



# Combating Human Trafficking Through Your Agency

## Indicators

### Toll Operators

- Try to make eye contact with kids or a potentially suspicious passenger.
- Observe their behavior ... do they seem fearful or anxious?
- Does the driver or another occupant in the vehicle speak or answer for them?
- If you suspect something, jot down any descriptive vehicle information and person's description; then get that info to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or 911.

### Welcome Centers

- Any individual under the control of someone else, not allowed to speak for him or herself, looking fearful or anxious, or that will not make eye contact
- Anyone not in control of personal documents
- Inconsistencies in stories
- Any differences in age, gender and race ... particularly if a minor appears to be under the control of an adult
- Individuals seeking to engage in commercial sex
- Individuals going car to car or truck to truck selling perfumes, magazine subscriptions or other types of wares
- RVs or passenger vehicles parked out by trucks
- A vehicle dropping someone off at a truck and then picking him/her up 15-20 minutes later
- Any acknowledgement of a pimp or making a quota
- Bedding in unusual places ... like in a storage room or some other place people typically do not sleep
- Any outward signs of bruising or other physical harm
- Lack of knowledge of their whereabouts
- Signs of branding

#### *Those that may be roadside...*

- Is there any luggage in the vehicle?
- Do all individuals have freedom to exit the vehicle?
- Are there bars on the windows?
- Are all employees able to freely speak?
- Be on the lookout for individuals who have no freedom of movement ... those that have difficulty articulating logical travel plans, particularly between a parent/guardian and a child.





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### Construction Work

- A highly controlled and/or hazardous, unsafe work setting
- A work site that has heavy or excessive security measures that seem out of place
- A work site where worker housing is provided on-site and appears sub-standard, unsafe and closely monitored
- Workers at drop-off/pick up locations that avoid (or are prevented from) speaking to you
  - Being fearful, anxious, submissive, nervous or tense
  - Avoiding eye contact, speaking softly
  - Giving you responses that seem scripted or rehearsed
  - Expressing a fear of law enforcement
- Perhaps the individuals are in poor physical health, appear malnourished, and show signs of abuse or lack of medical care.
- They may also have little knowledge of where they are working and/or do not have a sense of time.
- If an individual speaks to you and mentions:
  - They work excessive, long hours and are provided few or no breaks
  - Fees or deductions are made from their paychecks for housing, food, work-related equipment, etc.
  - That there is withholding of identification documents
  - Threats of (or actual) verbal, physical or sexual abuse by an employer
- If in doubt of yours or the potential victim's safety, call the hotline or law enforcement. Do not put anyone in harm's way.
- If you find yourself able to safely engage in conversation with a potential trafficking victim, you may want to ask a few questions to gauge the situation. For example:
  - Do you feel safe at your workplace?
  - Is the job different from what you expected or were promised?
  - Do you owe a debt to your employer?
  - Do you feel you can leave your job if you wanted to?
  - Are you in possession of your own legal documents or identification?





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### Rail Inspectors

- Individuals who are traveling with little or no personal items, such as luggage or bags
- Being coached on what to say to law enforcement or immigration officials
- Avoiding eye contact and interaction with others
- If an individual is caught trespassing, be sure to find out if they were seeking to escape someone who was controlling or harming them.
- If you're able to ask a potential victim a few questions, how about ...
  - Does anyone control you or tell you what to do?
  - What is your relationship to this person?
  - Are your calls, texts, emails, or other conversations ever restricted or monitored?
  - Do you have access to your ID or other personal documents?
  - Do you get to keep the money you earn or does someone else take all or part of it?
  - Do you have access to money?
  - What would happen if you didn't do what this person said?
  - What would happen if you left this situation or person?
  - Do you want out?
  - If we could provide you with a safe place to escape to, would you like that today?
  - When was the last time you saw your family?
  - Does your family know where you are?

### Bus Terminals

- Restricted or controlled communication — not allowed to speak for themselves
- Disheveled appearance, unkempt, alone, scared or crying
- Offers to exchange sex for a ride, meal, etc.
- Does not know the person picking them up
- Acknowledge that she/he has a pimp and is making a quota
- Signs of branding or tattooing (often of trafficker's name)
- Is not in possession of own ticket or ID
- Claims someone else purchased the ticket
- Minors traveling alone or looking like they are on the run
- Adults milling about seeking to engage unaccompanied minors in conversation

### Licensing Counter

- Have a lack of knowledge of their whereabouts or are not in control of their ID/passport
- Have restricted or controlled communication or are not allowed to speak for themselves
- Acknowledge having a pimp and/or controller ("boyfriend")
- Are seeking to obtain an ID in a different name and/or age
- Exhibit peculiar behavior
- Tell a story that just doesn't add up
- Show signs of branding or tattooing of trafficker's name
- Do not have the required documents and express frustration and urgency...

