

# Emergency Room Fact Sheet

## **Warning Sign**

- \*Patient is reluctant to explain or has inconsistencies when asked about his/her injury.
- \*Patient is not aware of his/her location (city/state)
- \*Patient has someone speaking for him/her.
- \*Patient shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, medical neglect, untreated STIs and/or torture.
- \*Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, nervousness, and/or avoids eye contact.
- \*Patient is under 18 and is engaging in commercial sex or trading sex for something of value.
- \*Patient has an unusually high number of sexual partners for his/her age.

## **Risk Assessment**

\*Ask the potential victims these questions to assess the risk the victim is in and to determine what steps you need to take next. Remember to always separate the victims from the persons accompanying them.

1. What type of work do you do?
2. Can you leave your job or change your residence if you want to?
3. Do you owe money to your employer? What would happen if you didn't repay that money?
4. What are your working and living conditions like?
5. Can you come and go as you please?
6. Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, go to the bathroom, or make a telephone call?
7. Are there locks on your doors or windows so you cannot get out?
8. Have you or your family members been threatened?
9. Are you afraid of anyone? Why?
10. Have your identification papers or other documents been taken from you?

\*Never ask "are you a slave?" as most victims do not self-identify as victims.

\*Never as victims, "why didn't you just leave?"

\*Expect victim's answers to change as their level of trust in you increases.

## **Next Steps**

\*If you suspect you are talking with a victim of human trafficking, the key is to get the victim into safety. If you are unsure how to do this, here are the resources for you:

\*Connect with the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline to identify local resources to assist victims:

\*Call: 888-373-7888

\*Visit: [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)