

SCATI

Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative



Long Island's Anti-Trafficking Task Force Information Sheet

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking occurs when a perpetrator, often referred to as a trafficker, uses force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into labor or commercial sex acts against their will.

Inducing a minor into commercial sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion. - Polaris Project

About Us

Co-founded by Suffolk County Police Department Human Trafficking Investigations Unit and ECLI-VIBES in 2018, SCATI is composed of agencies including federal, state, and local law enforcement; government and non-government social service providers; local not-for-profit organizations; health care providers faith-based organizations; and other community stakeholders.

Our Mission

The Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SCATI) is committed to supporting survivors through a trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach. Our multidisciplinary task force works collaboratively to prevent and identify human trafficking, support survivors, investigate and prosecute traffickers, and educate the community. Together, we are dedicated to raising awareness and strengthening our collective response to human trafficking across Long Island.

Since Our Inception:



Who to Call

If there is immediate danger: Call 911

For suspected trafficking:

SCPD Human Trafficking Unit – Direct law enforcement investigation: 631-854-7512

Crime Stoppers (100% anonymous tips): 1-800-220-TIPS

For minors:

CPS Hotline – Mandatory reporting: 800-342-3720

For runaway/missing youth cases:

Operation Safe & Lasting Return

safe@suffolkcountyny.gov or call (631)852-SAFE(7233).

If this is an emergency, and if a child or teen has gone missing, you must call 911.

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888 or Text 233733 (BEFREE)
HumanTraffickingHotline.org

For Service Providers:

ECLI-VIBES

24/7 Hopeline (631) 360-3606
eclivibes.org

EAC Safe Harbour

631-439-0480
eac-network.org/safe-harbour

The Retreat

24/7 Hotline (631) 329-2200
allagainstabuse.org



What to Look For (Red Flags)

Behavioral

- Person appears fearful, anxious, tense, or hyper-vigilant
- Avoids eye contact or looks to another person before speaking
- Someone else answers all questions for the victim
- Person seems coached or rehearsed
- Person is submissive, quiet, withdrawn, or overly apologetic

Physical

- Injuries in different stages of healing
- Untreated medical conditions
- Signs of physical abuse, burns, restraints, or assault
- Malnourishment, exhaustion, dehydration
- Repeated injuries with vague or inconsistent explanations
- Tattoos or branding marks (symbols, branding, names)
- In appropriate clothing for the weather

Environmental

- Extra cell phones, burner phones, or no access to their own cell phones
- Multiple unrelated people living in the same space
- Person has no ID
- Locked doors, restricted movement
- Work or living conditions appear unsafe or crowded
- Locations where trafficking may occur:
 - Massage parlors or Nail salons
 - Hotels/motels

Youth-Specific

- Frequent running away or going missing
- Older adult claiming to be "friend," "partner," or "boss"
- New expensive items (hair, nails, clothes, phone) they cannot explain
- Sexualized behavior or signs of exploitation

Migrant Labor

- Long shifts, dangerous conditions, or unpaid work
- Living where they work (back rooms, basements, construction sites)
- Workers transported by same person daily

How to Document & Report

Do Not Approach

- Your safety and the victim's safety come first.
- Do NOT approach the suspected trafficker or victim.

Instead:

- Observe what is happening
- Take note of details
- Report the information safely
- If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911

Report Anonymously to Crime Stoppers, include:

- Exact location or address
- Date and time you observed the activity
- Cross streets or nearby businesses
- Vehicle descriptions or license plates
- Physical descriptions (age, clothing, tattoos, scars)
- Number of people involved
- Times and patterns (ex: late night activity, frequent visitors)
- Visible injuries (location)
- Behavior and demeanor
- Business names or advertisements
- Social media pages or online ads if relevant

Even small details help investigators build cases.

What NOT To Do:

- Do not try to rescue the victim
- Do not photograph people directly
- Do not post suspicions on social media
- Do not put yourself in danger

Let trained investigators handle the situation.

