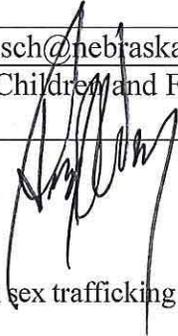


Division of Children and Family Services Protection and Safety Procedure #3-2016	
Regarding:	Sex Trafficking
Rescinds:	AM#21-2013 and AM#26-2015
Date Effective:	2/1/2016
Contact:	Nathan Busch at 402-471-1791 or nathan.busch@nebraska.gov
Issue by:	Douglas J. Weinberg, Director, Division of Children and Family Services



Philosophy:

The Division of Children and Family Services considers youth involved in sex trafficking as victims due to their age and inability to protect themselves from exploitation by adults.

Procedure:

Report Made to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

When the DHHS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline receives a report from law enforcement alleging youth involvement in and / or risk of involvement in, prostitution or sex trafficking, the Hotline CFS Specialist will accept the report as a Priority 1, response time not to exceed twenty-four hours.

- If the allegations include parental or caretaker involvement in sex trafficking or prostitution, the hotline CFS Specialist will accept the report as a “Child Abuse and Neglect Intake.”
- If the allegations do not include parental involvement in sex trafficking or prostitution, the Hotline CFS Specialist will accept the report as a “Dependency Intake.”

When the DHHS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline receives a report from a person who is not a law enforcement officer, including a CFS Specialist, alleging youth involvement in and / or risk of involvement in, prostitution or sex trafficking, the Hotline CFS Specialist will accept the report as a “Law Enforcement Only,” unless there are allegations include parental or caretaker involvement in prostitution or sex trafficking the Hotline CFS Specialist will accept the report as a “Child Abuse and Neglect Intake” The Hotline CFS Specialist will immediately notify law enforcement by telephone.

When a report is assigned as a “Child Abuse and Neglect Intake”

- Assess the need for the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to conduct the interviews and make a referral to the CAC;
- Contact the County Attorney to determine any further action the County Attorney may be taking; and
- Complete the Structured Decision Making (SDM) Assessments and determine the appropriate services to be provided to the youth.

Possible Signs of Sex Trafficking

If the CFS Specialist observes any of the signs listed below while working with a youth, or has any concern the youth may be involved in sex trafficking, the CFS Specialist will consult with the CFS Supervisor. The CFS Specialist will contact the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline to report concerns and share information. The Hotline CFS Specialist will accept the report as a "Law Enforcement Only," unless there are allegations a parent or caretaker of the youth has involved the youth in sex trafficking and a report should be accepted for a "Child Abuse and Neglect Intake". The Hotline will immediately notify law enforcement. The CFS Specialist will document the concern, the consultation with the CFS Supervisor, the notification to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline and any follow-up information received from law enforcement in N-FOCUS in the Consultation Point narrative.

- Excess amounts of cash;
- Sudden change in attire;
- Youth is in possession of multiple hotel keys;
- Youth shows signs of physical restraint or confinement;
- Youth has a tattoo of dollar signs or a bar code;
- Youth is unable to clarify where he / she is staying or living;
- Youth discloses participation in any sexual acts in exchange for shelter, transportation, drugs, alcohol, money, food, safety of self, safety of family members, remaining in the country, education or any other item of value.

References:

Nebraska State Law: Sex trafficking of a minor means knowingly recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining by any means or knowingly attempting to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means a minor for the purpose of having such minor engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography or to cause or attempt to cause a minor to engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography (Neb. Rev. Statute 28-830)

Federal Law: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 Section 103(10) defines sex trafficking as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. (Public Law 106-386)

Severe forms of trafficking in persons means, sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. (TVPA 103(9)(A))