

Characteristics of Potential Victims of Trafficking

The information on this page lists some warning signs that trafficking may be taking place. The presence of any of these signs should be taken seriously and may indicate that trafficking is occurring. These warnings signs are based on the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Blue Campaign Human Trafficking Indicators card. However, American Job Center staff are not expected to, or may not be able to, identify these signs. More tools and information are available from DHS at: www.dhs.gov/human-trafficking-blue-campaign-toolkit.

Warning Signs that Trafficking may have Occurred:

- The potential victim does not possess identification and/or travel documents.
- The potential victim appears to be coached on what to say to law enforcement and immigration officials.
- The potential victim was recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job.
- The potential victim's salary appears to be being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee. (Note: Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- The potential victim appears to have been forced to perform sexual acts.
- The potential victim does not appear to have freedom of movement.
- The potential victim and/or his or her family have been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape.
- The potential victim has been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action.
- The potential victim has been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, and/or other life necessities.
- The potential victim cannot freely contact friends or family.
- The potential victim is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex.
- The potential victim is not allowed to socialize or attend religious services.