



Everyone has a Role in Ending Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide. Victims of human trafficking include children involved in the sex trade, adults age 18 or over who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts, and anyone forced into different forms of "labor or services," such as domestic workers held in a home, or farm-workers forced to labor against their will.

Each year an estimated 1,078 Ohio children become victims and 3,016 more are at-risk. Ohio has ranked as high as fifth among all states in total reported human trafficking cases with Toledo being identified as the fourth highest-ranking city in the nation for recruiting victims into the illegal trade.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. Not all indicators listed below are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

Key Indicators of Human Trafficking

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?



The safety of the public as well as the victim is paramount. **Do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to any suspicions.** It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking.

Everyone has a role in ending human trafficking. To report a tip, connect with anti-trafficking services in your area or for information about anti-trafficking resources, call the national hotline number at 1-888-373-7888. It's toll free, confidential and available 24 hours a day.

To assist pharmacists in identifying victims of human trafficking, the Board has developed a no-cost continuing education course. This course provides a general overview of the issue, including state and federal anti-trafficking laws and ways to identify victims. The one hour course is available to all Ohio licensed pharmacists and can be accessed by visiting the following website; www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/humantrafficking.

In addition, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is pleased to partner with Governor John R. Kasich to support *Human Trafficking - Ohio's Tragic Reality*, Ohio's official public awareness campaign. Please take a moment to review some of the resources below and visit <http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/campaign.html> to download fact sheets, posters and other materials to help raise awareness of this important issue.

By working together, we can end human trafficking in Ohio.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Schierholt, Esq.
Executive Director
State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Resources:

Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force: <http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/>

Ohio Department of Public Safety: <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/ht/>

The Polaris Project: <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, The Blue Campaign: <http://www.dhs.gov/end-human-trafficking>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Look Beneath the Surface: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti-trafficking>