

# Human Trafficking Identification: Screening Tool and Report

*Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force*

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this assessment is to provide a basic screening tool to be utilized by entities likely to encounter human trafficking victims, such as law enforcement, hospitals, low-income clinics, youth-serving organizations, social service providers, runaway and homeless youth shelters, etc. This tool will equip such entities to identify potential human trafficking victims and conduct a more thorough interview once a potential victim has been flagged.

## **Format and Implementation**

This tool consists of three segments:

1. Initial Screening Questions for Human Trafficking
2. Human Trafficking Detailed Interview Questions
3. Human Trafficking Report

Your organization may incorporate the Initial Screening Questions into your existing intake procedures or forms. These questions were designed to be brief and general in order to flag someone as a potential human trafficking victim.

If your organization has determined that your trained staff will complete the more thorough interviews, they may utilize the provided Human Trafficking Detailed Interview Questions.

The final segment of this tool is the Human Trafficking Report. The purpose of this report is to gather data about human trafficking cases in Indiana for statistical purposes.

## **Sources**

Screening and interview questions have been developed from the following sources:

- *Tools for Service Providers and Law Enforcement*, POLARIS PROJECT, available at <http://www.polarisproject.org/resources/tools-for-service-providers-and-law-enforcement> (last visited May 24, 2013).
- SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL, *Intervene: Identifying and Responding to America's Prostituted Youth*, (2010).
- INDIANA PROTECTION FOR ABUSED AND TRAFFICKED HUMANS, various training and first responder tools, available at <http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2963.htm> (last visited May 24, 2013).
- INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, sex trafficking questionnaire utilized by Human Trafficking and Vice Unit.
- Recommendations by a human trafficking survivor who is now actively engaged in anti-trafficking work in the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force, IL.

**If you have questions regarding this tool, please contact:** [HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov](mailto:HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov)

# ***Note to Interviewer***

Victims of human trafficking rarely self-identify, due to the extreme psychological trauma, physical violence, and deception/coercion they have likely encountered. When conducting an interview, it is vital to demonstrate empathy and to mirror the language of the interviewee. Victims may not identify their exploiter as a trafficker, pimp, or abuser. They may refer to the person controlling them as their boyfriend, daddy, employer, or boss. The interviewer should mirror that language and avoid using terms that may be offensive to the individual and counter-productive to the interview, such as “pimp,” “trafficker,” “prostitute,” and “victim.”

Interviewers should be familiar with the psychological dynamics of human trafficking. Victims often demonstrate symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. They may experience trauma bonding, wherein they demonstrate a sense of loyalty or affection for their trafficker. They may also believe their trafficker truly cares for them and that their situation will improve over time. This type of thinking is common among victims of trafficking and is a result of trauma, rather than an indication that the individual is not truly a victim.

Human trafficking victims may also be hesitant to accuse their trafficker or ask for help because they fear the repercussions. Many have suffered physical violence and threats against themselves and their loved ones. They may have also witnessed physical violence against other victims who tried to leave or asked for help, and therefore, they know that their trafficker is willing and able to carry out threats.

In addition to physical violence, victims are often lied to by their trafficker. The perpetrator may have told them they will be arrested for prostitution if they seek help or will be deported (if they are foreign-born). Victims are often conditioned to fear authorities. In addition, victims who are young may lack the life experience or psychological development that would allow them to clearly reason through the threats and lies they have been told. In cases of foreign-born victims, they often lack knowledge about the U.S. legal system and the rights they have. For example, they may not be aware that state and federal Departments of Labor have standards in place for working conditions, compensation for overtime, and giving employees the freedom to choose their place of employment and when to terminate employment.

These dynamics should be taken into consideration when interviewing a potential victim of human trafficking. The interview should be conducted from a client-centered, strengths-based perspective. It should also be noted that several interviews may need to be conducted at separate times in order to develop rapport and a trusting relationship with the interviewee.

# Initial Screening Questions for Human Trafficking

Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force

*Your organization may incorporate these general screening questions into existing intake procedures or forms. If the individual answers “yes” to any of these questions, we recommend that you consider them a potential victim of human trafficking. Once an individual is flagged as a potential victim, we recommend that you refer them to your organization’s trained\* staff member, who will complete a more thorough trafficking interview, utilizing the Human Trafficking Detailed Interview Questions*

## **Initial Screening Questions:**

- Are you able to come and go from home and work as you please? If not, are you threatened if you try to leave?
- Does anyone pressure you to do something illegal, or is someone profiting off of you?
- Do you owe anyone a debt that makes you uncomfortable?

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\* If your organization would like to receive IPATH training on human trafficking and trafficking interviews, please contact [HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov](mailto:HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov)

# Human Trafficking Detailed Interview Questions

## Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force

*After your intake specialist has flagged someone as a potential human trafficking victim, we recommend that you consider them a potential victim of human trafficking. Once an individual is flagged as a potential victim, we recommend that you refer them to your organization's trained<sup>†</sup> staff member, who will complete a more thorough trafficking interview.*

### **Sex Trafficking Assessment Questions:**

- Have you ever been in foster care?
- Have you ever left home without your parent or guardian knowing? If so, where did you like to go? What were some of the ways you took care of yourself?
- Do you have a boyfriend or girlfriend? How did you meet? How old is he/she?
- What are some things they do to show you they care about you? What are some things about the relationship that you don't like?
- Has anyone ever pressured you to engage in any sexual acts that made you uncomfortable?
- Has your boyfriend/girlfriend or someone else ever asked you to engage in sex for money in order to "help the relationship/the family"?
- Has anyone ever pressured you to engage in sexual acts with friends or business partners for favors/money? Has that person ever given you drugs, clothes, or gifts?
- How old were you when you first became involved in this situation?
- Who decides whether or not you use a condom during sex acts?
- Are you ever required to earn a certain amount of money/meet a nightly quota by engaging in sex for someone? What happens if you do not meet this quota?
- Do you keep all of the money you make from working, or do you give all or part of your money to someone else?
- Has anyone ever pressured or forced you to engage in sex through online websites, escort services, street prostitution, informal arrangements, brothels, massage parlors or strip clubs?

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<sup>†</sup> If your organization would like to receive IPATH training on human trafficking and trafficking interviews, please contact [HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov](mailto:HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov)

- Has anyone ever taken photos of you and if so, what do they use them for? Are these photos ever sent to other people or posted on an online forum (Craigslist, Backpage, Myspace)?
- Are you ever transported to different locations to engage in sex? Where are you taken and who transports you?
- Does anyone provide you with protection when you are working? What does that protection look like?
- Do you live by yourself or with other people? What are the living conditions in your housing? Are there locks on the doors and/or windows that keep you from leaving?
- Are you allowed to leave your work or housing? What would happen if you left or tried to leave? Why do you think that would happen?
- Is your communication ever restricted or monitored? Are you allowed to call or communicate with friends and family?
- Are you able to access medical care?
- Have you or anyone you work with been abused at the workplace (slapped, hit, sexually violated)?
- Has anyone ever threatened you or your family?
- What did this person tell you would happen if you were arrested or encountered a police officer or immigration official?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom?
- Is someone holding your identification documents?
- [For women only] Has anyone forced you to continue to engage in sex when you were on your period? Have you ever been asked or told to use anything that would prevent the flow of menstruation?
- Do you know of any minors (under 18 years old) involved in sex for money?

### ***Labor Trafficking Assessment Questions:***

- How do you feel about where you work? How do you feel about your employer/supervisor/crew leader/or other controller?
- What type of labor/services do you do?
- How did you find out about this job?
- What were you told about the job before you started/what promises were made?
- Were you ever pressured or forced to sign a contract that you didn't understand or didn't want to sign? Was this contract ever used as a threat against you?
- [For foreign-born interviewees] Did anyone help you arrange for travel and immigration documents? If so, who? Do you owe them money for those services?
- Do you feel that you are paid fairly at this job? How much and how often are you paid?
- Do you have to pay weekly/monthly expenses? If so, how are these expenses calculated?
- Do you owe someone money? If so, what do you owe them for?
- Do you have access to any money that you earn? Does anyone take your money or a portion of your money? Does anyone hold your money for "safe keeping?"
- If the money you earn is kept in a bank account, who set up this bank account? Does anyone else beside you have access to the account?
- What are your normal work hours? How many hours do you have to work each day?
- What happens if you work fewer hours or take breaks?
- Has anyone ever threatened you if you indicated you did not want to work the hours expected of you?
- Does someone control, supervise or monitor your work/your actions?
- Is your communication ever restricted or monitored? Are you allowed to call or communicate with friends and family?
- Are you able to access medical care?
- Do you have to live in specific housing? What are the conditions like in this housing? Do you have to pay a fee in order to stay in this housing? Are there locks on the doors and/or windows that keep you from leaving?

- Has someone ever promised to secure, renew or pay for your legal documents or work visa? If so, who?
- Is someone holding your identification documents?
- Does someone provide transportation to the work site? What does this look like?
- Are you allowed to leave your work? What would happen if you left or tried to leave? Why do you think that would happen?
- Have you or anyone you work or live with been abused at work or home (slapped, hit, sexually violated)?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom?
- Has anyone ever threatened you or your family?
- What did this person tell you would happen if you were arrested or encountered a police officer or immigration official?

# Human Trafficking Data Report

Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force

Return this report for data collection to the Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force. Include all information permissible by your organization's protocol, including your notes from the detailed interview, if permitted.

Return report to:

Office of the Indiana Attorney General – Victim Services and Outreach Division

Fax: 317-232-7979

[HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov](mailto:HumanTraffickingInfo@atg.in.gov)





**IPATH Reporting Form –  
Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents**  
Return to [humantraffickingtip@atg.in.gov](mailto:humantraffickingtip@atg.in.gov)

Name of person reporting:

Date of report:

Agency:

Are you the primary agency? Y  N

If No, list primary:

Email:

Phone:

Agency Internal Tracking #:

Other agencies involved:

DCS Hotline: Y  N

Polaris Hotline: Y  N

Law Enforcement involved: Y  N

If yes, list contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Related to previously reported incidents: Y  N

Agency Tracking # of other incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Victim Information (please fill out a separate form for each victim):**

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult  US Citizen/LPR  Male  Preferred Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor  Non-US Citizen  Female  Multiple victims  How Many?: \_\_\_\_\_

**Trafficking Incident Information:**

Labor Trafficking  Debt Bondage  Involuntary Servitude   
Sex Trafficking  Commercial Sex  Force, Fraud, or Coercion   
Other sexual exploitation

**Services Provided:**

Safety Planning  Housing #days: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Job Training  Food #meals: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Substance abuse  Clothing #items: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Case Management  
 Interview/screening  
 Counseling - # sessions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Services – describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medical – describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Immigration – describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Services:  
 Service needs:

**Case Details:**

Dates of suspected trafficking:  
Source of referral:  
Court information:  
Upcoming court dates:

**Case description/brief narrative:**

**Other:**  Social media or apps: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Backpage.com  
 Runaway or Homeless  
 Gang Involvement

**\*\*Attach additional information if necessary\*\***