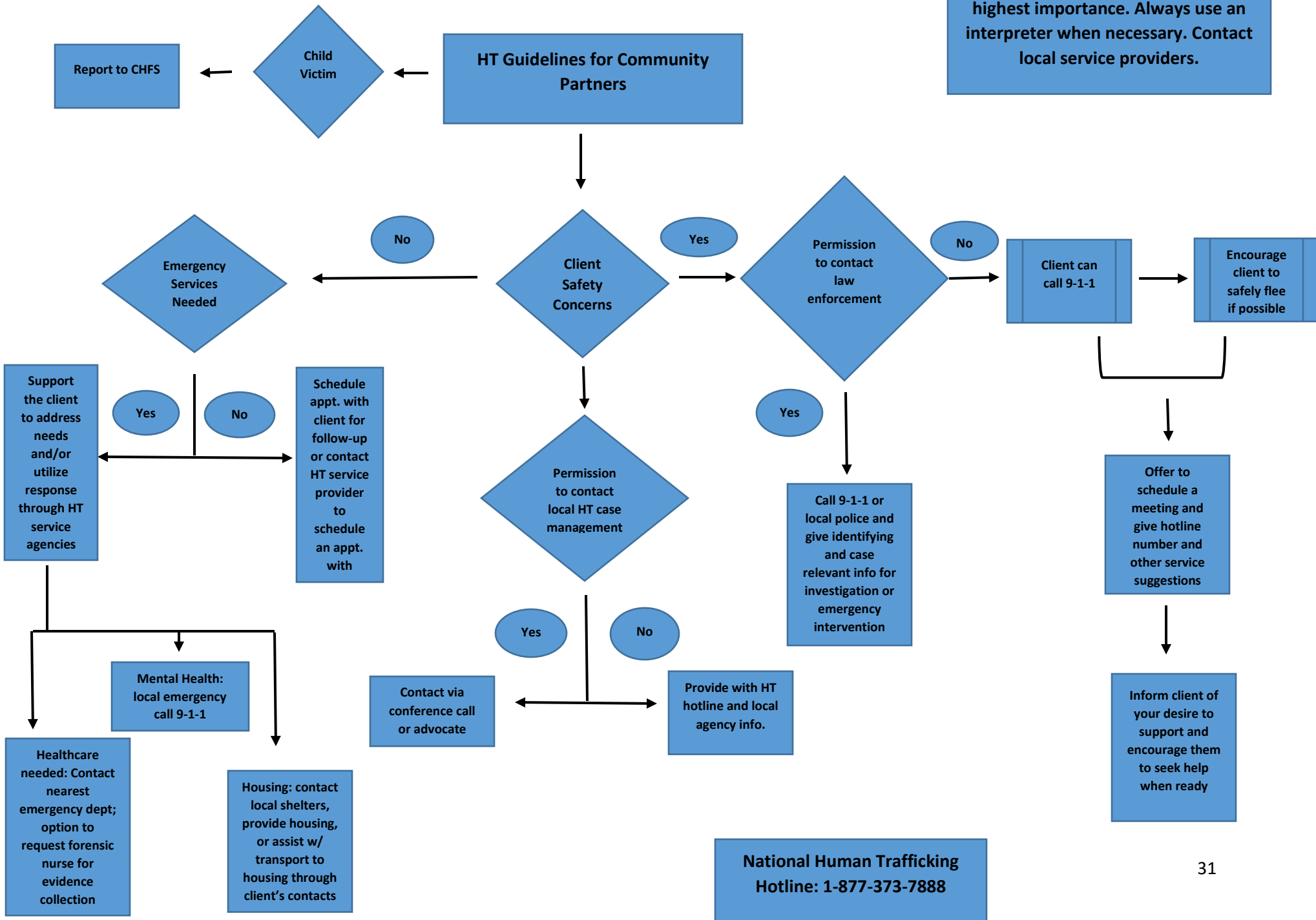
What should I do after I have reported my suspicion of trafficking?

- Pursuant to [KRS 620.040](#), school personnel do not have the authority to conduct internal investigations. **DO NOT** attempt to conduct your own investigation as this can lead to a dangerous situation for both you and the victim.
- Remain calm and continue to support the suspected victim while refraining from questioning the child. Never confront the suspected trafficker. Confronting a trafficker may put you and the student's life in immediate danger.

Resources

- GEMS
 - Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) is designed to serve girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. <http://www.gems-girls.org/get-involved/very-young-girls>
- The Faces Of Human Trafficking-Office For Victim of Crime (OVC) <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/publicawareness.html>
- Not My Life <https://www.notmylife.org/>
- Kentucky Association of Children's Advocacy Centers <http://www.kacac.org/>
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/dpo/bpb/Documents/CACsContactList.pdf>

Trauma Informed Care approach is of highest importance. Always use an interpreter when necessary. Contact local service providers.



Additional Resources

The Freedom Collaborative: <http://www.freedomcollaborative.org/>

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:

<https://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubResults.asp>

Homeland Security Blue Campaign: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/request-materials>

NetSmartz: <https://www.netsmartz.org/TeachingResources>

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC):

<http://www.missingkids.com/theissues/cse/cstt>

The Women of Color Network (WOCN): <http://www.wocninc.org/>

The Sanar Wellness Institute: <http://www.sanar-institute.org/>

Allies Against Slavery: www.alliesagainstsavery.org

Futures Without Violence: https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI_-qYIM3-3AIVGbjACh3yBwkEEAAYASAAEgKfVfD_BwE

End Abuse of People with Disabilities: <https://www.endabusepwd.org/>

Freedom Network: <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/>

The McCain Institute: <https://www.mccaininstitute.org/>

National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute (NAGTRI): <http://www.naag.org/nagri.php>

Human Trafficking Institute: <https://www.traffickinginstitute.org/>

Colorado Human Trafficking Insider: <https://google.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f26c7d7c941cf6b9b36e0e944&id=440d325f3c>

Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force (Governor's Office):

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/OHOCJS/subscriber/new?qsp=AHTO>

<http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/>

End Slavery Cincinnati: <http://www.endslaverycincinnati.org/>

Georgia Cares: <http://www.gacares.org/index.php>

Iowa Network Against HT: <https://iowanahat.org/>

Greater New Orleans HT Task Force: <http://www.nolatrafficking.org/>

Central Missouri Stop HT Coalition: <http://www.stophumantraffickingmo.com/>

Stop HT-Eastern MO & Southern IL Network: <http://www.stoptraffickingmo-il.org/>

United Against HT-Houston Coalition: <https://uaht.org/>

Kentucky Association of Children’s Advocacy Centers (KACAC): <http://www.kacac.org/>
Location Listing: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/dpo/bpb/Documents/CACsContactList.pdf>

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP): <https://www.kasap.org/>

The Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV): <https://kcadv.org/>

Sexual Assault Hotlines in Kentucky:

Center for Women and Families

Joan E. Thomas, M.D. Campus
927 South 2nd Street
P.O. Box 2048
Louisville, KY 40201-2048
Phone: 502 581-7110 24 hours

Communicare, Inc.

107 Cranes Roost Court
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Phone: 270.765.2605
Crisis Line: 270-765-2605

Cumberland River Comprehensive Care Center, Inc.

Whitley County
PO Box 568
Corbin, KY 40702
Business phone: 606-528-7010
Crisis Line: (606)523-9386

Kentucky River Community Care, Inc.

Perry County
115 Rockwood Lane
Hazard, KY 41701
Business phone: 606-436-5761
24 Hour Rape Crisis Line: 800-375-7273
24 Hour Crisis/ Information Line: 800 262 7491
24 Hour TTY: 800 787 5043

Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, Inc.

Fayette County
PO Box 1603
Lexington, KY 40592
24-hour Crisis HOTLINE: 859-253-2511
Business Line:859-253-2615

Hope Harbor

Warren County
913 Broadway

Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-782-5014

Rape Victim Services, Inc.

Henderson County
800 Triplett St.
Baskett, KY 42401
270-926-7278
Crisis Hotline: 800-266-7273

Women's Crisis Center, Inc.

Boone County
240 Main St.
Florence, KY 41042
Business phone: 606-525-2600
Crisis Line: 606-491-3334
Toll-free Hotline: 800-928-3335

Women's Crisis Center, Inc.

Mason County
111 East Third St.
Maysville, KY 41056
Office: 606-564-6708
Crisis Hotline: 800-928-6708

KENTUCKY REGIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCES

Lexington Human Trafficking Task Force

Co-Chairs: Brittney Thomas, britt_ney07@icloud.com and David Mayre (AUSA- Eastern District)
Meetings bimonthly on Wednesdays, 10am-12pm at Global Lex, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington.

Franklin County Human Trafficking Task Force

Chair: Donna Jackson, franklincountyhttf@yahoo.com; Meets at 6:30 pm the 3rd Monday of each month at the Frankfort Police Station Community room.

Shelbyville Human Trafficking Task Force

Co-Chairs: Jami Wilson, jwilson@archlou.org and Soha Saiyed, soha@sohasaiyed.com
Meetings are 12-1pm in the North Central District Health Dept bldg. conference room located at 1020 Henry Clay St. Shelbyville.

Louisville Metro Human Trafficking Task Force

Co-Chairs: Marissa Castellanos, mcastellanos@archlou.org

Dr. Jennifer Middleton, UofL Kent School of Social Work, jennifer.s.middleton@gmail.com
Thursdays (bimonthly) 12:00-1:30 YMCA Safe Place, 2400 Crittenden Drive, Louisville.

Nelson County Human Trafficking Task Force

Co-chairs: Soha Saiyed, soha@sohasaiyed.com & Amy Nace-Degonda, anacedegonda@archlou.org;
Meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 11:30-12:45pm, SCN Center on the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth campus in Bardstown.

Bullitt County Human Trafficking Task Force

Chair: Elissa Montoya, BCCAHT@gmail.com; [502-216-5161](tel:502-216-5161); Meetings are at the Ridgeway Library, in Shepherdsville the first Wednesday of every month at 2PM.

Southeast Kentucky Human Trafficking Task Force

Co-Chairs: Mollie Harris, mollieharris@sj-london.org & Magen Zawko, magenzawko@londonpd.com
2nd Friday of every month, from 10am-12pm at Joseph Hospital (London) in the Basement Conference and Training Room.

Web: <https://sekytaskforce.wordpress.com/about/what-is-human-trafficking/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sekytaskforce/>

Northern KY Task Force-RIGHTS

Co-Chairs: Theresa Vietor, Teresa.vietor@stelizabeth.com & Sharlene Boltz, boltzs1@nku.edu Meets at the St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center 3861 Olympic Blvd, Erlanger from 2-4 PM.

EDKY Task Force

Contacts: David Mayre and Hydee Hawkins; This task force is primarily for law enforcement and meets quarterly at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Lexington. Meetings are from 9-11AM.

Northeastern Regional Human Trafficking Task Force

Chair: Brittany Davis, MSW/FSOS Specialized Investigations/DCBS. Brittany.Davis@ky.gov, 606-315-6730

References

Office on Trafficking in Persons, Fact Sheet: Human Trafficking, OTIP-FS-18-01;
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fshumantrafficking>

The Trauma Informed Care Project: <http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org/>

Kentucky State Police, Crime in Kentucky Report, 2017:

http://ksponline.org/Documents_2018/2017CrimeInKentucky_Updated.pdf

University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work Human Trafficking Research Initiative Youth Experiences Survey (YES): Exploring the Scope and Complexity of Sex Trafficking in a Sample of Youth

Experiencing Homelessness in Kentuckiana : <https://louisville.edu/kent/research-special-programs-projects/current-projects/kentucky-2016-yes-report>

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Model Standards Glossary: <https://www.ovc.gov/model-standards/glossary.html>

OVC TTAC Task Force eGuide: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/1-understanding-human-trafficking/13-victim-centered-approach/>

Ohio Human Trafficking Commission Standards for Service to Trafficked Persons: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/files/publications-files/publications-for-victims/ohiohumantraffickingcommissionstandardsforse>

National Human Trafficking Hotline: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/traffickers>

Protocol for Serving Child Victims of Human Trafficking in Ohio: <https://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/HT-Child-Protocol.pdf>

Commonwealth of Kentucky (2017). KRS Database. Legislative Research Commission. <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/statute.aspx?id=41833>

The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Policies and Protocols: <https://www.pdfFiller.com/jsfiller-desk7/?projectId=232928162&expId=4071&expBranch=1#87de08ea62334d73931f1bce3b063395>

Northern Kentucky Response Initiative to Guide Human Trafficking Services (RIGHTS) (2018). Human Trafficking Protocol and Resource Manual.

The Southeast Regional Human Trafficking Advisory Group, An Initiative of the Administration for Children and Families Region 4 Office (2018). Guiding Principles For Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking.