

Services for Survivors

Maryland has worked hard to build a strong network of services and legal protections for survivors and those at risk of human trafficking. As recently as October 2023, the *Safe Harbor Act* took effect, protecting child survivors from being prosecuted for certain crimes committed as a result of being trafficked.

Across the state there is a community of advocates who serve survivors and connect them with local resources. Many Maryland counties have established local task forces and response teams to address trafficking through coordinated prevention, intervention, and service efforts at the community level.

A key part of Maryland's response is the *Regional Navigator Program*, established under The Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019. This law requires Law Enforcement and Local Departments of Social Services to notify a Regional Navigator when they suspect a youth (someone under the age 24) may be a victim of trafficking.

As of 2025, every Maryland county is served by a Regional Navigator, with 14 programs spanning all 24 jurisdictions. Navigators screen for trafficking and connect survivors to services like emergency housing, healthcare, legal support, and counseling. These individuals are housed in a variety of different agencies including rape crisis centers, community organizations, child advocacy centers, and county health departments. These locations are chosen for their expertise in trauma and survivor advocacy.

Many of these and other organizations also offer trafficking-specific services and coordinators who can assist adult survivors in accessing long-term support. To find a regional navigator or service provider near you, see the back of this brochure.

FIND HELP

Allegany

Jane's Place
301-722-0016

**Anne Arundel
Everstand**
410-590-9011

YWCA
410-590-6800

**Baltimore City
Center for Hoper**
24-Hour Helpline: 410-601-4673

**Baltimore City & County,
& Howard
TurnAround, Inc.**
410-837-700
After Hours: 443-279-0379

**Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's
Center for Children Inc.**
Calvert: 410-535-3047
Charles: 301-609-9887
St. Mary's: 301-475-8860

**Southern Maryland Center for
Family Advocacy**
301-373-4141
24-Hour Helpline: 240-925-0084

**Caroline, Dorchester, Kent,
Queen Anne's, & Talbot
For All Seasons, Inc.**
410-822-1018
24-Hour Helpline: 410-820-5600

**Carroll
CARE Healing Center**
24-Hour Helpline: 410-857-7322

Cecil

**Cecil County Dept. of
Community Services**
410-996-5385

Center for Abused Persons
24-Hour Helpline: 301-645-3336

**Frederick
Heartly House**
301-418-6610
24-Hour Helpline: 301-662-8800

**Garrett
Dove Center**
301-334-6255
24-Hour Helpline: 301-334-9000

**Harford
SARC**
410-836-8431
24-Hour Helpline: 410-836-8431

**Howard
HopeWorks**
410-997-0304
24-Hour Helpline: 410-997-2272

**Montgomery & Prince George's
University of Maryland SAFE
Center**
301-314-7233

**Somerset, Wicomico, &
Worcester
Life Crisis Center**
24-Hour Helpline: 410-749-4357

**Washington
Safe Place Child Advocacy
Center**
240-420-4300

CASA, Inc
301-739-0064
24-Hour Helpline: 301-739-8975

National Human Trafficking Hotline

(available in over 200 languages)

Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

SMS: 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO")

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>

Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force

<http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org>

Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)

301-565-2277 | toll-free: 1-877-496-SALI (7254)



Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

mcasa.org | 301-328-7023 | info@mcasa.org

P.O. Box 8782

Silver Spring, MD 20907

Preparation of this document was supported by grant #VOCA-2015-0012, and reprinted under #VOCG-2026-0044, both awarded by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Polys. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

9/2025

MCASA

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault



Resources for Survivors of Human Sex Trafficking



I AM **NOT** FOR SALE

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers exploit another person through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion**.

Sex trafficking and **labor trafficking** are the most common types of human trafficking in the U.S.

SEX TRAFFICKING:

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, **OR** in which the person induced to perform such an act is **under 18**.

A “commercial sex act” is when anything of value is exchanged for any sexual act.

Human Sex Trafficking is a form of sexual violence, and sexual violence is a form of oppression, as well as a crime. It is an abuse of power that uses violence and coercion to control, silence, and deny people their autonomy and dignity. Sexual violence thrives when people who have power in society use that power to commit violence against vulnerable individuals. We must all work together to end these forms of violence.

LABOR TRAFFICKING:

Labor trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services against their will, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion**.

Traffickers use sexual violence as both a physical and psychological means to compel labor.



MYTHS vs. REALITY

Myth

Human trafficking is a crime that must involve movement across **borders**.

Reality

Human trafficking is a crime of **exploitation** against a person, unlike human smuggling, which is a crime against borders.

Myth

Trafficked persons are all **undocumented immigrants**.

Reality

Victims of human trafficking in the U.S. are **U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, visa holders**, and undocumented individuals.

Myth

Human trafficking only occurs in **illegal underground industries**.

Reality

Trafficking occurs in rural, suburban, and urban communities in **every state**. It can be found in **legitimate businesses** as well as underground markets.

Myth

Human trafficking must involve **physical force**.

Reality

Psychological means of **control**, such as threats, fraud, or abuse of the legal process, are sufficient elements of the crime.

Myth

Victims of human trafficking will immediately **seek help** or **self-identify** as victims of a crime.

Reality

Human trafficking victims often don't seek help or self-identify as victims because of: **lack of trust, stigma, threats** made by their traffickers, etc.

ASK YOURSELF:

Have you or someone you know been trafficked?

- Has anyone where you worked or lived ever tricked or pressured you into doing anything you did not want to do?
- Have you ever worked without getting the payment you thought you would get?
- Has anyone ever taken and kept your identification (like your ID, passport, or social security card) while you were working?
- Have you ever felt you could not leave a location, such as the place where you worked or lived?
- Has anyone ever pressured you to touch someone or have any unwanted sexual contact with someone else?
- Have you ever had to have sex in order to get something you needed, like food, money, shelter, transportation, or drugs?



If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please see the back of this brochure for organizations that may be able to help you.