

Child Sex Trafficking Flagging Tool for Law Enforcement

- Has child engaged in sexual act in exchange for shelter, drugs, money, alcohol, transportation, or any other items of value?
- Was child recovered in a hotel/inn/motel with unrelated adults?
- Does child have a runaway history?
- Did child lie about age and/or identity?
- Are there concerns of substance abuse issues?
- Did child travel to/from a different city or state?
- Does child have a history of DSS and/or DJJ involvement?
- Does child have tattoos, scarring or branding that is unexplained?
- Is child in possession of a large amount of cash, prepaid credit cards, multiple cellphones or other items of value that cannot be explained?
- Does child let others speak for them, or use eye contact or hand signals to communicate with others who are present?
- Has child exhibited sexually explicit behaviors such as sexual online profile, possession of unusual sexual paraphernalia, inappropriate sexual knowledge or oversexualized attire?

Important Steps:

- In your incident report, detail the facts that support any existing red flags and refer case to agency investigator.
- If child is identified as a victim of sex trafficking, a report must be made to the S.C. Department of Social Services.

S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-2010 (7) “ ‘Sex trafficking’ means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person when it is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or the person performing the act is under the age of eighteen years and anything of value is given, promised to, or received, directly or indirectly, by any person.”

**** Proof of “force, fraud, or coercion” is NOT REQUIRED when the person performing the sexual act is under age 18.**

