



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

1052 Interactions Involving Human Trafficking Victims

Section 1000 – Patrol Function

Effective Date: 5/21/2021

Supersedes Date: N/A

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe the procedures specific to contacts with known or suspected human trafficking victims, both adults and juveniles.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 526 Juvenile Victims](#)

[GO 1345 Treatment of Victims/Witnesses & Victim Rights Notification](#)

[DL-1840-01 Callout Criteria for the Investigations Division](#)

[DL-1840-03 Callout Criteria for Metro Vice, Narcotics, and Intelligence Unit](#)

.03 Discussion

Human trafficking is prevalent and often unrecognized. It includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Human trafficking is not necessarily linked to human smuggling, which is the act of illegally bringing people over a border. Human trafficking victims can be from foreign countries, as well as from the United States. In both cases, victims are put into commercial sex or labor situations through force, fraud, or coercion. Victims of these crimes frequently do not recognize themselves as victims, and often have barriers to report, such as physical needs, language, culture, immigration status, and fear of arrest. It therefore falls upon department personnel to exercise extra vigilance in looking for and identifying victims of human trafficking crimes during the course of their assigned responsibilities.

The department is committed to protecting victims of human trafficking and prosecuting the offenders who prey upon them. These goals are accomplished by being victim centered and by developing and maintaining meaningful partnerships with law enforcement agencies, as well as other service providers that can contribute towards these goals.

Additional guidance for identifying victims of human trafficking crimes is available in the

[Common Human Trafficking Locations and Indicators](#) attachment.

.04 Policy

Department personnel will be vigilante in their attempts to locate and identify victims of human trafficking. Personnel who encounter known or suspected victims of human trafficking will document their efforts in a case report, as well as ensure the mandatory notifications are made.

.05 Definitions

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.10 Investigative Responsibility

The Metro Vice Unit (MVU) investigates all victim-reported and otherwise reasonably suspected situations of human trafficking (CRS § 18-3-503, Human Trafficking for Involuntary Servitude, and CRS § 18-3-504 (1), Human Trafficking for Sexual Servitude), Pimping (CRS § 18-7-206, Pimping,) and commercial sexual exploitation of children. Therefore, after the initial patrol investigation discovers a person self-reporting being a victim of any of these crimes, or if the officers have reasonable suspicion of any of these crimes (even if a suspected victim explicitly denies being a victim), personnel will notify the MVU.

.20 Affirmative Defense for Human Trafficking

CRS § 18-7-201.3, Affirmative Defense - Human Trafficking, provides an affirmative defense for those arrested for prostitution if they did so as a direct result of being the victim of human trafficking. For this reason, if there is probable cause to charge a person with prostitution, but there are indicators that the person may be a victim of human trafficking, personnel will contact a supervisor to ensure the mandatory notification to the on-call MVU supervisor is completed.

.30 Juvenile-Specific Considerations

The MVU and the department's runaway investigator, in connection with other regional agencies, will conduct screenings of high-risk victims (HRV), especially for runaway juveniles. If a juvenile is identified as a HRV, the runaway investigator will flag the runaway's NCIC want with a notation such as "potential sex trafficking victim; notify CSPD's Metro Vice Unit (or human trafficking unit)." Personnel who encounter a runaway will seek to determine if the corresponding NCIC file contains this notation. If the notation is present, the personnel responsible for documenting the recovery, will ask additional questions about their time on the run and look for sex trafficking indicators.

This includes asking:

- Why they ran?
- How they survived while on the run?
- Did they have sexual contact with anyone in exchange for money, drugs, or anything of value?

The recovering personnel will then be responsible for coordinating with a supervisor to ensure the MVU supervisor is notified. Given the increased risks to HRV, it is imperative that the supervisor receiving this notification contact the on-call MVU supervisor. The MVU, in coordination with the Forensic Interview Unit (FIU), will conduct timely screening interviews of all recovered HRV before they potentially run away again.

.32 Protections for Minor Human Trafficking Victims

In 2019, the Colorado State legislature passed legislation that sought to further protect juvenile human trafficking victims by affording them immunity from prostitution related offenses (CRS § 18-7-209, Immunity from Prostitution-Related Offenses). If probable cause exists to believe a minor charged with an act of prostitution, pursuant to state law or municipal ordinance, was a victim of human trafficking for sexual or involuntary servitude at the time of the offense being charged, the minor is immune from criminal liability or juvenile delinquency for prostitution charges that may normally result.

.34 Mandatory Notification to the Department of Human Services

In addition to making mandatory notifications to MVU, personnel who encounter a known or suspected juvenile victim will make a notification to the Department of Human Services (DHS) via telephone, 844-CO-4-KIDS (844-264-5437).

.40 Mandatory Notification to the Victim Advocacy Unit

The department's Victim Advocacy Unit (VAU) is responsible for providing resources and support to victims of pimping, human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation. To ensure resources are provided in a timely manner, personnel encountering victims of these crimes will contact a supervisor to ensure the required notification to VAU is completed.

Attachment

[Common Human Trafficking Locations and Indicators](#)