

Barriers to Seeking Assistance

Understanding the mindset of human trafficking victims is important to helping them restore their lives. However, there may be barriers present before a victim seeks assistance.

- Culture and language
- Lack of trust
- Undocumented/fear of deportation
- Fear of Law Enforcement
- Lack of knowledge of services, rights, and law
- Fear of retaliation from trafficker
- Shame and stigma
- History of emotional, sexual, or other physical abuse
- History of running away (or current status as a runaway)
- Presence of older boy/girl friend
- Drug addiction
- Gang involvement
- Withdrawn or lack of interest in previous activities
- Psychological victimization
- Trauma bonding (Stockholm Syndrome)

In Montana State Law

Tafficking of persons. (1) A person commits the offense of trafficking of persons if the person purposely or knowingly;

- (a) Recruits, transports, transfers, harbors, receives, provides, obtains, isolates, maintains, or entices another person intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude or sexual servitude; or
- (b) Benefits financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that has subjected another person to involuntary servitude or sexual servitude.

Important Numbers:

Stevensville Police Department

406-777-3011

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office

406-375-4060

Non-Emergency Number

406-363-3033

Human Trafficking

Stevensville Police Department

102 Main St. Ste D

Stevensville, Mt 59870



In 2017, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimated that 1 in 7 endangered runaways reported to them were likely sex trafficking victims.

Definitions

Labor Trafficking: When someone uses force, fraud, or coercion to cause an adult or minor to perform labor services. These services may be performed for no money, less than minimum wage, or to pay off a debt.

Sex Trafficking: When someone uses force, fraud, or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult or minor. Proof of force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary for anyone under age 18.

Myths vs. Reality

Myth: Human trafficking involves movement from one country to another

Reality: Human Trafficking need not involve movement.

Myth: Human Trafficking involves young women

Reality: 80% of trafficking victims are female, and 50% are children, but men and women of all ages are trafficked.

Myth: Traffickers are members of criminal organizations.

Reality: Traffickers may be part of large criminal organizations, gangs or drug cartels; human trafficking is the second leading criminal enterprise, second only to the drug trade.

Other traffickers are small business owners and individuals. Some trafficking is done by family members of the victims.

Myth: Trafficking survivors are not U.S. citizens.

Reality: 80% of human trafficking survivors in the United States are U.S. citizens. Most human trafficking in the U.S. occurs in New York, California and Florida.

Myth: Human trafficking is not taking place in my neighborhood.

Reality: It can and often does. It is hidden in plain sight in our neighborhoods.

Red Flag Indicators

Visual Clues

- Malnourished
- Nervous
- Avoids eye contact
- Does not speak or appears afraid to speak
- Signs of physical or sexual abuse

Behavioral Clues

- Sumbissive
- Extremely withdrawn
- Inability to concentrate
- Cannot give an address
- Defiant or combative
- Sudden or dramatic change in behavior

Other Indicators

- Victim is being coached on what to say to law enforcement
- Someone else holds identification or travel documents
- Garnishing of salary
- Cannot freely contact friends or family
- No identifiable source of income