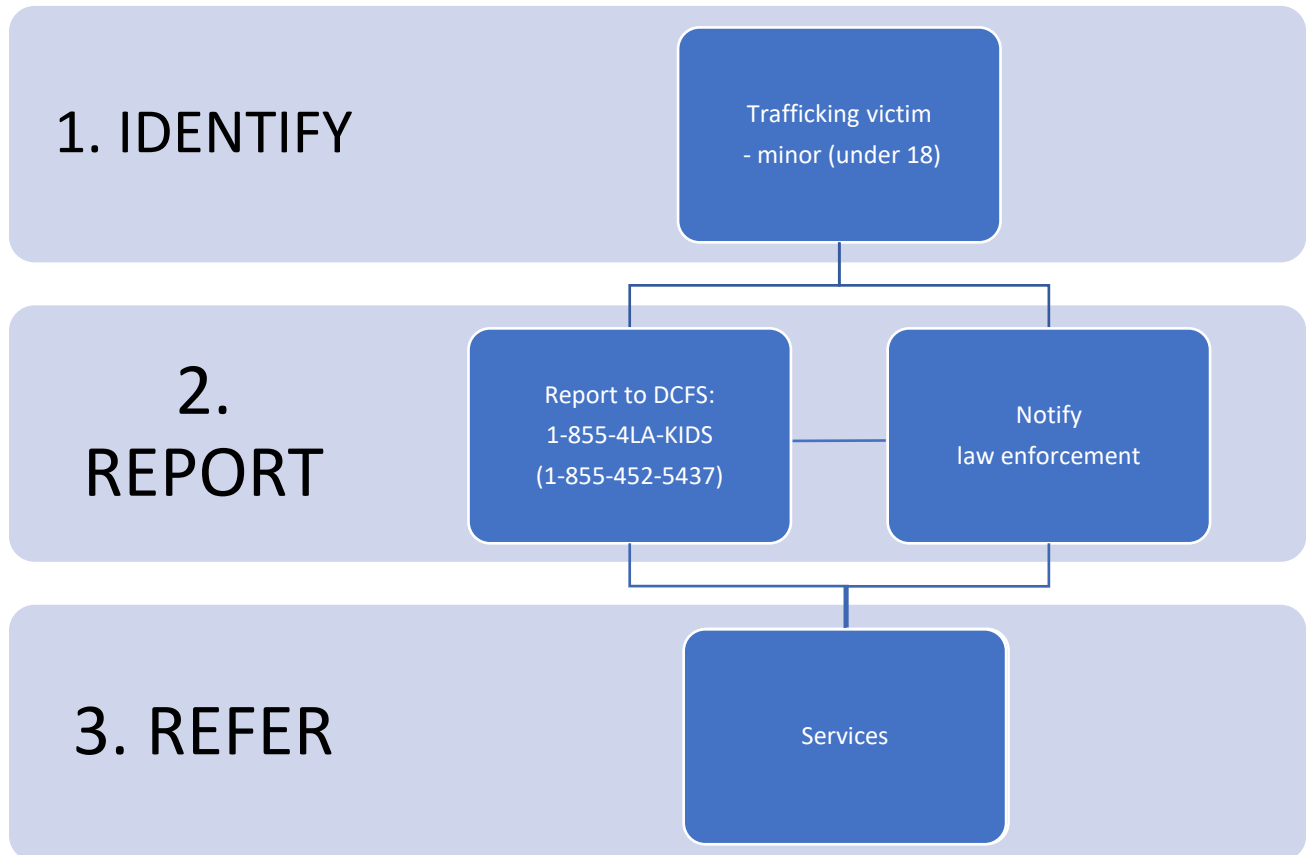


VICTIM REFERRALS: CHILD TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

“What do I do if I identify a child trafficking victim?”



1. Identify:

Human trafficking is when a person is compelled through force, fraud, or coercion to provide commercial sex or labor. Human trafficking includes forced labor, sex trafficking, and domestic servitude. Trafficking situations that minors experience include:

- Forced labor (ex: construction, restaurant work, cleaning)
- Forced criminal activity (ex: drug trafficking, stealing cars)
- Forced begging/peddling (ex: forced to sell trinkets but not able to keep money earned)
- Debt bondage
- Exploitative traveling sales crews, forced commission-based sales
- Servile, forced, child, or fraudulent marriage
- Domestic servitude
- Commercial sex

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SEX TRAFFICKING:

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is child sex trafficking. By federal law, any person under 18 years old who is engaged in commercial sexual activity is considered a sex trafficking victim. *Force, fraud, or coercion does not need to be present in cases of minors engaged in commercial sexual activity*- this means that any minor engaged in commercial sexual activity is automatically considered a trafficking victim regardless of their consent. If a child is engaged in ‘survival sex’, or exchanging sex for something of value, that is considered trafficking.

To learn more about child sex trafficking, read Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP) Sex Trafficking Literature Review¹.

LABOR TRAFFICKING:

A labor trafficking victim is an individual who was forced, tricked, or coerced into providing labor services. Unlike sex trafficking of minors, *elements of force, fraud, or coercion must be present for it to be considered labor trafficking*.

Children typically are allowed to work legally when they’re between 14 and 16 years old (depending on the state). Child labor exploitation is when a child is working legally but is denied basic legal rights such as fair compensation. Child labor is when a minor under the legal working age is engaged in illegal work or work that’s harmful to his/her/their health, development, or education. Child labor trafficking can include components of child labor and labor exploitation, but is *only* considered labor trafficking when there are elements of force, fraud, or coercion.

To learn more about child labor trafficking, read the OJJDP Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Labor Trafficking Literature Review².

NOTE: Experiences of sexual assault or sexual trauma can be forms of force or coercion for labor trafficking victims- sexual trauma does not negate experiences of forced labor. Additionally, a person can experience forced labor in a sex trafficking situation. A person can experience both sex and labor trafficking at the same time.

¹ <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/CSECSexTrafficking.pdf>

² <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/child-labor-trafficking.pdf>

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2. Report

IF THE ABUSER IS A PARENT OR CAREGIVER:

A “parent or caretaker” is a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker whether married or not. This shall include: parents, spouses of parents, boyfriends/girlfriends of caretaker, stepparents, etc.

If the abuser is a parent or caregiver, you should first call to report to the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). To do this, call to emergency reporting hotline: 1-855-4LA-KIDS (1-855-452-5437).

Human trafficking, child labor, and commercial sexual exploitation are all forms of child abuse. Mandated reporters are required to report to DCFS when they have reason to believe child abuse is occurring. After reporting to DCFS via phone, you will need to submit a written report within 5 days via their website. To submit your report online, visit the DCFS website³. Please note that for trafficking cases, you may not use the online reporting portal to make an *initial report*- only to make your *follow up report* or to share additional information about the case after the initial phone call report. Additionally, the jurisdiction of your report will depend on the parish where the child and/or caretaker reside.

In cases of child trafficking, we suggest that you also immediately notify law enforcement about the child abuse situation. Particularly in cases where the child is in imminent danger or actively in a trafficking situation, you should call law enforcement immediately. This will depend on the parish in which the abuse is occurring. For example, in Orleans Parish you’re required to call the local non-emergency number to make the report.

IF THE ABUSER IS NOT A PARENT OR CAREGIVER:

If the abuser is unknown, or is not a parent or caregiver, you should first call to report to law enforcement through 911 or the local law enforcement non-emergency line.

Particularly in cases where the child is in imminent danger or actively in a trafficking situation, you should call law enforcement immediately. The jurisdiction of the case will depend on the parish in which the offense occurred. **After reporting to law enforcement, mandated reporters should immediately report the offense to DCFS using the steps outlined above.**

³ <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=109>

VICTIM REFERRALS: CHILD TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

To learn more about reporting requirements to law enforcement in your parish, contact your local Children’s Advocacy Center.

AFTER REPORTING

When you report a potential trafficking case (suspected child abuse) to investigators, they may immediately respond and provide services and support to the victim. However, there are times when this may not happen right away. When the response isn't immediate, you can refer the victim to services to help stabilize them.

3. Refer

There are many service providers who serve trafficked youth and at-risk youth in the Greater New Orleans region. Services includes both social services and legal services.

SERVICE PROVIDERS	U.S. Citizen	Foreign National⁴
Labor trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Orleans Family Justice Center • Children’s Advocacy Center • Family Services of Greater New Orleans • Covenant House New Orleans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans • Children’s Advocacy Center • Jewish Family Services • New Orleans Family Justice Center • Covenant House New Orleans
Sex trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Orleans Family Justice Center • Children’s Advocacy Center • Covenant House New Orleans • Volunteers of America • Free Indeed • Metanoia House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Orleans Family Justice Center • Children’s Advocacy Center • Covenant House New Orleans • Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans • Jewish Family Services

⁴ State funded agencies may not be able to take foreign national victims for ongoing care- just for life-saving/emergency services. Please consult with the social service provider prior to giving a client referral for a foreign national.



VICTIM REFERRALS: CHILD TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

For contact information for these organizations, refer to the Human Trafficking Survivor Services Resource Guide⁵.

If you're unsure which organization you should refer a victim to, utilize the chart above as a starting point. Additionally, there are several avenues to assist you in the referral process:

- Call the 24/7/365 National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888, or text them at 233733 with the words "HELP" or "INFO"
- Utilize the "Human Trafficking Survivor Services Resource Guide" for the Greater New Orleans region, which you can find at <http://www.nolatrafficking.org/community-resources/>
- Reach out to the GNOHTTF's Task Force Coordinator for referrals, case consultation, suggestions and support by calling 504-584-1170 or emailing info@nolatrafficking.org.

⁵ <http://www.nolatrafficking.org/community-resources/>