

Other Indicators

- Victim is being coached on what to say to law enforcement
- Someone else holds identification or travel documents
- Garnishing of salary
- Cannot freely contact friends or family
- No identifiable source of income

Myth: *Trafficking isn't happening in my community.*

Fact: Trafficking happens in every state, city, and community in Kentucky and across the country and globe.

Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force Mission

- 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 collaborations between law enforcement and victim services providers.
- Provide comprehensive services to all victims and survivors of human trafficking in which the victim's and/or survivor's wishes, safety, confidentiality, and well-being take priority.
- Create targeted outreach, awareness, and training for advocates, prosecutors, law enforcement, and the public to identify and respond to human trafficking.



The Kentucky Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force

Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris, has received reports of 34,700 cases of human trafficking inside the US.

From 2007-2018, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has received 2,033 calls and reported 490 human trafficking cases in Kentucky.

In 2017, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimated that 1 in 7 endangered runaways reported to them were likely sex trafficking victims.

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 human trafficking in our state and across the globe.

National Human Trafficking Hotline Fact Sheet

<https://Humantraffickinghotline.org/state/kentucky>

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Myth: *Trafficking only happens to girls and women.*

Fact: Anyone can be trafficked regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, or religion, including U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, immigrants, children, and adults.

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Kentucky passed its first law making human trafficking a crime and granting rights to victims of human trafficking in 2007. In 2013, Kentucky passed the **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.

Myth: *Children can be prostitutes.*

Fact: There is no such thing as a child prostitute. If a person under the age of 18 is found to be performing a commercial sex act, it is human trafficking. Force, fraud, or coercion do not have to be involved for anyone under age 18.

Definitions

Labor Trafficking: When someone uses force, fraud, or coercion to cause an adult or minor to perform labor or services. These services may be performed for no money, less than minimum wage, or to pay off a debt.

Sex Trafficking: When someone uses force, fraud, or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult or minor. Proof of force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary for anyone under age 18.

What Should Community Members Look For?

- Sparse living conditions with multiple people in one residence
- Door locks that are meant to keep people in a residence
- Individuals speaking for others
- Individuals in possession of multiple cell phones or hotel keys
- Victims may avoid eye contact

Myth: *If a victim is under age 18, it is trafficking, but if they are over 18, it's their choice.*

Fact: If there is ever force, fraud, or coercion involved, it is not a choice, it is human trafficking.

Red Flags/Indicators

Visual Clues

- Malnourished
- Nervous
- Avoids eye contact
- Does not speak or appears afraid to speak
- Signs of physical or sexual abuse

Behavioral Clues

- Submissive
- Extremely withdrawn
- Inability to concentrate
- Cannot give an address
- Defiant or combative
- Sudden or dramatic change in behavior

How Do Citizens Report Suspected Human Trafficking?

Kentucky law requires any person with a suspicion that a child is being trafficked for sex or labor report that suspicion to the **Cabinet for Health and Family Services by calling 1-877-KYSAFE1.**

Immediate Danger? Call 911, but DO NOT attempt to assist the victim.

Minor involved? Report all information to DCBS by calling 1-877-KYSAFE1.

Adult and no immediate danger? Report to the **National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-373-7888.** You can also send a text to 233733 (BeFree), or use the online chat feature. All services are available 24/7.

Myth: *Trafficking only happens at major sporting events.*

Fact: Trafficking occurs every day in every county in Kentucky. It is not limited to the Kentucky Derby or other large events. The demand for commercial sex and labor exploitation are daily realities.