

Screening Tool for Identifying Child Trafficking Victims in Jamaica¹

Identifying Child Trafficking Victims

If you think that a child may have been trafficked, you should immediately notify the National Children’s Registry and the JCF-CTOC.

Child trafficking is an extreme form of child abuse and a modern day form of slavery. Jamaican law prohibits child trafficking through its Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Act.

- The term “trafficking” implies movement of some kind, but in fact “trafficking” does not require any kind of physical movement. The term “trafficking” refers to the concept of purchase and sale of a person. This typically appears in the form of sex or labour exploitation for benefit of another individual.
- Under Jamaica’s TIP Act, a person who recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives a child for the purpose of exploitation (such as prostitution or forced labour) has committed a trafficking offense, regardless of whether coercion was involved. (TIP Act Sections 2 and 4).
- All persons under the age of 18 are automatically considered to be vulnerable persons, and the fact that they may have given “consent” does not preclude them from being considered a victim of trafficking. Although the age of consent is 16, no child can consent to commercial sexual exploitation.
- Every child, regardless of his or her immigration status, is entitled to the law’s protection. Referrals should be made through the National Referral Mechanism which can be accessed through the National Task Force on Trafficking in Persons’ Handbook for all suspected child victims of trafficking, who may be of any nationality, including Jamaican nationality.
- Referral to necessary services should not be withheld pending investigation. If a child is reasonably believed to be a victim of trafficking, he or she should be referred for assistance as soon as possible.

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Using the Screening Tool

The Screening Tool is intended for use by government and NGO personnel that come into direct contact with potential victims of child trafficking. This tool is intended to help identify and to provide a written referral for a possible child victim of trafficking in persons (“TIP”). Please complete the sections below as fully as possible and provide supporting documentation where possible.

While you should attempt to gather and provide as much information as possible, it is not recommended to press further potentially trauma-inducing questions unless you are a trained professional.

Duty to Report

Under the Child Care and Protection Act, any person who suspects that a child has been, or is being or is likely to be abused, or is in need of care and protection, **MUST** make a report to the National Children’s Registry (“NCR”). Additionally, all “Prescribed Persons” **MUST** make a report to the NCR if they reasonably suspect a child is being or will be abused, or that a child is in need of care or protection. “Prescribed Persons” include, but are not limited to, *nurses, doctors, teachers, social workers, and guidance counselors*.

If you reasonably suspect that a child may be a victim of trafficking in persons, please contact the agencies listed below.² Consent of the potential child victim is not required³ for you to report suspected abuse. You are legally required to report child abuse regardless of consent. Furthermore, there is no requirement that you inform the child of your intention to report, and you will face no personal liability for reporting in good faith.

Where to Report

Please make all reports to the National Children’s Registry and/or your local police station. Please provide this written report along with any and all supporting documentation. Contact information for making a report can be found below:

JCF (local police station, JCF-CTOC, CISOCA) Telephone: 119 Email: tip.ocid@jcf.gov.jm	OCA Telephone: 876-948 -1293
NCR and CPFSA Telephone: 888-PROTECT (776-8328)	ONRTIP Telephone: 876-583-3011
NATFATIP Telephone: 906-4923-31	Crime Stop Anonymous Tip Line Telephone: 311

² Determining whether or not a child is a victim of trafficking in persons should take into account the age, context, and specific circumstances related to each case. Your determination should consider the questions and indicators in this document, noting that even a single indicator could be enough to suspect a child is a victim of trafficking.

³ If the victim is 18 years or older, consent is needed to report.

General Screening and Referral of Suspected Child Trafficking Victim

Date of contact with the child: _____

Address of the place of contact with the child: _____

Is the child in immediate danger? _____

Address of the child's last known location: _____

Have you referred this matter to the police or anyone else before submitting this report? [check all that apply]

Yes ✓	Relevant Authority
	Local police Name of station:
	JCF-CTOC
	CISOCA
	NCR or CPFSA
	OCA
	NATFATIP
	ONRTIP
	Crime Stop Anonymous Hotline
	Other (please state)

General Information about the Suspected Trafficking in Persons

Do you suspect some form of exploitation? [check all that apply]

Yes ✓	Form of Exploitation
	Forced labour
	Domestic servitude
	Sexual exploitation (including prostitution)
	Forced Marriage /Sexual Relationship
	Child pornography
	Forced Begging
	Forced Gang Activities
	Unknown
	Other (please state)

Does the child appear to be or at risk of being trafficked? [select one]

✓	
	Yes
	No
	Maybe

	Not sure
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The chart below lists selected indicators of child trafficking. This list is not exhaustive.⁴ You may notice other indications that a child is or is at risk of being trafficked, and these may be noted in the spaces provided below.

In connection with your sense that the child is or is at risk of being trafficked, please indicate which items you noted.

Please check all that apply:

General signs		Suspected ✓	Comments
1.	<i>Not enrolled in school or irregular school attendance</i>		
2.	<i>Shows signs of physical neglect</i>		
3.	<i>Shows signs of emotional trauma</i>		
4.	<i>Low self-esteem or self-harming behaviour</i>		
5.	<i>Unusually aggressive behaviour</i>		
6.	<i>Excessively fearful or anxious</i>		
7.	<i>Withdrawn / refuses to communicate</i>		
8.	<i>Indications of drug, alcohol or substance abuse</i>		
9.	<i>Has money or expensive possessions without plausible explanation</i>		
10.	<i>Limited freedom of movement</i>		
11.	<i>Unregistered private fostering arrangement</i>		
12.	<i>Lives among a number of unrelated children at a single address</i>		
13.	<i>Lives with a family but does not eat with them.</i>		
14.	<i>Required to earn a minimum amount of money each day</i>		
15.	<i>Involved in criminal activity with adults</i>		
16.	<i>History with missing links or unexplained moves</i>		
17.	<i>Deprived of earnings by another person</i>		
18.	<i>Entered Jamaica illegally</i>		
19.	<i>Has previously gone missing and been found in areas where he/she has no known links</i>		
20.	<i>Child's responses appear scripted, indicating they may have been coached</i>		
Health Indicators		Suspected ✓	Comments
21.	<i>Injuries in various stages of healing</i>		

⁴ A more comprehensive list of Child Trafficking Indicators can be found in NATFATIP's Handbook on Trafficking in Persons.

22.	An absence of medical or dental care that would be considered to be routine for the victim's age		
23.	Prolonged infection that would be treatable in a routine medical examination.		
24.	Untreated wounds, illnesses or other conditions		
25.	Poor personal hygiene		
26.	Malnutrition		
27.	Self-harm or attempted suicide		
28.	Branding or tattoos that might suggest control by another		
29.	Addiction or induced substance dependency		
Sex trafficking		Suspected ✓	Comments
30.	<i>Claims to have been or shows indications of having been exploited for sexual purposes including any form of commercial sexual exploitation (sexual acts, pornography, online sexual services, etc.)</i>		
31.	<i>Possible inappropriate relationships with adults</i>		
32.	<i>Shows signs of sexually transmitted infection unintended pregnancy</i>		
Labour trafficking		Suspected ✓	Comments
33.	<i>Claims to have been or shows indications of having been exploited through domestic servitude</i>		
34.	<i>Claims to have been or shows signs of having performed substantial physical labour</i>		
Other		Suspected ✓	Comments
35.	<i>Please indicate.</i>		

Why do you suspect this child may have been trafficked?

Referral of Suspected Child Trafficking for Investigation and Care and Protective Services

Please provide information about the child victim and the referring person below to the extent that is known.

Child's identifying details - Please safeguard the confidentiality of this information by restricting circulation of this document and maintaining control of the original and any copies.

Name: _____

Other Aliases: _____

Date of birth: _____

Age: _____

Sex: _____

Nationality: _____

Home address: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Address of Parents (if different from child): _____

Language(s) spoken: _____

Impairments/Disabilities: _____

Contact details of referring person:

Name: _____

Relationship to the Child: _____

Job title: _____

Organisation: _____

Supervisor: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Examples of Screening Questions for Child Trafficking

General questions for the suspected victims

The questions below are suggestions and should be asked as a part of a natural conversation and after an initial rapport is established. The form of the questions and the order in which they are asked will depend on each individual interaction.

**Don't ask a child if s/he has been trafficked as s/he likely will not understand the question and, if s/he does, may be scared by it. If a child is having a significant emotional reaction to the question, ask if they would like to suspend the interview until they feel ready to continue.*

1. Where do you live?
 - a. Who else do you live with?
 - b. Are you treated like other members of the household?
 - c. Where do you sleep?
2. Where do you eat?
 - a. Do you have to ask permission to eat/sleep/go to the bathroom?
3. Do you go to school? Are you allowed to go to school? Do you attend regularly?
4. Do you have a job?
 - a. What are your working conditions like?
 - i. How many hours per week do you work?
 - ii. Can you come and go as you please?
 - iii. Have you been forced to do anything you didn't want to do? What?
 - iv. Could you leave your job if you wanted to?
 - v. Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
 - vi. Have you been physically harmed in any way?
 - b. Do you get paid?
 - i. Do you receive your pay or does someone else receive it?
 - ii. Are you ever required to earn a certain amount of money? What happens if you don't?
5. Has anyone threatened you or your family?
6. Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie while speaking to others about the work that you do?

Please expand on the circumstances and details of the encounter or contact. Please provide:

- a. supporting evidence for the indicators that you have identified in the checklist above
- b. details of any other indicators you feel are relevant but are not listed.
- c. any other relevant information that you consider may be important and wish to include for example details of behaviour, abuse and neglect
- d. indicate:

- i. name of any adults, exploiters or traffickers (if known)
- ii. details of any linked victims (if known)
- iii. details of any adults or other children the individual was encountered with, or whether the child was unaccompanied.

Other information to collect:

- Nonverbal indicators (signs of trauma, emotional neglect, etc.)
- Physical indicators (signs of exploitative abuse, bruises, etc.)
- Story is similar to those given by others, perhaps hinting they have been coached
- Any indicators that responses might be false

Appendix 2: Examples of MDA-specific Screening Questions for Child Trafficking

MDA-specific questions (to be asked in addition to the general questions provided)

1. Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA)/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MOFAFT)

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Where are you travelling to?	
Where are you coming from?	
Are you travelling alone? If not, who are you travelling with?	
Where will you stay when you get there?	
Who paid for your travel to Jamaica?	
Did the people or persons who arranged for your travel try to pressure you to do anything? Did you have to do anything for them to help you? What?	
Do you owe anyone money for your travel expenses? For any other reason?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Travelling with unrelated adults	
Travelling with unrelated children	
Doesn't know where they are going or where they are coming from.	
Doesn't know the purpose of their travel.	
Doesn't have custody of their passport or travel documents	

2. Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS)

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Do you have a job?	

What kind of work do you do?	
Do you get paid?	
How often/how long do you work? ⁵	
Do you attend school since you started working?	
How did you find your job? Were you recruited for it? If so, was that by someone you know, or by a stranger? Who?	
Have you ever felt unsafe or scared in a place of work?	
Where do you live? How long have you lived there? Do you live with other people? What is your relationship to them?	
Do you go to school? Are you allowed to go to school?	
Did someone ever withhold your pay, give your pay to someone else, or control money that you should have been paid?	
Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fear of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?	
Were you allowed take breaks where you worked (for example, to eat, use the telephone, or use the bathroom)? What if you were sick or had some kind of emergency? What did you think would happen if you took a break without getting permission?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Anxious and/or fearful around their boss	
Child doesn't know how much they make	
Not in school or irregular school attendance	

3. Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA)

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Has anyone where you worked or lived ever tricked or pressured you into doing anything you did not want to do?	

⁵ Persons aged 13 to 14 may work up to 4 hours per day, and no more than 14 hours per week. The work hours of persons 15 and older are not restricted, but such persons may not engage in hazardous work (that is work that could result in a child being killed, or injured or made ill due to dangerous or unhealthy work conditions).

Has anyone ever pressured you to touch someone or to have any unwanted physical contact?	
Has anyone ever taken a photo or video of you that you were uncomfortable with? What did they plan to do with it, if you know? Did you agree to this?	
Has anyone ever forced you or pressured you to share a photo or video of yourself? What did they plan to do with it, if you know? Did you agree to this?	
Were you promised anything (money, gifts, a place to stay, food, etc.) if you did what they wanted?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Unexplained signs of physical abuse such as broken bones, loss of teeth, scars, burns, lacerations, bruising.	
Sexually transmitted infections	
Signs of: Forced intercourse Forced abortion	
Malnutrition	
Developmental regression	
Emotional or other abuse.	
Substance or drug abuse/addiction.	
Emotional distress or other manifestations of trauma.	
Self-harm or attempted suicide	
Branding or tattoos that might suggest control by another	
Language or behaviors that appear beyond their age	

4. Department of Corrections

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Were you allowed to go to school?	
Had anyone ever told you to beg on the street? What happened if you refused?	
Were you ever forced into a gang?	
Were you expected to be involved in the work of the gang?	

Had anyone ever withheld your pay, given your pay to someone else, or controlled money that you should have been paid?	
Had you ever been afraid to leave or quit a situation due to fear of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?	
Had anyone ever tricked or pressured you into doing something you did not want to do?	
Had anyone ever pressured you to touch someone or have any unwanted physical contact?	
Were you promised anything (money, gifts, a place to stay, food, etc.) if you did what they wanted?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Runaway	
Not in school or irregular attendance	
Begged or committed petty crimes in a group	
Recruited by an adult or gang	

5. CSOs

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?	
Did someone ever withhold your pay, give your pay to someone else, or control money that you should have been paid?	
Has someone threatened you if you don't work or do something you don't want to?	
Are you able to leave home? Are you not allowed to talk to friends or family?	
Did anyone ever trick or pressure you into doing anything you did not want to do?	
Did anyone ever pressure you to touch someone or to let them touch you?	
Did anyone ever take a photo or video of you that you were uncomfortable with?	
Were you promised anything (money, gifts, a place to stay, food, etc.) if you did what they wanted?	
Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Signs of physical abuse	
Runaway	

Not in school or irregular school attendance	
Signs of depression or suicidal thoughts	
Signs of anxiety and fear especially around certain topics or people mentioned	

6. Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA)

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Who do you live with?	
How long have you lived there?	
Does your mother live with you?	
Does your father live with you?	
Do you have brothers or sisters? Where do they live?	
Do other people live with you?	
Do you work for anyone?	
Do you go to school? Do you miss many days of school? How often?	
How often are you ill? What was wrong?	
How often do you miss school from being injured? What was wrong?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Unexplained signs of physical abuse such as broken bones, loss of teeth, scars, burns, lacerations, bruising.	
Injuries in various stages of healing.	
Sexual exploitation	
Sexually transmitted infections	
Unexplained signs of physical abuse such as broken bones, loss of teeth, scars, burns, lacerations, bruising.	
Signs of: Forced intercourse Forced abortion	
An absence of medical or dental care that would be considered to be routine for the victim's age	
Prolonged infection that would be treatable in a routine medical examination	
Untreated wounds, illnesses or other conditions	
Malnutrition	
Poor personal hygiene	
Developmental regression	
Emotional or other abuse	
Substance or drug abuse/addiction	

Emotional distress or other manifestations of trauma	
Self-harm or attempted suicide	
Branding or tattoos that might suggest control by another	

7. Justices of the Peace

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Are you allowed to go to school?	
Did someone tell you to beg on the street? What happened if you refused?	
Did someone ever withhold your pay, give your pay to someone else, or control money that you should have been paid?	
Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fear of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?	
Did anyone ever trick or pressure you into doing something you did not want to do?	
Did anyone ever pressure you to touch someone or have any unwanted physical contact?	
Are you allowed to go to school?	
Were you promised anything (money, gifts, a place to stay, food, etc.) if you did what they wanted?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Runaway	
Not in school or irregular attendance	
Has begged or committed petty crimes in a group	
Recruited by an adult or gang	

8. Ministry of Health

Ask the suspected victim	Response
Does your family take you to the doctor if you're sick?	
Do you get routine checkups?	
Does someone pressure you to let them touch you in places you don't want to be touched?	
Are you threatened if you don't let them touch you?	
Are you allowed to see friends and family?	

Tell me about your diet. What have you eaten this week?	
Red flags	Yes ✓
Unexplained signs of physical abuse such as broken bones, loss of teeth, scars, burns, lacerations, bruising.	
Injuries in various stages of healing.	
Sexual exploitation	
Sexually transmitted infections	
Signs of: Forced intercourse Forced abortion	
An absence of medical or dental care that would be considered to be routine for the victim's age.	
Prolonged infection that would be treatable in a routine medical examination.	
Untreated wounds, illnesses or other conditions.	
Malnutrition	
Poor personal hygiene	
Developmental regression.	
Neglect for medical needs	
Signs of untreated physical abuse	
Signs of emotional trauma and/or suicidal thoughts	
Substance or drug abuse/addiction	
Runaways	
Parents not with them during medical visit	
Anxious around parents or adult with them for medical visit	
Language or behaviors that appear beyond their age	