



# Ohio Department of Health Ohio School Nurse Protocol

## Human Trafficking Observing and Reporting (May 2013)

**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

### General Information

Not all youth see themselves as being trafficked, victimized or in abusive situations. Some do not recognize that they are unsafe, and may not want to be rescued from their situation. They may see their trafficker/abuser as the only person who cares for/loves them or provides for them. Telling them they are abused or that the trafficker is endangering them – instead of them telling you - may put the youth on the defensive or increase their loyalty to the trafficker/abuser. Note: The trafficker/abuser may be a parent, guardian, boyfriend or girlfriend.

- Explain limits of confidentiality (important with minor – mandated reporting).
- Trust your intuition.
- Human trafficking happens in all ethnic/racial groups; all economics groups; all religions; to lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and heterosexual persons; to those at all levels of education or profession. Like sexual assault and teen partner violence, human trafficking knows no boundaries. Provide education to all students.
- Make sure the student's partner/guardian/friend is not within earshot or view. You can explain "This part of the session is for the student only; I'll come and get you in a few moments."
- Use the student's language to refer to the partner/abuser/boyfriend/girlfriend.

**Start off:** "Because abuse is so common in our state, I ask every student if they are experiencing abuse. Abuse can take many forms – not just physical, but also emotional, financial, and sexual."

**These questions are to serve as a guide to help you assess if it is human trafficking or another form of abuse. These are not to be asked in any specific order. Use age-appropriate language when asking students these questions.**

- Has anyone put his/her hands on you in a way you didn't want (push, pinch, restrain, wrestle) when you didn't want? Tell me what happened.
- Tell me about a time, if any, where someone told you that you had to ask permission to eat, sleep, or use the bathroom?
- What kind of payment do you get when you work?
- If you do not get paid with cash or a check, in what other ways do you get paid for your work (such as food, clothing, or other material things)?
- Tell me what happens when your work is done for the day.
- If student tells you they are not allowed to leave at the end of their workday, follow up by asking them: What happens if you try to leave? Who tells you that you cannot leave?
- Describe to me where you work. Are there locks or bars on the doors or window?
- Tell me about your home. Are there locks or bars on the doors or windows there?
- Tell me about the times when you need to show your identification or documentation. Where is your documentation kept?
- Does your partner make you have sexual contact when you don't want? Tell me what you do.
- Has your partner or anyone forced you to have sex with someone else in exchange for money, drugs or housing? Tell me about it.

### Key messages for survivor/victim

- You deserve to be safe.
- Abuse is not your fault.
- I believe you and I am sorry this has happened to you.
- Explain the limitation of confidentiality.
- I want to give you this number to... Can we call this number together?