

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons July 30, 2020

Today is recognized by the United Nations as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, and so this provides us a good opportunity to reinforce our efforts to combat this horrible offense against children in Connecticut. As everyone who works here at the Department of Children and Families knows, the Department has worked for many years to stop this reprehensible victimization of children in our own state. We will never be satisfied with our efforts however, and so we continually work to improve how we serve child victims.

To better protect and serve victims of domestic minor sex trafficking, the Department recently worked with advocates to enhance our policy to ensure that we have a comprehensive response to *all* reports of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) leading to the identified victim and their family receiving supports.

All reports of DMST, will be forwarded by the Careline to the following individuals or entities:

- Statewide Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART) Lead
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Local Law Enforcement
- Local Multidisciplinary Team

The Regional HART Leads and Liaisons can be accessed here: DCF HART Team Leads and Liaisons

For these and other details about the new Human Trafficking policy please see 21-14.

This is also an opportunity to thank the many other dedicated professionals and organizations that work together with us to stop trafficking. Providers across the state are stepping up to be trained, develop expertise, and to serve Connecticut child victims. Schools were making great strides that was interrupted by COVID-19 but once again we are scheduling remote trainings to keep the progress going. Finally, law enforcement is focused on its annual training requirements and good work is being done on Connecticut cases with very deserving victims.

Trafficking is a dark world that is very difficult to confront, but working together with many other caring and talented professionals, we are continuing to advance this critical effort.



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