

HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

REPORTING 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 \(1-888-373-7888\)](#). 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 \(1-888-373-7888\)](#) or The **Bakhita Empowerment Initiative** at [Catholic Charities of Louisville \(502-974-4941\)](#). 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.

