

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a public health issue that impacts individuals, families, and communities. Traffickers exploit other human beings by targeting at-risk populations including persons who have experienced or been exposed to other forms of violence or sexual abuse, and persons disconnected from stable support networks such as runaway and homeless youth, unaccompanied minors, migrant farm workers, and persons displaced during natural disasters.

Human trafficking includes labor and sex trafficking.

SEX TRAFFICKING:

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

A commercial sex act is any sex act in exchange for anything of value - money, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, etc.

LABOR TRAFFICKING:

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.

Persons of every age, gender, ethnicity and class, from any country can be trafficked.

Survivors may need civil (non-criminal) legal assistance.

GET HELP

If you suspect someone you see or know of being trafficked:

DO NOT confront the suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to your suspicions, as this could endanger you and the victim.

Please call your local law enforcement agency or 911.

You can also report a tip, suspicious activity, or get more information by contacting:

National Human Trafficking Hotline

- + Tel: (888) 373-7888
- + Text HELP or INFO to 233733 (BeFree)

The national hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All calls are free and confidential.

Missouri Attorney General's Office Human Trafficking Task Force

- + www.ago.mo.gov/home/human-trafficking
- + Tel: (844) 487-0492

CONTACT US

LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI:

- + Tel: (816) 474-6750

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ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT*

Legal Aid of Western Missouri provides free civil legal services to low income survivors of sex and labor trafficking.

Legal Aid's Human Trafficking Unit represents persons with civil legal problems arising from trafficking who reside in a 40-county area in western Missouri, or anywhere in Missouri if the client is or has been a migrant farm worker. Representation is not limited to issues arising directly out of the trafficking situation. Often, there are other legal issues which outlive or surface long after the immediate trauma of the trafficking. Our goal is to provide holistic services to survivors to address any legal issue they may have.

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COMMON LEGAL ISSUES FACED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

IMMIGRATION RELIEF

- + Applications for U or T Non-Immigrant Status (U Visa and T Visa)
- + Special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS)
- + Status under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

EMPLOYMENT LAW

- + Discrimination
- + Harassment
- + Civil actions to recover unpaid wages or damages
- + Contract claims

FAMILY LAW

- + Orders for protection
- + Separation/divorce
- + Child custody and child support

PUBLIC BENEFITS

- + Assessment of eligibility for public benefits
- + Appeals from denial or termination of public benefit

VICTIM ADVOCACY

- + Confidential name changes
- + Expungements of eligible criminal convictions
- + Restitution/Crime Victims' Compensation
- + Advocacy in criminal court if the trafficker/abuser is charged