

What is Human Trafficking?

It's when a person is being exploited through force, fraud, or coercion.



Alabama Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Any Race...
Any Age...
Any Gender...



It's happening **EVERYWHERE...EVEN in the USA!**

Victims can be U.S. citizens or any nationality or socioeconomic status. Human Trafficking cases have been reported in every state in the U.S. It's a \$150 BILLION industry and is considered the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world.

Why are people with disabilities vulnerable to trafficking?



They rely on others for basic needs. As a result, these caregivers have opportunities to exploit them.



They may lead isolated lives and crave human connection and friendship. They may be persuaded to perform sexual acts for gifts or money.



Some cannot clearly speak or they use interpreters to make their needs known, making it difficult to ask for help.



They can become submissive to their caregivers. This makes the unequal power dynamic in a relationship with a bad caregiver seem normal, even if they are abusive.



Because of the touching that accompanies intimate care and medical procedures, they can become desensitized, making it difficult to report unwanted touch.



They may not be believed if they report abuse and violence. If they are believed, their abusers may be given shorter sentences than abusers of able-bodied people.



They lack understanding of what constitutes a crime and what their rights are as victims of crimes.

If you need help or suspect a person with intellectual disabilities is being exploited in ANY way, you can report the situation to these agencies for assistance and resources.



Call Local Law Enforcement Agency or call 911 in case of emergency



Alabama Department of Human Resources, Adult Protective Services Adult Abuse Hotline: Call 1-800-458-7214



Homeland Security Investigations: Call 1-866-347-2423



National Human Trafficking Resource Center: Call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)



**National Center on Missing and Exploited Children:
Call 1-800-843-5678 or report online at
www.cybertipline.com
ALL TIPS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. AVAILABLE 24/7.**

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