COPS Community Oriented Policing Services U.S. Department of Justice

Indicators of Labor Trafficking

IIR Institute for Intergovernmental Research

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH



Public safety dispatchers receiving the report of a labor trafficking victim should do the following:

1. Determine an appropriate response related to a labor trafficking incident, consistent with agency policies. Help make this determination by asking questions such as "Are you free to leave?" or "Do you have access to your own identification documents?"
2. For victim escapes or victim calls, promptly dispatch an officer to the scene of the victim report, as well as notifying law enforcement human trafficking POC.
3. For credible tips, promptly dispatch the call to an anonymous crime reporting hotline such as Crime Stoppers for handling, if applicable.
4. For all other calls not falling in category 2 or 3, promptly dispatch call to the National Human Trafficking Hotline for handling (888-373-7888).
5. Notify a supervisor.
6. Transmit the appropriate radio alerts and other notifications.
7. If possible, search agency records for related information.
8. Safeguard all pertinent records.

Public safety dispatchers need to know about

- trafficking indicators and information that can help identify human trafficking victims as part of an overall strategy for victim identification and assistance;
- Crime Stoppers or other anonymous crime reporting hotlines and their role in intelligence gathering and solving crimes of human trafficking in partnership with community members, media, and local law enforcement;
- the mission, scope, and services provided by the National Human Trafficking Hotline Resource Center to appropriately direct calls there (888-373-7888).
- the federal definition of human trafficking (Trafficking Victims Protection Act) and the various forms of exploitation;
- federal authorities and their role as the technical assistance providers designated to support local law enforcement in its efforts to rescue human trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers;
- the services available to victims of trafficking and the assistance provided by NGOs;
- foreign language support and services that can be provided on scene to assist, such as an interpreter or bilingual officer;
- methods for effective response and information gathering.

Credit: *Protocol for Handling Calls Regarding Human Trafficking,* NENA: the 911 Association, last modified July 13, 2017, https://www.nena.org/page/HumanTraffickingStnd.

For more information about the indicators of labor trafficking, visit https://cops.usdoj.gov/labor_trafficking.

Know the signs to save a life!