

OVERVIEW

The [MDHHS' Human Trafficking of Children Protocol](#) was developed in consultation with state and local law enforcement, juvenile justice, health care providers, education agencies, and organizations with experience in dealing with at-risk youth. The protocol was developed to guide professionals in identifying and assisting children who are victims of human trafficking. The protocol focuses on the needs of victims, with the overriding intention of protecting the interests of children and maintaining their safety in the community. The protocol has the following goals:

- Provide a coordinated investigative team approach while minimizing trauma to the victim.
- Provide protection and the delivery of specialized services to the child victim and appropriate family members.
- Provide cross-professional training to promote a better understanding of the unique nature and challenges of cases involving child sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- Provide alternatives for handling the case after the child has been identified as the victim of human trafficking.

All caseworkers and applicable contracted service providers must review the MDHHS Human Trafficking of Children Protocol and be aware of the signs/behaviors that indicate that a child may be a human trafficking victim.

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act requires the Department, Tribal agencies, and contracted service providers to identify, document in agency records, and determine appropriate services for all of the following populations:

- Children for whom the Department/agency has an open case file but who have not been removed from the home.
- Children who have run away from foster care and who have not attained 21 years of age.
- Any child or youth over whom the State/Tribal agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision.
- Youth who are not in foster care but are receiving services under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

DEFINITIONS

Sex trafficking victim- a sex trafficking victim is defined as an individual subject to the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act or who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induces to perform the act is under 18 years old.

Labor trafficking victim- a labor trafficking victim is defined as an individual subject to the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS AND SCREENING

To minimize trauma and accurately identify human trafficking victims or youth at risk of human trafficking, caseworkers must use the specified screening tools in this policy item.

CPS

CPS intake and investigation workers will refer to the [MDHHS' Human Trafficking of Children Protocol](#) during the course of an intake/investigation to aid in determining whether a child is a human trafficking victim or at risk of becoming a human trafficking victim; see [PSM 712-6](#), [PSM 713-8](#), and Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking and CPS Investigation and Coordination with Law Enforcement, in the MDHHS Human Trafficking Protocol.

Ongoing Cases or Services

Caseworkers and contractors providing ongoing case management to children and youth must be aware of the signs/behaviors that indicate that a child may be a sex trafficking victim. The presence of some of these indicators is not conclusive evidence of trafficking; rather caseworkers should look for a pattern of indicators to determine if further inquiry should take place.

This information will be acquired during routine case management activities; for example, monthly contacts, completion of the Child

Assessment of Needs and Strengths (CANS), family team meetings (FTM), JJ Strengths and Needs Assessment, Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System, consultation with medical/mental health professionals or educators etc. Signs that a child may be a victim of or at risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking vary, but key signs may include:

- History of running away.
- Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities.
- New or inexplicable signs of physical, mental, or emotional abuse and/or sexually transmitted diseases.
- New or inexplicable over-sexualized behaviors.
- New or inexplicable fears, tension, shame, humiliation, and/or nervousness.
- Inexplicable appearance of expensive gifts, clothing, cell phones, tattoos, or other costly items.
- Loss of identifying records; e.g., birth certificate, driver's license, immigration documents.
- Presence of an older boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Drug addiction.
- Working for long hours, often with little or no pay.
- Excess amounts of cash on hand.
- Gang involvement.
- Youth's acknowledgement of being trafficked.

If a youth displays signs that she/he may be a victim or at risk of becoming a victim, caseworkers must consult with their supervisors to determine if further screening must take place. If it is determined that screening is required, caseworkers must use the DHS-5523, Human Trafficking Indicator Tool- Ongoing Cases, and follow the documentation and response steps identified below.

Note: If the child has already disclosed human trafficking this tool does not need to be completed.

Population to Be Served

Children/youth who receive case management on an ongoing basis include:

- All children with an open CPS-ongoing, foster care, adoption, unaccompanied refugee minor, or juvenile justice case.
- Youth with a closed case but who are receiving services under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program on an ongoing basis. This includes:
 - Mentor contracts.
 - Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI).
 - College Independent Living Skills Coach contracts; i.e., Campus Coaches at Campus Based Support Programs.

Closed Case Services

Youth who are not in foster care but who are requesting goods, funds, or services under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program must be screened using the DHS-5524, Human Trafficking Indicator Tool- Closed Cases. This population includes youth requesting:

- Education and Training Vouchers (ETV).
- Closed Case Youth in Transition (YIT) goods or services.

Youth Returning from AWOLP or Escape

Youth who are absent without legal permission (AWOLP) are vulnerable to victimization and human trafficking. Caseworkers must complete the DHS-5333, Conversation Guide on Return from AWOLP, anytime a youth returns from AWOLP or escape; see [FOM 722-3A, Absent without Legal Permission \(AWOLP\)](#).

Note: Youth returning from AWOLP only need to be screened with the DHS-5333, Conversation Guide on Return from AWOLP. They do not have to be screened on the DHS-5523, Human Trafficking Indicator Tool- Ongoing Cases, too.

**REQUIRED
RESPONSE*****Children under 18 years of age***

If a youth is positively screened as a victim of human trafficking, after the completion of the DHS-5333, DHS-5523, or DHS-5524, a referral to Centralized Intake **must** be made. The telephone number for Centralized Intake is 1-855-444-3911.

Whenever a youth is positively screened as a human trafficking victim she/he must receive services to address the needs identified; see Appropriate Placement and Treatment and Addressing the Victim's Medical and Mental Health Needs in the [MDHHS' Human Trafficking of Children Protocol](#).

Youth 18 years and older

Whenever a youth 18 years and older is positively screened as a human trafficking victim she/he must receive a referral for or assistance in identifying services to address his or her needs; see Appropriate Placement and Treatment and Addressing the Victim's Medical and Mental Health Needs in the [MDHHS' Human Trafficking of Children Protocol](#).

**DOCUMENTATION
Ongoing Cases**

Whenever a youth is positively screened as a victim of human trafficking on the DHS-5333, DHS-5523, or DHS-5524, it must be recorded in MISACWIS.

Closed Cases

Whenever a youth is positively screened as a victim of human trafficking on the DHS-5523 or DHS-5524, caseworkers must contact the [MDHHS Human Trafficking Analyst](#).

RESOURCES

The [MDHHS Human Trafficking Website](#) has additional resources regarding identification and services for victims of human trafficking.

AUTHORITY

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, PL 114-122

POLICY CONTACT

Questions about this policy item may be directed to the MDHHS human trafficking analyst:

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