

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING INFORMATION SHEET

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that makes billions of dollars in profit by exploiting people for forced labor or commercial sex. Nationwide, it is estimated that 27 million people are enslaved, with 70% of the victims being female. Florida ranks third in the human trafficking market.

There are two forms of human trafficking: labor and sex. In labor trafficking, the tourism and hospitality industries allow traffickers to pose as temporary staffing companies that provide labor to public lodging establishments to fill positions such as landscapers, day laborers and housekeepers. In sex trafficking, operations are set up in public lodgings via online advertising – without the lodging operator’s knowledge. Victims are made to live in the lodging and provide commercial sex services for money to customers in their room or the customer’s room.

In many cases, the human trafficking victims are lured from foreign countries with the promise of a legitimate job – but then find themselves ensnared by physical abuse or threats.

Public lodgings, by their very nature, provide excellent cover to human trafficking operations. Because of this, it is extremely important that hotel and motel staff members are educated on the signs of such activity so it can be reported in the proper manner. By identifying and reporting human trafficking, illegal operations can be thwarted and many lives saved.

<b>Ways to Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking</b>	<b>How to Report Human Trafficking</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Signs of physical abuse or malnourishment</li> <li>▪ Person seems coached or controlled</li> <li>▪ Victim rarely left alone</li> <li>▪ Suspicious tattoos or branding on victim</li> <li>▪ Living conditions unsuitable</li> <li>▪ Victim demeaned or treated aggressively</li> <li>▪ Accompanied by older male</li> <li>▪ Avoids interaction with others</li> <li>▪ “Do not Disturb” sign used constantly</li> <li>▪ Receives lots of visitors</li> <li>▪ Pays for room with cash</li> <li>▪ Dresses inappropriately or provocatively</li> <li>▪ Few personal belongings</li> <li>▪ Refuses cleaning services</li> <li>▪ Room smells of bodily fluids and musk</li> <li>▪ Lots of cash in room</li> <li>▪ Alcohol and/or drugs in room</li> <li>▪ Room monitored outside or in hallway</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">If you suspect human trafficking:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEVER</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Confront the suspected trafficker</li> <li>▪ Attempt to help the victim</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ALWAYS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact local law enforcement</li> <li>▪ Alert property management or director of security</li> <li>▪ Contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (<b>1.888.373.7888</b>)</li> <li>▪ Contact the Polaris BeFree Textline – Text “<b>BeFree</b>” (233733)</li> <li>▪ Call the Florida Abuse Hotline (<b>1.800.96.ABUSE</b>) (1.800.962.2873) for child victimization</li> <li>▪ Call 911 for an emergency situation</li> </ul>