

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Human Trafficking

21-14 Page 1 of 5

Policy

The Department of Children and Families is committed to the identification, rescue and protection of, and providing services for, children who have been identified as victims of human trafficking.

Legal reference: Conn Gen. Stat. §46a-170.

Cross reference: Practice Guide: "CPS Response to Human Trafficking of Minors".

Definitions

The following are definitions of terms that Social Workers may hear when working with victims of human trafficking.

Trafficking in Persons: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) provides definitions for "severe forms of trafficking in persons".

Sex Trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or solicitation 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 as act has not attained 18 years of age.**

Labor Trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining 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.

Child Sex Trafficking: Under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, any child under 18 years of age, who is exploited through commercial sex where something of value – such as money, drugs or a place to stay is given for sexual activity, is a victim of child sex trafficking. Evidence of force, fraud or coercion is not required for minors under the age of 18 years of age.

HART means Connecticut's Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART) is a large group of interested parties working together to address child trafficking in the state of Connecticut. Members include the various state departments, courts, HART Liaisons, all levels of law enforcement, probation, mental health providers, service providers, multidisciplinary team members, medical providers, faith-based community to name a few. The focus of HART is the statewide response to child trafficking, public awareness, training, and events, etc.

Regional and/or Area Office HART means local HART teams with the region and/or area office lead by the HART Liaisons(s) focused on individual child trafficking case response, local service delivery and community education.

HART Liaison means a DCF employee who acts as a liaison and consultant on the Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team.

(Continued next page)

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Human Trafficking

21-14 Page 2 of 5

Definitions (Continued)

Human Trafficking Task Force means a specialized team organized by the US Attorney's Office to organize law enforcement response to trafficking cases (adult and children). The team includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Homeland Security (HIS), States Attorney's Office, State Police and local law enforcement.

Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) means an organized team of professionals that includes as the key parties, but is not limited to, a Coordinator, DCF, law enforcement, state's attorney/ prosecutor, mental health providers, medical providers, forensic interviewer, and advocate who review all cases of child sexual abuse including child trafficking, severe physical abuse and death of children. The ultimate goal of the MDT is to ensure the child and the non-offending caregiver receive the support and services they need as a result of the victimization while ensuring the team's communication minimizes the number of interviews a child must go through to reduce trauma. The secondary goal of the MDT is to increase the prosecution rates of the identified perpetrators; team approach increases the likelihood of successful prosecutions.

Child Advocacy Center (CAC) means the location where much of the supports to the child and family is located that could include advocacy, mental health services, forensic interviews, medicals. Each MDT is supported by a CAC.

Careline Responsibilities

For any intake of alleged human trafficking of a minor, the Careline shall:

- receive calls of suspected human trafficking of minors;
- obtain complete information as to why the reporter suspects human trafficking; immediately notify law enforcement by means of 737;
- determine the response priority with the SDM Response Priority Tool;
- document all maltreatment categories that apply to the situation, in addition to human trafficking (e.g., physical injury, sexual abuse);
- document "human trafficking" as the maltreatment category when
- a child is being trafficked by someone; and
- generate a Critical Incident report.

Accepted referrals for Human Trafficking per statute and SDM will be forwarded to the regional office for response.

Non-accepted reports with human trafficking concerns will be forwarded to the designated Careline staff who will contact the parent and/or reporter:

- to complete the assessment; and
- obtain consent to engage in services by means of a human trafficking case.

Cases scored as "possible concern" or "clear concern" will be directed down the human trafficking path to the Regional Office Social Worker and chain of command. .

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Human Trafficking

21-14 Page 3 of 5

Intake Worker Responsibilities The Intake Social Worker shall:

- notify the designated Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART) liaison for consultation and complete the necessary human trafficking screening;
- notify the appropriate Multidisciplinary Team(s) of the case;
- follow-up with local law enforcement;
- bring the child to a designated hospital Emergency Department for a medical and psychological assessment, if warranted;
- obtain medical and psychiatric treatment before placement, if warranted;
- consult with DCF legal staff;
- in cases involving children who are not U.S. citizens, consult with the DCF Eligibility Certification Coordinator, within the Office of Multicultural Affairs, to identify a child trafficking specialist or knowledgeable victim advocate; and
- verify with appropriate law enforcement officials that a Silver Alert has been activated and that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has been notified.

Note: If human trafficking is first discovered during the course of an intake, the Intake Social Worker shall add "human trafficking" to the investigation as a maltreatment category.

Social Worker Responsibilities The Social Worker shall:

- notify the appropriate Multidisciplinary Team(s) and Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of the case;
 - follow-up with local law enforcement;
 - follow-up with NCMEC as appropriate;
 - during each month of case assignment, shall make a minimum of two (2) home visits with the youth and parent/ guardian/ caregiver;
 - maintain once a month phone contact with the primary service provider and attend meetings with services providers, as necessary;
 - identify treatment needs of child and family and assist in securing needed services including human trafficking related services;
 - input required case data to meet Federal reporting requirements;
 - complete a Family Case Plan within forty-five (45) days of case opening;
 - provide a 60-day service provision for the family; and
 - provide an evaluation of progress and termination of department's services.
-

Ongoing Services Social Worker Responsibilities The on-going Social Worker shall:

- consult with HART Liaison to complete "CSE-IT".
 - notify the appropriate Multidisciplinary Team(s) and Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of the case;
 - follow-up with local law enforcement;
 - ensure NCMEC is notified and Silver Alert is issued as appropriate;
 - input required case data to meet Federal reporting requirements; and
 - refer to Human Trafficking related services as appropriate.
-

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Human Trafficking

21-14 Page 4 of 5

HART Liaison Responsibilities

The HART Liaison shall:

- provide guidance to the social worker for children at risk of human trafficking;
- triage cases with human trafficking concerns to determine the need for consultation from other disciplines;
- ensure continuous feedback related to cases, service provision, local resources and training;
- collect, report and input case data;
- provide consultation to HART social workers;
- act as liaison to the Human Trafficking Task Force and HART Director;
- develop community network and local HART;
- educate local community;
- conduct a 90-day follow-up with social workers;
- review assessments when completed; and
- carry a N/A assignment when case is not assigned to HART social worker.

Law Enforcement Human Trafficking Victim Recovery Operations

Targeted law enforcement operations for the purpose of recovering child victims of human trafficking are executed regularly in collaboration with DCF. When possible, a law enforcement agency will notify the designated DCF HART or Careline administrator prior to an operation for planning and coordination of resources. DCF shall ensure that designated staff, placements and resources are available to support these operations.

Unique Service Options for Immigrant Child Victims of Human Trafficking

In cases involving immigrant child victims of human trafficking, the DCF Eligibility Certification Coordinator, within the Office of Multicultural Affairs, shall be contacted immediately. They will then make the appropriate contacts with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Child Protection Specialist to obtain the necessary letters of eligibility and certification for the child.

Legal Reference: 45 CFR §400.116.

Repatriation reunification is available for an immigrant child in whose best interest it is to return to his or her country of origin and for whom there is no risk of being re-trafficked.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children

The Interstate Compact Office (ICO) should be contacted immediately:

- in accepted cases involving the identification of a trafficked youth in Connecticut who is not a resident of the State of Connecticut; or
- when a minor child who is a Connecticut resident or in the care and custody of Connecticut's DCF is located in another state with concerns of human trafficking, and the out-of-state travel was not authorized by the Department and/or legal guardian.

Legal Reference: Conn. Gen. Stat. §17a-175 through §17a-182.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Human Trafficking

21-14 Page 5 of 5

Case Plan for unaccompanied minor child victim

The DCF Child in Placement Case Plan for an unaccompanied refugee minor who is a victim of human trafficking shall include information about:

- family reunification;
- appropriate placement in a setting that meets the best interests and special needs of the child;
- orientation, testing and counseling to facilitate the child's adjustment to American culture;
- preparation for participation in American society with special emphasis upon English language instruction and occupational as well as cultural training as necessary to facilitate the child's social integration and to prepare the child for independent living and economic self-sufficiency; and
- preservation of the child's ethnic and religious heritage.

Legal Reference: 45 C.F.R. § 400.118

Confidentiality of Records

DCF shall ensure that information about trafficking cases and victims is protected in a manner consistent with state and federal confidentiality laws and only disclosed to the appropriate authorities or other third parties as permitted by law.

Human Trafficking Cases

The purpose of the Human Trafficking Path is to provide families that would otherwise not receive DCF services, with a period of case management and service provision.

Involvement in the service provision assignment requires parent/guardian consent which is obtained at the Careline prior to assignment to the Area Office.

The Department will be responsible for connecting the family to local services, ensuring involvement with the appropriate MDT, and connecting the family with the necessary levels of law enforcement.

A Family Case Plan shall be created within 45 days of case opening as a guide to support the family with safety planning absent DCF involvement. The HART Social Worker and Social Work Supervisor shall consult at the 45-day mark to assess for closure.

During each month of case assignment, the Social Worker shall make a minimum of two (2) home visits with the youth and parent/guardian/caretaker.

During the 60-day service provision, the Social Worker shall connect the family to local services as outlined and identified in the practice guide: "CPS Response to Human Trafficking of Minors". During this period, the Social Worker is also responsible for bringing the case to the Multi-Disciplinary Team and connecting the case with local law enforcement.

Services shall be terminated at the request of the family with consultation with the Social Work Supervisor. The case should be assessed for closure by the end of the 60-day service provision. The family shall be provided the Family Case Plan prior to case closure, as well as written Notice of Termination by the Department immediately upon closure.
