



# Human Trafficking **Red Flags**

## For EMS, Fire Department, Law Enforcement, & Other Emergency Care Professionals

If you come in contact with anyone exhibiting one or more of the following indicators, they may be a victim of human trafficking:

- Rooms may have numerous beds on the floor and/or small rooms throughout the residence that have locks on the outside of the doors.
- Locks may be on many/all of the windows that keep people from coming in and OUT.
- Victims may exhibit signs of physical or sexual abuse such as: bruises, broken bones, cuts, burns, scars, black eyes, poor hygiene, and/or malnourishment.
- Victims may demonstrate signs of intense fear or depression.
- Victims may not make eye contact with anyone.
- Victims may not have control over their own ID documents .
- Victims typically are not left alone. There may be someone attempting to speak for them and this person may appear very controlling. Victims may seem dependent on this person.
- Communication with victims may seem scripted and/or vague, or inconsistent.
- Victims may be living and working in the same location.
- Victims may have false or fraudulent ID.
- Victims may not speak English.
- Victims are likely to be very distrustful of law enforcement. Therefore, victims may not admit they are victims and may not ask for help.

### Here are some questions to ask potential victims:

- How did you get here?
- Where do you live, eat, and sleep?
- Is the person with you a parent , guardian, or other relative?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Is someone keeping your ID/travel documents?
- Is there a lock on the door where you sleep?
- Have you or someone you work with been abused at the workplace (slapped, hit, sexually violated)?
- What kind of work do you do? Do you get paid for your work?
- Describe where you live and who lives there with you.
- Are you allowed to come and go freely? Are you afraid to leave? What would happen if you tried to leave?
- Who are you afraid of?

Source: [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org), [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov), and New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force.



**Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force [www-ENDITALABAMA.org](http://www-ENDITALABAMA.org)**  
**If you need help, call 1-888-373-7888 or 1-800-991-0948.**