

NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES  
**CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING INDICATORS TOOL**  
*To be used for the comprehensive screening*

This tool is based on the work done by Westchester County and Monroe County through the Safe Harbour: NY program (formerly known as ChildRight: New York). Safe Harbour: NY is a New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)-coordinated program that aims to improve the ability of local departments of social services (LDSSs) and child welfare-serving agencies to efficiently and effectively use their resources to respond to and care for children and youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation or child trafficking.

This tool is to be used with children who the LDSS, VA, or juvenile justice staff believe may be a victim, believe may be a victim, or are at risk of being a victim, of sex trafficking. The tool assists workers with looking at possible indicators of sex trafficking, or at risk of sex trafficking, that the child may exhibit. Other than those that are disclosures or proof of trafficking or commercial sex acts, exhibiting one of these indicators does not automatically mean that a child was a victim of trafficking.

The indicators are grouped into “meets child trafficking definition”, “high” and “medium” levels, indicating that a child may have been trafficked or is at risk of being trafficked. Some items included in medium level may be of high concern in general, but may fall on the medium scale for sex trafficking indicators (for example, while a child under 13 who is engaging in sexual activity is of general high concern, it may not correlate with a higher level indicator for sex trafficking, depending on the specific circumstances). Youth with higher numbers of indicators or who have indicators in a higher level are more likely to have been trafficked or engage in behaviors that may increase the risk of being trafficked. The child’s indicator level should be used when developing the child’s case plan and referral for services for him/her. In addition, when completing the indicator level tool, workers should carefully consider when youth who have certain vulnerabilities, such as chronic homelessness, multiple runaway episodes, are LGBTQ, immigration status issues, developmental delays, and/or history of sex abuse, also have indicators present, as they may hold more weight due to the increased vulnerability of the youth.

If an indicator is checked off under the section titled, “Child meets federal definition as child sex trafficking victim,” the child must be documented as a sex trafficking victim and the response protocol must be followed. This includes documenting the notification to law enforcement within 24 hours. See the policy [Requirements to Identify, Document, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims](#) (for LDSSs and VAs) or [Child Sex Trafficking Commercially Sexually Exploited Children \(CSEC\)](#) (for OCFS DJJOY) for more information.

If a child is determined to be a trafficking victim, the worker is not required to complete the rest of the indicators on the checklist during the initial screening, but it is recommended that the worker revisit the tool and check off all applicable indicators when developing the child’s case plan and referring the child for services. This is also the case for the other levels of indicators. If a child has high or medium level indicators, there is no need to complete the rest of the checklist during the first screening, but it should be done prior to the development of the plan of services for the child.

These levels are meant to be fluid; a child’s indicator level may go up or down based on information learned during the life of the case. The tool should be used any time the worker learns new information about the child that may be an indicator of trafficking involvement. Workers should mark the indicators the child exhibits and follow the instructions for each section.

Name of Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name of Person Completing Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Child Meets Federal Definition of a Child Sex Trafficking Victim - ONE or more of these indicators:</b>	Yes	No
Child needs to be documented as a trafficking victim in CONNECTIONS or JJIS (for DJJOY) and trafficking response protocol followed (see policy or desk aid <sup>1</sup> ).		
Child reports engaging in commercial sex act(s) (a sex act where something of value is received).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child reports he/she has been prostituted or trafficked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are photos or videos of the child being victimized and/or being used to advertise the child for sexual purposes (Backpage, Craigslist, etc).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement refers child instead of arresting for prostitution, or does arrest for prostitution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child reports trading sex for a place to stay, food, drugs, or anything of value.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child reports being involved in the sex industry (working in strip clubs, private sex parties, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Someone witnesses the child engaged in a commercial sex act.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth over 18 is engaging in prostitution or commercial sex acts due to force, fraud or coercion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>High-Level Indicators - ONE or more of these indicators</b>	Yes	No
Child exhibits indicators that are commonly associated with sex trafficking, which causes serious concerns. Document high-level Indicators in CONNECTIONS or JJIS (for DJJOY). Child needs to be closely monitored and needs intensive case management services to address current or prevent future trafficking.		
Associating with adults or other children/youth who are being prostituted, or are known to be involved with trafficking and/or exploitation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being seen in exploitation hotspots, i.e., known houses or recruiting grounds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pattern of street homelessness and staying with someone believed to be sexually exploiting the youth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple AWOLS, runaway or being kicked out (4+).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being taken to clubs and hotels by adults or older peers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure of serious sexual assault and then withdrawal of statement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abduction and/or forced imprisonment; not allowed to freely move about.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child discloses or someone reports the child being moved around for sexual activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disappearing from the "child welfare system" with no contact or support.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of slang trafficking terms (e.g., calling romantic partner "Daddy" or "Mommy," talking about "the life," "the game").	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recruiting peers into exploitation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tattoos that he/she is reluctant to explain, especially if they show ownership (names, dollar signs, symbols, acronyms) or other types of branding, like cutting or burning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not have any identification or reports someone holding his/her identification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unexplained hotel keys.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child discloses or someone reports that child offered to have sex for money or other payment and then ran before sex took place.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being groomed and/or sexualized on the Internet; contact with strangers on the Internet and/or sexual risk taking on social media, such as Facebook, Backpage, Zoosk, Craigslist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup> Requirements to Identify, Report, and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims (for LDSSs and VAs) or Child Sex Trafficking/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) (for DJJOY).

<b>Medium-Level Indicators - ONE or more of these indicators</b> Child exhibits significant indicators that may indicate sex trafficking. Document medium level of Indicators in CONNECTIONS or JJIS (for DJJOY). Child should be more closely monitored and provided services that may address current or prevent future trafficking.	Yes	No
Getting into cars with unknown adults.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Known history of prior sexual abuse or sexual acting out.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Having an older boyfriend/girlfriend, especially if he or she appears controlling; youth appears fearful of boyfriend/girlfriend at times.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not attending school; concerns regarding school attendance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staying out overnight with no explanation multiple times and/or regularly coming home late or going missing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unaccounted money or goods, including mobile phones, drugs and alcohol, or other person supplies these goods/money to child/youth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple sexually transmitted infections, pregnancies and/or multiple miscarriages or abortions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gang member or association with gangs or neighborhood groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Someone else other than the child's parent or guardian was in control of immigration to U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overt sexual dress.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not know his/her address and/or has moved multiple times.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronic alcohol and/or drug use by youth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth's story does not make sense - inconsistencies, the narrative doesn't fit together.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact for non-emergency questions on child trafficking: [ocfs.sm.sppd.child.trafficking.questions@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:ocfs.sm.sppd.child.trafficking.questions@ocfs.ny.gov)