

Types of evidence

Many different types of evidence may be relevant and helpful for further investigation and future prosecution:

- all marks on victims, including burns, scars, tattoos, other injuries
- condoms, lubricant, sex devices
- motel keys, drugs
- computers, telephones, flash drives
- identification (real and forged)
- vehicle tickets, registration, property ownership or lease agreement
- directories, client lists, ledger, business records, business licenses, bank records
- travel tickets, receipts

Interviewing tips

- Make sure that victims are comfortable, have access to food, shelter, medical care, and that the interview is in a safe location. If possible, interviewing officers should wear casual clothing and not display firearms.
- Many victims are afraid of law enforcement and may initially lie or protect their traffickers. Be patient and do not get frustrated.
- Focus on easier, less sensitive questions first. Victims might be reluctant to admit that they were tricked or coerced into sex work and need to become comfortable with the interviewing agent before answering those questions.
- Bring in the assistance of trauma specialists of agents with background in child or sex abuse investigations.

Resources for victims

Victims of trafficking need assistance in four general areas:

- Immediate help, including housing, food, medical, safety, security and legal services.
- Mental health assistance and counseling
- Income assistance
- Immigration assistance (if non-U.S. citizen)

The following resources may be helpful places to direct victims:

The Connecticut Office of the Victim Advocate: The Office of the Victim Advocate can take anonymous complaints from crime victims and direct them to other resources that may be helpful. The OVA can be reached at **860-550-6632** or at www.ct.gov/ova.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center: The NHTRC is a toll-free hotline, open 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year. It helps connect victims with various services including crisis intervention, and assists law enforcement. The Hotline's phone number is **888-373-7888** and the NHTRC can also be reached online at www.traffickingresourcecenter.org.

INVESTIGATING DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING AND INTERVIEWING VICTIMS

Connecticut
Department of
Children and
Families



DCF Careline
1-800-842-2288
TDD: 1-800-624-5518

505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

<http://www.ct.gov/dcf/>

Potential Interview Questions

The following questions may be helpful in identifying victims and collecting testimonial evidence that could later be helpful for future investigation or prosecution:

Background Questions:

- What is your name?
- Where were you born?
- How old are you?
- Where did you grow up?
- Do you have a mother and father?
- How many siblings do you have?
- How many years of school have you completed?

Recruitment Questions:

- How did you get to Connecticut/city in Connecticut?
- Who organized your travel?
- How was payment for your travel handled?
- How did you learn about the job?
- What type of work did you think you would be doing?
- Were any promises made to you about the job or about your pay?

Fraud/Financial Coercion Questions:

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid?
- Do you actually receive payment or is your money being held for you?
- Do you owe your employer money?
- Are there records or receipts of what is owed to your employer/recruiter?

- Are there records/receipts of what was earned/paid to you?
- How were financial transactions handled?
- Are you in possession of your own legal (I.D.) documents? If not, why?
- Were you provided false documents or identification?
- Are you being made to do things that you do not want to do?

Physical Abuse Questions:

- Were you ever threatened with harm if you tried to leave?
- Did you ever witness any threats against other people if they tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you know about any other person's family ever being threatened?
- Were you ever physically abused, or did you ever witness abuse against another person?
- What type of physical abuse did you witness?
- Were there any objects or weapons used in the physical abuse?
- Where are these objects or weapons located?
- Was knowledge of this abuse ever communicated to a person outside of this situation (e.g., police reports, domestic violence reports, hospital records, social service records)?
- Was anyone else ever abused or threatened

with harm in your presence?

- How were medical problems handled, and who attended to them?

Freedom of Movement Questions:

- Is your freedom of movement restricted?
- Do you live and work in the same place?
- What were the conditions under which you were left unattended?
- Were there instances of physical restriction through locks, chains, etc.?
- Where are the locks used and who has the keys to them?
- How was movement in public places handled (e.g., car, van, bus, subway)?
- Who supervised your movement in public places?

Psychological Coercion Questions

Behavioral indicators:

- Who are you afraid of?
- Why are you afraid of them?
- What would you like to see happen to the people who hurt you (e.g., jail, deportation)?
- How do you feel about the police? Why?

Environmental Indicators:

- Do you live and work in the same place?
- Where do you live/eat/sleep?
- Where do the alleged perpetrators live/eat/sleep?
- Are the living conditions between the two excessively disparate?