

Signs a Person may be a Victim of Human Trafficking

Trafficked persons may not be easily visible and may not self-identify as victims. They may be unaware of their rights, or may be kept isolated in order to prevent them from seeking help. They may be taught to distrust others, especially law enforcement, and foreign victims may be afraid they will be deported.

Every case is different and there is no single checklist of indicators that prove a person has been trafficked. Nonetheless, the presence of one or more of these signs may indicate a trafficking situation. The trafficked person may:

- speak neither English nor French, or may not speak on their own behalf
- not have a passport or other ID
- be unaware of local surroundings even though the person has been in the area for an extended period of time
- show evidence of control, intimidation or abnormal psychological fear not be able to move or leave a job
- have fines taken off their pay if they do something wrong
- not have the right clothes or protective gear for the job, for example steel-toed boots for a construction site
- incur workplace injuries, but medical professionals are told not to report the incident to worker's compensation
- live and work in the same place, possibly with a number of others, and/or living conditions that are of sub-standard quality.
- show signs of physical abuse and/or malnutrition
- be frequently accompanied by an individual who may be their trafficker
- have a sexually transmitted infection and/or pelvic, rectal or urinary trauma
- use a cell phone to call someone at regular intervals
- have a tattoo of a gang symbol or name that suggests ownership
- do something that a person normally wouldn't do of their own free will