

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING TIPS FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Human trafficking is happening in Anne Arundel County and throughout Maryland. The most common forms in our area are:

### **Sex Trafficking**

- Under 18: A minor who is engaged in any type of commercial sexual activity is a victim of sex trafficking (e.g., prostitution, stripping, pornography, etc.).
- 18 and over: The presence of force, fraud, and/or coercion establishes sex trafficking.

### **Labor Trafficking**

- Forced, fraudulent, or coerced work at any age may be labor trafficking.

### **Indicators include, but not limited to the following:**

Physical trauma or injury; Poor physical health, hygiene, or living conditions; Emotionally withdrawn or fearful; Mentally confused or disoriented; Abnormal or change in behavior; Lack of control or freedom; No identification.

If you suspect a situation may be human trafficking, pay close attention to the details of what you observe. If you are talking to a possible victim of trafficking, listen carefully to what this person is telling you. Human trafficking does not necessarily involve moving a person to another area, state, or country.

**You do NOT have to know “for certain” whether a situation is human trafficking; suspicion is sufficient to report.** Be aware that asking a lot of questions can inadvertently be traumatizing to victims. Victim safety is an important goal for citizen response.

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### **REPORTING CONTACT NUMBERS:**

- **911** EMERGENCY SITUATION (DANGER TO ANYONE OR SUSPECTED CHILD TRAFFICKING)
- **410-222-8050** SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING OF AN ADULT (Anne Arundel County Tip Line)
- **888-373-7888** or OUTSIDE OF AACO
- **text 233733** (National Human Trafficking Hotline)

### **FOR MANDATED REPORTERS/ANY SITUATION INVOLVING A CHILD/YOUTH:**

Call Anne Arundel County Police (**410-222-8050**) and the Department of Social Services (Adult and Child Protective Services Unit – **410-421-8400** main number to include after 5 p.m. or on weekends).

### **HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

1. Stay informed by reading about human trafficking or hearing survivor stories. Ex: *Polaris Project*: [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)
2. Increase awareness of human trafficking by inviting a Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force-affiliated trainer to speak at your business, organization, church, synagogue, temple, or community group.
3. Engage in safe online social media behavior and share human trafficking awareness information with others.
4. Learn about intersectionality and its impact on human trafficking victims. Educate others about human trafficking, especially when you hear derogatory language or stereotypes about trafficking victims and survivors.
5. Advocate to improve laws aimed at combatting human trafficking.
6. Identify and report suspected human trafficking.
7. Support survivor-focused organizations that directly assist trafficking survivors.