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## I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

In accordance with Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, Public Law (P.L. 113-183) and LA Act 564 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and Act 662 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is committed to identifying, protecting, and providing services for children in foster care or parents of children in foster care with whom the DCFS is working to reunite, who have been confirmed as trafficking victims, suspected for trafficking or at risk of being a potential trafficking victim. Foster Care case workers may become aware of trafficked victims due to suspicion and/or identification of human trafficking indicators or through their work with the family. The Foster Care case worker/supervisor is responsible for assessing the needs of youth and families, and for documenting and reporting the incident(s); and for referring clients to available services.

### A. HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITIONS

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of a person for the purpose of compelled labor or commercial sex act(s).

A trafficking event is considered “confirmed” when evidence supports the conclusion that the individual is a victim of human trafficking, as defined in LA RS [14:46.2](#), LA RS [14:46.3](#), or the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

A trafficking event is considered “suspected” when specific information regarding the individual and the surrounding circumstances creates a reasonable belief that the individual is a victim of human trafficking.


#### 1. Human trafficking

It shall be unlawful: For any person to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, provide, solicit, \* receive, isolate, entice, obtain, patronize, procure, purchase, hold, restrain, induce, threaten, subject \*\* or maintain the use of another person through fraud, force, or coercion to provide services or labor.

#### 2. Trafficking of children for sexual purposes

It shall be unlawful: For any person to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, provide, sell, purchase, \*\*\* receive, isolate, entice, obtain, or maintain the use of a person under the age of eighteen years for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual activity. For children under the age of 18 there is no requirement of force, fraud or coercion to constitute trafficking.

Refer to Human Trafficking Definition Sheet (Appendix I) for a list of terms related to victims of human trafficking.

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## B. SEX TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

### 1. Confirmed Sex Trafficking Victim

If the answer to one of the following is “yes” then a child is considered a confirmed victim:

- Child reports participation in a sexual act in exchange for shelter, transportation, drugs, alcohol, food, money, or other items of value. Child need not have actually received the thing of value.
- There are photos or videos of the child \*\*\* being used to advertise the child for sexual purposes. (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, \*\*\* Craigslist, \* gaming platforms, escort listings, etc.)
- Child reports being involved in the sex industry (working strip clubs, escort services, private sex parties, child states their involvement in “prostitution”, etc.)
- Someone witnessed the child engaged in a commercial sex act (a sex act where something of value is received or promised).
- Law enforcement, U.S. Attorney, District Attorney, and/or OTIP confirms through investigation that child has been involved in sex industry \*\* or has been trafficked.
- Human trafficking has been confirmed through DCFS investigation.


A youth who is a confirmed human trafficking victim at any point in time remains a confirmed human trafficking victim for the rest of their involvement with the department and will always be at high risk for future involvement in human trafficking.

### 2. Suspected Victim of Sex Trafficking

A “yes” answer to one or more of the following indicates the minor is a suspected victim of trafficking:

\*\*\*

- Suspicious or unaccounted for money or goods, including multiple cell phones, drugs and alcohol, hotel keys/keycards, or false ID’s.
- Tattoos that \* the child is reluctant to explain, especially if they show ownership (names, dollar signs, crowns, \*\* symbols, acronyms) or other types of branding, like cutting or burning.
- Significantly older boyfriend or girlfriend who is controlling and/or whom the child appears to fear.
- Use of trafficking terms (e.g., calling romantic partner “Daddy” or “Mommy”, talking about “the life”, “the game”).

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- \* Connected \*\* with people that have had sex for drugs, shelter, food, goods, or money, or the \*\*\* parent/guardian \* is involved in trafficking and the child is exposed to it repeatedly and/or the people involved in it.
  - Suspicion that a parent or caretaker is exchanging the child for sexual purposes for shelter, transportation, drugs, alcohol, food, money or other items of value.
  - Chronic sexually transmitted infections or multiple pregnancies/abortions. \*\*
  - Been seen in exploitation hotspots, i.e., known houses or recruiting grounds
  - Recruiting peers into exploitation.
  - Confirmed or reported use of clubs or hotels for sexual encounters.
- \*\*\*
- Unauthorized travel across state lines \* with no explanation of who they are with or what they are doing.
  - Continued interactions with individuals on the internet that possibly involves sexual coercion or enticement \*\* \*\*\* such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, \*\*\* Craigslist, \* gaming platforms.


If one of the below are checked as “Yes” you must also have a selection of “Yes” in the Suspected list above for the child to be considered Suspected. If you do not additionally have a “Yes” above, the child should be monitored to determine if additional suspected factors becoming present.

- Excessive, unexplained absences from school or home for periods of time.
- Indication of multiple runaways, being kicked out of home, or periods of homelessness.
- Chronic alcohol and/or drug use by youth, or if any use if 12 years old or younger.

### 3. At Risk of Sex Trafficking

A “yes” answer to two (2) or more of the following indicates the youth is “at risk” to become a sex trafficking victim.

- Excessive, unexplained absences from school or home for periods of time.
- Indication of multiple runaways, being kicked out of home, or periods of homelessness.
- Chronic alcohol and/or drug use by youth, or if any use if 12 years old or younger. \*\*
- Getting into cars with unknown adults.
- Multiple, random, sex partners, or history of sexually acting out.
- Known history of sexual abuse.
- Gang member or association with gangs.
- Stays out overnight and/or comes home late with no explanation.

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- Violence in the child’s family of origin (this includes being a victim of abuse or witnessing abuse).
- History of criminal activity and/or has served time in detention.
- Lacks a permanent connection with a trusted adult. (This refers to an adult, other than the case manager, who the youth can go to for advice or guidance when there is a decision to make or a problem to solve. This should refer to someone that will continue to be part of the child’s life after age 18).
- Been pregnant or has gotten someone pregnant.


\*\*\*

- Will be placed, has previously spent at least one night, or is currently placed in a residential or treatment facility during their foster care episode.
- Displays symptoms of a mental health disorder.

#### 4. Adult Indicators of Sex Trafficking

The following are potential trafficking indicators for parents of children in foster care with whom DCFS staff are working to reunite:

- The adult frequents areas that are known for prostitution and/or drug deals.
- If the adult has been confirmed as being involved in prostitution, a history of homelessness or runaway episodes as a youth.
- The adult has stayed at or visited multiple hotels in town although they have their own residence.
- The adult has traveled on several occasions without notice or explanation.
- The adult has markings symptomatic of abuse and/or restraint.
- The adult has tattoos that are new and/or reference a relationship (i.e. “daddy”, a male’s name, “property of, a barcode, money bags or dollar signs).
- The adult has reports of multiple anonymous sex partners or multiple short term relationships.
- The adult has items inconsistent with his/her typical living style with no explanation (i.e. expensive or extravagant items such as electronics, high dollar personal care such as hair extensions and/or manicure/pedicure).
- The adult has used the Internet for posting sexually explicit material.
- The adult responds vaguely and/or reserved about a partner.
- The adult has had multiple pregnancies with multiple partners or multiple abortions.
- The adult acts abnormally anxious.
- The adult has a history of heavy substance abuse.

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## II. PROCEDURES

### A. SCREENING A FOSTER CHILD FOR SEX TRAFFICKING

Foster Care case workers may encounter victims of human trafficking without realizing it. The DCFS Risk Screening for Sex Trafficking assessment tool shall be used to determine if children in foster care ages \* 12-17 are “confirmed,” “suspected” or “at risk” for sex trafficking.

For all children in foster care ages 12-17 a Risk Screening for Sex Trafficking tool shall be completed as follows:

1. The Foster Care case worker shall ensure completion of the Risk Screening for Sex Trafficking tool for all youth ages 12-17 and any child under age 12 for whom sex trafficking is a concern. The tool is located in the Family Assessment Tracking System (FATS). The assessment is then utilized to update any applicable areas in the Assessment of Family Functioning, and to make any necessary changes to the case goals and action steps to address sex trafficking concerns and needs of the child which have been identified.
2. The Risk Screening for Sex Trafficking tool guidelines are as follows:
  - Initial screening to be completed no later than 30 days prior to the case planning meeting prior to each child's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday;
  - Initial screening to be completed within 30 days of entry into care if a child is already age 12 or older;
  - Ongoing screening to be completed/updated every six months in conjunction with the case planning meeting. (Refer to policy Chapter 25, T-1 Risk Screening Tool for Sex Trafficking for Children in Foster Care Instructions); and
  - For children for whom staff become aware sex trafficking is a concern outside of regular case planning timeframes or for children under age 12 \*\* for whom sex trafficking has been identified as a concern, the screening should be completed within 5 days of identification of the concern and immediate case planning should occur along with completion of the screening to address the emergent needs of the child.
3. Upon identification of a child as being a sex trafficking victim, suspected victim of sex trafficking or at risk of sex trafficking, the Foster Care worker shall also complete a Trauma and Behavioral Health Screening, CW form TBH Child and Adolescent Version, even if one has previously been completed to assess the youth's current behavioral health needs. (Refer to 3-220, Trauma and Behavioral Health Screening and Assessment of Children)

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## B. IMMEDIATE ACTIONS REGARDING FOSTER CHILDREN AND TRAFFICKING

1. When a child in foster care is confirmed or suspected of being trafficked, the following procedures shall be followed:
  - The Foster Care case worker and supervisor shall immediately consult and discuss findings.
  - The worker shall make a report to Centralized Intake Hotline (1-855-452-5437) and select option 4 to report suspected or confirmed trafficking. Once the report has been received by the Centralized Intake Hotline, the report will be automatically forwarded to Louisiana State Police, DCFS Human Trafficking Mailbox and LACAC for Care Coordination Referral, in accordance with Act 662 of the 2022 Regular Session.
  - The Foster Care case worker shall contact local law enforcement to report confirmed or suspected victims of human trafficking.
  - The Regional Human Trafficking Consultant will ensure the case has been received by LACAC and assigned to a Care Coordinator for a specialized Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting. The caseworker who has assignment of the case shall attend the specialized Human Trafficking MDT once it has been scheduled and any additional ongoing Care Coordination meetings or internal state office staffings.
  - **\* Ensure that a referral for advocacy services has been made if applicable. \*\***
  - The Foster Care case worker shall schedule and obtain a medical assessment within three (3) calendar days of identification of a child as a trafficking victim, if the child complains of genital pain or irregularities (i.e., swelling, redness, bumps, odors, lesions, etc.) and immediately following any incidents/acts related to sex trafficking. The medical assessment should be documented on the 98-R form (Runaway/Missing Child Medical Assessment).

If further intervention is necessary, it may include any of the following by the State Office human trafficking representatives:

- A case review.
- Further interviews with the child.
- Reports to law enforcement not previously made by the field office or Centralized Intake.
- Consideration of resources available to assist with suspected or confirmed trafficking.

At any time there is concern of potential media involvement, the supervisor shall notify the Child Welfare manager who will notify the Area Director and Regional Administrator (RA) so the RA can determine the applicability of policy [1-17](#), DCFS Media Relations.

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2. When a child in foster care is thought to be “at risk” of sex trafficking, the following actions are required:
  - A staffing must be held with the Foster Care case worker and supervisor to \* review case details and the Risk Screening for Sex Trafficking tool to determine if the child meets criteria to be considered a potential “suspected” victim of human trafficking. If so, follow instructions for “suspected” in the noted section above. If it is determined that the child is not potentially suspected for trafficking, the caseworker should continue to monitor the case for increased risk in addition to referring the child for any prevention services available. The staffing should be documented on the Foster Care case staffing form found in the CAFÉ staffing wizard and filed in the child’s case record. \*\*

### C. FOREIGN NATIONAL CHILD VICTIMS


Foreign national minors in the US who have been victims of severe forms of human trafficking are eligible for certain benefits and services under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act regardless of their immigration status. These benefits and services are accessed through the Health and Human Services, Office of the Administration of Children and Families, Office of Tracking in Persons (OTIP). Their eligibility is established by OTIP.

Therefore, when an alleged child victim of trafficking is identified as a foreign national, the worker or supervisor are required to notify the HHS Office of the Administration of Children and Families, Office of Tracking in Persons by emailing [ChildTrafficking@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:ChildTrafficking@acf.hhs.gov) or by calling (202) 205-4582. This notification must occur within 24 hours after the discovery that the alleged child victim is a foreign national (non US citizen). The notification should include as much information about child’s name, age, current location, location of exploitation, suspected type of trafficking and the contact information for the worker and supervisor.

When a child victim of trafficking enters the US without a family member, they may be eligible for the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program (URMP). It offers an option of federally funded foster care when needed. Refugee Services may be contacted at (850) 488-3791.

### D. ONGOING ACTIONS WHEN A FOSTER CHILD IS IDENTIFIED CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED AS BEING TRAFFICKED

Foster Care case workers who are working with children confirmed as or suspected of being trafficked must ensure periodic updates of any new events to state office at the time of the quarterly case staffings. Updates shall be made by sending the Foster Care case staffing form to [DCFS.HumanTrafficking.DCFS@La.Gov](mailto:DCFS.HumanTrafficking.DCFS@La.Gov).

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## E. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CASE PLANNING FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED OF TRAFFICKING

- **Placement Planning**
  - Give preferential consideration to homes with no other children placed in the home;
  - Carefully review the current census of \* children placed in any residential facilities being considered to determine if the child has a history of recruitment or elopement with other children currently placed in that facility and if so, utilize other placement options which may be available;
  - Discuss the need to restrict and closely monitor phone and Internet usage of the child with the potential caregiver to ensure capacity to provide for the safety of the child through management of access to electronic media; and,
  - Determine if there are alarms or continuously monitored cameras on all possible exits from the home or facility to alert the caretaker if the child is attempting to elope.
- **Behavioral Health Treatment Services**
  - Seek providers through the child's health plan experienced in trauma informed care and knowledgeable about sex trafficking issues.
  - When the child's health plan is unable to identify experienced providers in trauma informed care or knowledgeable about sex trafficking issues, contact otherwise recommended treatment providers to discuss the experience and credentials of the provider to ensure appropriateness in treating the unique care needs of the child \*\* who has been involved in trafficking.

## F. WHEN AN ADULT IS CONFIRMED AS BEING TRAFFICKED OR SUSPECTED OF BEING TRAFFICKED

When parents of a child in foster care with whom DCFS is working to reunite the child are being trafficked or are suspected of being trafficked, the following procedures shall be followed:

- The Foster Care case worker shall discuss with the supervisor and record the discussion in case documentation in FATS.
- The Foster Care case worker shall discuss with the parent(s) services available and offer contact information to those services known to the department and contact information for local law enforcement. Foster Care case worker shall give parents information regarding contacting Polaris and record all efforts in case documentation in FATS. Polaris is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that works to combat and prevent modern-day slavery and human trafficking. Foster Care workers are to advise parents contacting Polaris that this group may offer them additional resources

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and assistance beyond the local resources known to DCFS. The toll-free contact number for Polaris is (888) 373-7888.

### III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

[Form 98-R](#) / [Instructions](#) Runaway/Missing Child Medical Assessment

[Form 8](#) Foster Child Identification Page

Foster Care Case Staffing [Form](#) / [Instructions](#)

T-1 Risk Screening Tool for Sex Trafficking for Children in Foster Care (FATS) [Instructions](#)

Trauma and Behavioral Health Assessment (TBH) – Caregiver Version [Form](#)

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### IV. REFERENCES

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[P.L. 114-22](#), Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015

[P.L. 113-183](#), Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

[Act 564](#) of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

[Act 662](#) of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

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[Federal Victim of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 \(PL 106-386\)](#)

[Reauthorization of 2008 \(HR 7311\)](#)

[Reauthorization of 2013 \(PL 113-4\)](#)

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