

# ARIZONA GUIDELINES

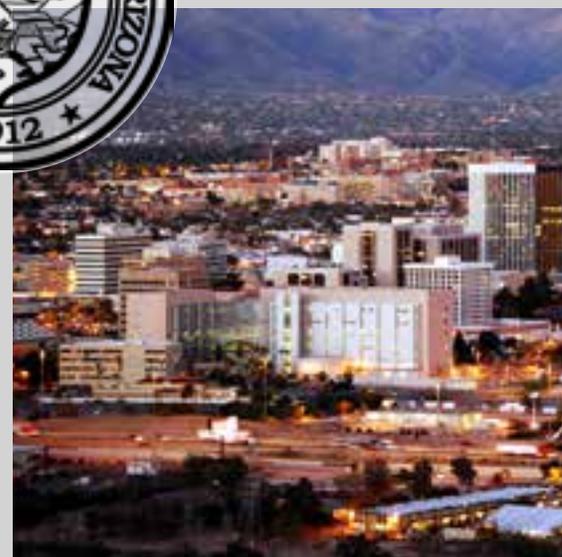
## Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking

Arizona Human Trafficking Council

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Governor Ducey's Office of Youth, Faith and Family





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For more information, see [EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov](http://EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov).

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Members of the Victim Services Committee and the following stakeholders participated in four collaborative meetings to discuss the components and contents of the *Arizona Guidelines for Developing a Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking*. The stakeholder meetings occurred on August 18, 2015, October 5, 2015, October 14, 2015, and October 29, 2015. A Solutions Summit with a broader group of stakeholders was held November 16, 2015.

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## Arizona Human Trafficking Council

The Arizona Human Trafficking Council, under the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, was established to develop a comprehensive and coordinated victims' service plan; evaluate and report statewide data on human trafficking to the Governor; promote greater collaboration with law enforcement, state agencies, and the community-at-large; and raise public awareness about victim services and prevention.

The Arizona Human Trafficking Council chose a "best practice guidelines" approach to promote regional response to address youth sex trafficking, with the intent of maximizing local control and engagement, as well as acknowledging the varied availability of resources. The Council's Victim Services Committee identified the need for guidelines to assist regions throughout Arizona in establishing a Regional Sex Trafficking Coalition (Coalition) and/or a Regional Sex Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). The Arizona Guidelines for Developing a Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking serve as a template, providing content that regions can adopt or adapt. As a "living document," the guidelines reflect current best practices in responding to youth sex trafficking. Please refer to <http://endsextrafficking.az.gov> for more information.

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family will collaborate with the regions to provide a portal for best practice information to be disseminated, including the work of the regional Coalitions and MDTs. The experiences of the regions will inform the development of system improvements, including the adoption of consistent and standard practices throughout the state. The Arizona Human Trafficking Council may convene on an annual basis a group to review reports from the MDTs on the incidence of sex trafficking in their areas, and to discuss local coordinated community responses and results. The annual statewide convening will provide a forum for reviewing youth sex trafficking data and evaluation, identifying areas where changes in state policy and response guidelines may be warranted, and will provide an opportunity for critical discussion.

The overall purpose of the guidelines is to aid in the identification of minor victims of sex trafficking as well as those at risk, and to provide a coordinated and consistent victim-centered response based on best practices.

## Sample Purpose Statement

As Arizona moves to combat minor sex trafficking, numerous professionals and concerned citizens with a deep desire to bring justice and healing to those affected offer their time and talents. Given the multiple partners, it is vital to understand the sequencing and processes required for an efficacious response. To this end, these guidelines outline a multidisciplinary approach that respects the roles and objectives of the various disciplines. The overall purpose of the guidelines is to aid in the identification of minor victims of sex trafficking as well as those at risk, and to provide a coordinated and consistent victim-centered response based on best practices. A youth is identified as a victim when he or she: (a) discloses, (b) has injuries or a condition consistent with a crime, (c) a person witnesses the victimization, (d) a person confesses to victimizing another, or (e) technology (e.g., surveillance, captured data) reveals victimization. The multidisciplinary approach includes attention to protecting due process in order to: hold traffickers and buyers accountable under the law; connect youth and their families to services in their local communities that will contribute to their safety and well-being; and prevent further exploitation. The Coalition and MDT build on the collective expertise, experience, and existing partnerships in the local community to develop a comprehensive and tailored approach to sex trafficking.

## Sample Problem Statement

Although a number of laws concerning child sex trafficking exist in Arizona (see <http://endsextrafficking.az.gov/human-trafficking/arizona-laws> for a detailed list), the majority of youth identified as at-risk are not known victims. There is a belief that they might be involved in sex trafficking; however, they have not self-disclosed and other evidence does not exist. As such, many of these youth do not fall under the purview of child welfare, and are often resistant to contact with law enforcement. As a consequence, many youth who are believed to be victims do not receive the assistance that might lead them to disclosure and healing. In addition, most anti-trafficking attention has been focused on females, and as a result, males who are susceptible to sex trafficking are less likely to be identified by current efforts. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and transgender youth are especially vulnerable to sex trafficking, as are youth who have run away from their homes or who are involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, undocumented youth, and youth with disabilities (Orme & Ross-Shariff, 2015).<sup>1</sup> Even for known victims, there is an acknowledged lack of capacity and limited services

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<sup>1</sup> Orme, J., & Ross-Shariff, F. (2015). Sex trafficking: Policies, programs, and services, *Social Work*, 60(4). DOI: 10.1093/sw/swv031



to help them avoid further involvement in sex trafficking. Thus, an approach to this problem is needed that is inclusive and that goes beyond the purview of child welfare and law enforcement.

A barrier to developing a consistent and comprehensive response to sex trafficking is the absence of data.

Policy makers, advocates, and youth service providers believe there are many more minor sex trafficking victims in Arizona than are currently identified. Sex trafficking is a

seriously underreported offense, and youth are at times misidentified as offenders rather than victims. As a result of the shortage of reliable data, we remain uncertain about the incidence of minor sex trafficking and the characteristics and needs of the youth affected. Data collected through the regional response has the potential to help identify service and system gaps, form legislative and policy recommendations, as well as aid in securing resources to foster coordination to ensure a seamless continuum of care for all victims.

## Sample Core Principles

Seven core principles guide the Coalition and MDT.

- 1. Youth who are sex trafficked are victims and survivors, not criminals.** Training should communicate the preference to avoid arresting and holding youth victims in detention or otherwise treating them as criminals. The use of discretion allows law enforcement to prioritize the immediate safety concerns of the youth.
- 2. Services should be victim-centered and individually tailored.** Services should be offered to those who are known victims of sex trafficking as well as those who are believed to be victims. Services should consider the strengths and needs of the individual.
- 3. The response, from first contact to long-term services, should be trauma-informed.** An understanding of the impact of trauma is critical in order to ensure that practices and interventions do not cause further harm, but instead promote the safety and well-being of the youth. Central to a trauma-informed approach is choice and respect, which is shown by considering the youth's point of view. Allowing the youth to make decisions where consistent with her or his safety empowers the individual and helps to build healthy independence and trusting relationships.
- 4. Responders should demonstrate cultural competence.** Cultural competence is the integration and transformation of knowledge about individuals and groups of people from different backgrounds into specific standards, policies, practices, communication norms, and attitudes used to increase the quality of services and produce better outcomes.
- 5. Local, regional and statewide collaboration and coordination is necessary.** Effective training, coordination, and collaboration are foundational to serving victims and bringing sex traffickers and buyers to justice. Given the geographic vastness of Arizona, responses must be coordinated to maximize the efficient use of resources and ensure commensurate responses to victims.
- 6. A multi-layered, multi systems approach is needed.** The MDT works at the individual and family level, whereas the Coalition works on regional collaboration, promoting training, and facilitating important systems changes at the community level. The Arizona Human Trafficking Council facilitates

Many victims, sex trafficking survivors in particular, are reluctant to disclose victimization to law enforcement and service agencies out of shame or concern that they will be blamed for their victimization or disbelieved.



There is no “appropriate” demeanor of a person who has experienced trauma.

collaboration among the regions and promotes overall broad systems understanding and change.

- 7. A data-informed approach should drive system improvements.** Research, as well as experience, contribute to a more in-depth understanding of the problem, the effectiveness of the response, and can aid in developing resources. Additionally, there is a need to build knowledge to support prevention and inform policies, procedures, and laws.

## Victim-Centered Response

A victim-centered approach to sex trafficking victims is critical to short-term and long-term physical and psychological well-being. In a victim-centered response, the needs of the victim are central to each responder and to the response as a whole. Many victims, sex trafficking survivors in particular, are reluctant to disclose victimization to law enforcement and service agencies out of shame or concern that they will be blamed for their victimization or disbelieved. Victim-centered care reinforces that sex trafficking survivors are never at fault for being trafficked, and provides a supportive and compassionate response with the goal of mitigating trauma for victims. The following are central components of victim-centered response:

- Services are delivered to victims/survivors in a sensitive and nonjudgmental manner, where victims are listened to and believed.
- First responders and other practitioners are competent, compassionate, and knowledgeable, and recognize their response can either decrease or increase the trauma experienced by victims.
- The safety and well-being of the victim is the responders’ priority, and victims have input in determining and voicing their needs and concerns at each step of the process.

## Trauma-Informed Response

The foundation of trauma-informed care is an understanding of the ways by which emotional, psychological, and physical effects of trauma can impact victims’ cognitive processes, decision-making, memory, and behavior. A trauma-informed response is sensitive to these effects, and helps survivors to regain feelings of control and empowerment during each step of their involvement with social and legal systems. Services that are trauma-informed focus on trust and safety in order to mitigate additional trauma and facilitate healing. This response prioritizes the needs of survivors by giving them autonomy in determining their immediate concerns. It is important responders recognize there is no “appropriate” demeanor of a person who has experienced trauma. Moreover, talking about victimization can be re-traumatizing for survivors, and it is important that responders build rapport

and be sensitive and patient as they gather information. Responders to youth who are victims or possible victims of sex trafficking should have a basic understanding of the following to ensure a trauma-informed approach:

- The neurobiology of trauma, including but not limited to emotional presentation and affect following trauma, memory deficits, dissociation, and fight/flight/freeze response.
- The symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including but not limited to fear, hypervigilance, avoidance, flashbacks and nightmares, and difficulty concentrating.
- The signs of trauma bonds, which are emotional and psychological attachments to abusive persons that are formed over time in exploitive relationships, including but not limited to survivors defending the perpetrators, misplacing trust and loyalty in the perpetrators, and continuing to desire contact with the perpetrators.
- The potential impacts of childhood trauma on brain development and behavior, including but not limited to depression, aggression, anger, substance use, difficulty regulating mood, and risky sexual or criminal behavior.
- The impact of trauma on survivors' social and interpersonal skills and relationships.

## Recommended Components

The guidelines recommend that regional responses to youth sex trafficking include two major components with defined responsibilities:

**1. Regional Sex Trafficking Coalition (Coalition)** and **2. Regional Sex Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)**. The Coalition and MDT may be developed from existing or newly formed groups and membership in each component may overlap. Ideally, regions will have both a Coalition and MDT.

Sex trafficking cases can be complex and present professionals with many challenges. These challenges include, but are not limited to, identification of victims; responding to acting out behavior (such as running away or delinquent acts) without knowing the causes; responding appropriately to youth reports of sex trafficking victimization; identifying and using clear communication pathways with stakeholders involved in the care and custody of youth; identifying and linking youth to therapeutic services; and balancing the provision of support with maintaining the trust of the victim, while at the same time fulfilling mandated reporting requirements that may include law enforcement involvement.

The goal for professionals of all disciplines when working with possible victims of youth sex trafficking goes beyond simply identifying victims and referring for services. The health and safety of the youth is the first priority. The intent of the regional response is to ensure a coordinated and sustained path for the detection of sex trafficking victimization through increased awareness among professionals working with



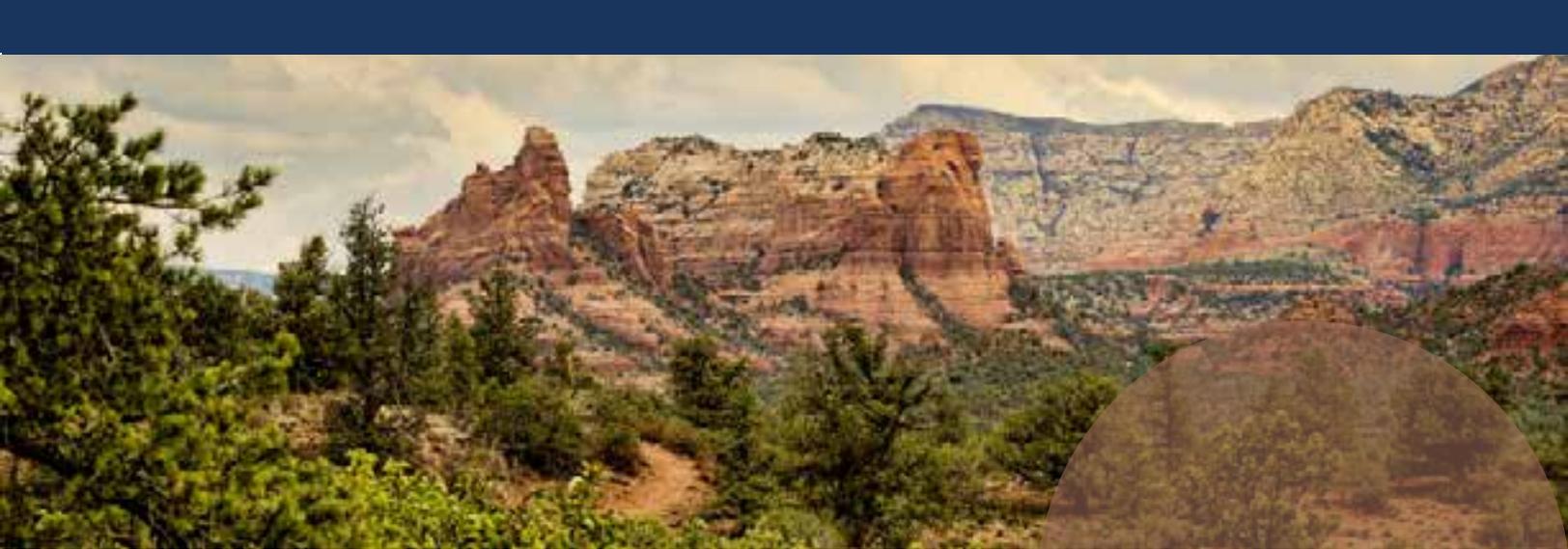
The Coalition and MDT may be developed from existing or newly formed groups and membership in each component may overlap. Ideally, regions will have both a Coalition and MDT.

youth; identification through targeted screening questions; reporting the information to the correct entities (law enforcement and child welfare as appropriate); and making referrals for supportive and therapeutic services.

## Regional Sex Trafficking Coalition

The goal of the Coalition is to foster a coordinated community response to sex trafficking, and to develop, implement, and update the regional response. There are a number of options for Coalition composition and activities. For example, some may serve both minor and adult sex trafficking victims. Whereas the Coalition may be comprised of local key responders including representation from law enforcement, the courts, child welfare, victim advocacy organizations, schools, youth service agencies, and medical/ behavioral health professionals, it may also include concerned citizen volunteers. In some localities, the Coalition will include only local stakeholders, whereas others may have representatives from multiple cities or counties. Suggested responsibilities of the Coalition include:

- Ensure that both basic and advanced levels of training are available. Those working with victims, and with youth in general, should receive an appropriate level of training on the topic of sex trafficking. As victims often have child abuse in their backgrounds, specifically sexual abuse, those who work with victims should have advanced training on sex trafficking trauma, and other specific aspects of the trafficking experience. Interactions across systems should be trauma-informed, and those who provide services should demonstrate an appreciation of the particular vulnerabilities and triggers experienced by traumatized youth and their parents.
- Determine a location where suspected and known victims identified by law enforcement, social service agencies, schools, medical providers, or concerned parents/caretakers can be received at the time of identification. Examples of locations include a child or family advocacy center, community-based youth services center, specially prepared drop-in center, or other location that is comfortable and welcoming. If such a location does not exist in the community, it should be established with the following considerations:
  - known and trusted by youth/parents, advocates, and law enforcement
  - open 24/7 or have the ability to open and staff up within a short time period
  - staffed by trained individuals with expertise working with sex trafficked youth
  - offer basic services to victims, including advocacy, limited medical attention
  - food and drink, clothing, and a place to stay until shelter or housing is available
- Promote screening for all vulnerable youth upon entry into any system (particularly juvenile justice and youth services) using brief, standardized questions to identify risk factors. Screening staff will be trained and will be sensitive to the particular needs of trafficking victims while preserving the investigation.
- Determine if current youth sex trafficking-related laws are being implemented, and ensure that procedures are in place to meet the requirements of new policies and laws. Assure coordination with existing joint law enforcement and child welfare protocols.
- Arrange for resource sharing to support efficiencies and develop local resources where gaps exist.
- Plan and implement public education and awareness campaigns, including a Speaker's Bureau, and participate in events to build community support, increase awareness, and promote prevention.
- The Coalition may recommend policy and legislative changes to the Arizona Human Trafficking Council.



## Regional Sex Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

The MDT is a small group of key individuals, with extensive knowledge, who respond to incidents of sex trafficking. See Appendix A for a sample flow chart outlining the responsibilities of a Regional MDT for adults.

Responsibilities of the MDT include:

- Developing, implementing, and updating a protocol for interagency response.
- Responding to allegations of criminal conduct specific to youth sex trafficking.
- Ensuring compliance with the Child Abuse Joint Investigations Protocol when the allegation involves a parent or guardian.
- Providing immediate consultation on individual sex trafficking cases.
- Providing longer-term follow-up on a case-by-case basis as needed.
- Conducting case reviews.
- Collecting data consistent with the Understanding Youth Sex Trafficking section (see page 27).

The Coalition and MDT will function best if all appropriate individuals from designated agencies participate. They also require leadership. Team members should identify a chairperson responsible for convening and coordinating tasks. The next section of this document outlines recommended roles of various Coalition and MDT members.

## Sample Partner Role Descriptions

Individuals representing a number of agencies and organizations may be involved in the Regional Coalition, the MDT, or both. Each locality should identify key participants for its Regional Sex Trafficking Coalition and MDT. Partner roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined in terms of an introduction to the agency/organization, role with youth victims of sex trafficking, services provided, and training requirements of staff on sex trafficking. Sample roles and responsibilities for key participants are provided below for adoption or adaptation.

The MDT is a small group of key individuals, with extensive knowledge, who respond to incidents of sex trafficking.

## Attorneys Representing Young People in Juvenile Court

Attorneys for youth are critical players in ensuring victims of sex trafficking receive the support they need. They represent the youth, ensure their legal rights are honored, and advocate for them, primarily in the area of their legal interests, but also more generally. Whether they represent a young person in a dependency, a delinquency, a guardianship or other court proceedings, attorneys who are appointed to represent children should receive specific training on sex trafficking and understand resources that are available in the community.

**Delinquency Process.** A youth who is arrested by police for criminal activity may be brought to a juvenile detention center. The county attorney will review the police report and determine what, if any charges, to file against the youth. If the county attorney chooses to charge the youth, a petition will be filed. The court will appoint a defense attorney to represent the youth. The defense attorney's role is to ensure the youth's constitutional rights are protected, the desires of the youth are advocated for, and that the parties and court remember that the youth is a victim. Defense counsel should work with the county attorney to obtain an agreement for dismissal, diversion, or any other appropriate resolution. Defense counsel must provide the youth with all options and provide sound advice so the youth can make an informed decision.

**Dependency Process.** When youth are unable to return home because their parents are unable or unwilling to care for them, DCS will assume custody of the youth and the Attorney General will file a dependency petition. The court may appoint a Guardian ad Litem who is an attorney who represents the best interests of a child, an attorney to represent the expressed interest of the youth, or both. The role of the attorney will be to advocate for the placement and services the youth requests. The youth's attorney or Guardian ad Litem will assist the youth in obtaining an appropriate placement and contact with close family and close friends, education and counseling services, money for clothing and supplies, and any other services necessary to meet the youth's needs. The attorney ensures that the youth's voice is heard when decisions are being made about the youth's life. In order to ensure the youth's voice is heard, the attorney should attend all Team Decision-Making Meetings (TDMs), Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTs), court hearings, and other meetings concerning the youth.



All attorneys appointed to represent youth in juvenile court should have basic training in identifying and engaging victims of sex trafficking and be aware of the services available for victims in their community.

All attorneys appointed to represent youth in juvenile court should have basic training in identifying and engaging victims of sex trafficking and be aware of the services available for victims in their community. Further, each county should have at least one attorney who represents children who has in-depth training in identifying and working with sex trafficked youths. The attorney should have an understanding of the trauma experienced by victims and should be skilled in motivational interviewing to maximize their ability to develop a trusting client-attorney relationship with the victim.

Specially trained attorneys should:

- Have knowledge of juvenile delinquency, incorrigibility, and dependency law.
- Be available immediately, if possible, in person or by phone to answer any legal questions for any and all youths stopped by law enforcement who have been identified as a victim or at-risk of being trafficked for sex. If the public defender is not immediately available, at a minimum the attorney should be available to meet with the victim within 24 hours after he or she is detained or placed in any other secure facility. (Court calendars or other logistical issues may prevent an in-person visit within 24 hours if the child is placed at a facility outside of detention. All youth who are detained are seen within 24 hours regardless of the charges. If in-person contact is not possible within 24 hours, the attorney should attempt to confer with the youth by phone.)
- Provide the youth with legal advice and information about their rights under state and federal law.
- Immediately request, for any sex trafficked youth who is detained or charged with a crime, that the prosecuting attorney or the court consider dismissal, diversion or some other alternative to detention and criminal prosecution.
- Advocate for placement and services, particularly those specifically requested by the victim. The attorney can only collaborate with other individuals if the youth is in favor of the suggested services or plan of action. The Guardian ad Litem can collaborate with others if the suggested services or plan are in the best interest of the youth, whether or not the youth is in favor of the proposed plan.

## Behavioral Health

The Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) currently serves as the state authority to provide coordination, planning, administration, regulation, and monitoring of the state public behavioral health system. DBHS is transitioning this role to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) as of July 1, 2016. The Division contracts with community-based organizations, known as Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs), to administer behavioral health services. Regional Behavioral Health Authorities operate much like health maintenance organizations. Each RBHA contracts with a network of service providers similar to health plans to deliver a range of behavioral health care services that include treatment programs for adults with substance abuse disorders, adults with serious mental illness and youth with serious emotional disturbance. Arizona is divided into three geographical service areas served by the RBHAs:

- Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC) serves Maricopa County.
- Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC) serves: Mohave, Coconino, Apache, Navajo, and Yavapai Counties.
- Cenpatico Integrated Care (C-IC) serves: Pima, La Paz, Yuma, Greenlee, Graham, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Gila, and Pinal Counties.

In addition to RBHAs, the state has agreements with five of Arizona's American Indian Tribes to deliver behavioral health services to persons living on the reservation. Gila River Indian Community, Navajo Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the White Mountain Apache Tribe of Arizona each have an agreement for both Medicaid and state subsidized services. Colorado River Indian Tribes have an agreement for state subsidized services. Services to other American Indian Tribes are provided and covered by the RBHA serving the geographic area. Also, tribal members will continue to have the choice of receiving their care through their Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority (TRBHA), tribally operated behavioral health program or Indian Health Services.

Services needed by victims may include crisis intervention, emergency shelter, and safe/secure housing with a host of services (trauma recovery, mental/physical health, chemical dependency, educational, and life skills training). In areas without dedicated services for victims of sex trafficking, the agency or agencies in the community that serve youth will need to develop sex trafficking specific capacities and coordinate with health, education, and other community providers to meet the needs of victims of youth sex trafficking. Enhancement of current screening tools and assessments need to be assessed for what may be needed to help clinicians identify potential sex trafficked victims so that their unique treatment needs can be immediately addressed. In addition, training for both behavioral health providers and stakeholders on the signs of youth sex trafficking would be beneficial.



Mental health professionals should be advocates for victims and children.

Mental health professionals should be advocates for victims and children. As such, they may provide primary therapeutic intervention, support to families, information, and be a source of referral for child abuse allegations because of their contact with children and their families. A primary concern of the mental health professional is to prevent re-victimization of the child. It may be the therapist who hears the initial disclosure, either directly from the victim or indirectly from a third person (see Victim Identification section – page 20). Since reporting of child abuse is mandatory for mental health professionals, it is incumbent upon the professional to be familiar with current theory and research on child physical and sexual abuse.

The Arizona mandatory reporting law, A.R.S. §13-3620, requires that mental health and social service professionals, and other persons having responsibility for the care or treatment of children who reasonably believe that a minor has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense or neglect, are mandated to report the matter immediately. “Reasonably believe” for reporting means if there are any facts from which one could reasonably conclude that a child has been abused, the person knowing those facts is required to immediately report those facts to a police officer or to DCS. However, if the report concerns a person who does not have care, custody or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a police officer only.

Every mental health agency needs to establish a procedure for following the mandatory reporting law. Every mental health practitioner should be familiar with the specific reporting requirements as defined by the professional standards of his/her governing board (i.e. psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, social worker, etc.).

## Child Welfare

The mission of the Department of Child Safety (DCS) is to successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency.

DCS accepts a report when the following is alleged:

- The suspected conduct would constitute abuse or neglect.
- The suspected victim is under eighteen years of age.
- The suspected victim of the conduct is a resident of or present in Arizona or any act involved in the suspected abuse or neglect occurred in Arizona.
- The person suspected of committing the abuse or neglect is the parent, guardian, or custodian of the victim or an adult member of the victim's household.

DCS staff will be primary leads to assist in developing the knowledge, skills, and policies that help identify and address the needs of children who may be victims of sex trafficking with whom DCS is involved. This will include informing policy and practices to:

- Identify calls received by the child abuse hotline about children who are suspected of being involved in sex trafficking and respond as required by A.R.S. § 8-455.
- Develop options for DCS to assist and advise local first responders and others on immediate safety planning and placement options for children involved in sex trafficking with DCS involvement.
- Gather information for children involved with DCS in either investigation or on-going cases to determine whether the child was a victim of sex trafficking, assess the risk of future abuse and neglect, and refer the youth to appropriate services.
- Determine for children in DCS care who run away (1) the primary factors that contributed to the child's running away from care, (2) the child's experience while absent from care, including screening the child to determine if the child is a possible sex trafficking victim.
- Report to law enforcement any child who is identified as a sex trafficking victim for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.

Develop policies and procedures, including training for caseworkers, to:

1. Identify sex trafficking among children who are the alleged victims in reports for investigation or who are in the custody of the Department.
2. Determine appropriate services for children in DCS custody who the Department has reasonable cause to believe is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim.

DCS staff will be primary leads to assist in developing the knowledge, skills, and policies that help identify and address the needs of children who may be victims of sex trafficking with whom DCS is involved.



## Citizen Volunteers

Citizen volunteers can be important members of the Regional Youth Sex Trafficking Coalition. They can participate in arranging for resource sharing to support efficiencies; help to develop local resources where gaps exist; plan and implement public education and awareness campaigns, including a Speaker's Bureau; and participate in events to build community support, increase awareness, and promote prevention. Citizen volunteers should receive basic levels of training in sex trafficking.

## Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)

CASA of Arizona is a network of 15 county-based programs that recruit, train, and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. Volunteer advocates, empowered directly by the courts, offer judges the critical information they need to ensure that each child's rights and needs are being attended to while in out-of-home care. CASAs can play an important role in connecting a young person to the court process and the various entities with which the youth may interact.

CASA volunteers are certified by the Supreme Court to advocate for a child's safety as their first priority. CASA volunteers comply with Arizona statutes, Arizona Rules of Court, Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court, administrative orders, rules, code, and program policies and procedures.

CASA volunteers gather and provide independent, factual information to aid the court in making its decision regarding what is in the child's best interest. CASA volunteers provide advocacy to ensure that appropriate services are identified and service needs are provided for the child.



CASA of Arizona's response to working with youth who are possible victims of sex trafficking will be to provide regional trauma-informed, victim-centered training for CASA volunteers through a collaborative effort with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family and Arizona State University. CASA volunteers will be prepared to advocate in court for appropriate service needs for the youth.

## Family Advocacy Centers (FAC)/Child Advocacy Centers (CAC)

Family and child advocacy centers emphasize a victim-centered, multidisciplinary response to the broader problem of child abuse, of which commercial sexual exploitation of youth is a subset. Youth who are suspected victims of sex trafficking are referred to advocacy centers by law enforcement and/or the Department of Child Safety/ Office of Child Welfare Investigations personnel for comprehensive and coordinated investigations that lead to stronger criminal and civil cases. Center personnel comply with the Child Abuse Joint

Advocacy Centers hold regularly scheduled MDT case reviews to identify successful responses as well as to identify gaps in service or requisite follow-up.

## Investigations Protocol.

Advocacy Center staff also facilitate comprehensive services (i.e. medical, mental/behavioral health, advocacy), for youth and secondary victims such as non-offending family members - irrespective of case disposition. Advocacy Centers hold regularly scheduled MDT case reviews to identify successful responses as well as to identify gaps in service or requisite follow-up. The numbers and types of professionals on-site at advocacy centers differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. FAC or CAC staff may coordinate MDT case reviews of potential or confirmed trafficked youth, either as part of regularly scheduled case reviews or separately, as local needs and resources dictate. Advocacy Centers that are facilitating case reviews involving trafficked youth will establish a clear procedure for scheduling and review of these cases. (See Appendix A for a sample case review checklist).

All FAC or CAC personnel who interact with trafficked victims should receive specialized training in trauma-informed responses/care, along with specialized training in human trafficking as related to their particular discipline (i.e. investigations, forensic interviewing, victim advocacy, medical assessments, etc.).

## Juvenile Court

Youth come to the attention of the juvenile court through several different legal processes including delinquency, dependency, and guardianship as well as requests for information and resources from the public.

To develop the capacity for recognizing signs and symptoms for potential youth sex trafficking, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will provide:

- Basic training on youth sex trafficking for staff who directly interact with the public.
- Advanced curriculum for county sex trafficking specialists and for commissioners and judges who hear juvenile cases.
- Related trauma informed training for all stakeholders.

## Juvenile Probation

The Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) is committed to supporting the MDT. Each county has a designated sex trafficking specialist who has received specialized training to enable them to respond to questions and to assist with coordination of resources. Additionally, AOC staff have been identified to act as a liaison between the AOC and the counties providing additional support and resources.

At any point in the system, juveniles may be presented as suspected or confirmed victims of sex trafficking.

- For confirmed victims:
  - immediately report any signs of trauma to clinic nurse
  - nurse shall ask only the identification questions
  - contact law enforcement
  - police officer will transport to ER if necessary
  - probation officer/detention officer will flag the identified minor in JOLTSAZ

Law enforcement must be cognizant of the needs of the victim and their rights as victims of crime, as well as the responsibilities of other organizations involved in the treatment, support and recovery of the victim.



All hospitals, Emergency Departments and urgent care centers will develop policies regarding youth sex trafficking.

- For suspected victims:
  - staff will ask only the screening questions
  - staff will report to their supervisor and the county sex trafficking specialist
  - staff will document information and file where required (JOLTSAZ)
- If the youth is not detained, juvenile probation personnel will follow the same procedure outlined above.

Upon investigation, a youth may not be determined to be a victim of sex trafficking; however, that should not rule out the possibility of Adverse Childhood Experiences that produce not only trauma, but oftentimes negative behavior. The probation officer/detention officer should consider further referrals for assessment with trained clinicians.

### Law Enforcement

The purpose of law enforcement's response to allegations of youth sex trafficking is to determine if a crime has been committed and to bring to light those facts and circumstances necessary to successfully prosecute the perpetrator. While pursuing the criminal investigation, law enforcement must be cognizant of the needs of the victim and their rights as victims of crime, as well as the responsibilities of other organizations involved in the treatment, support and recovery of the victim. In responding to criminal allegations of sex trafficking, law enforcement should:

- Make best efforts to comply with the Child Abuse Joint Investigations Protocol.
- Work with the victim advocate as appropriate to determine the best immediate response for the victim to ensure the youth's safety, including whether or not the youth requires protective custody.
- Report all sex trafficking cases to the Department of Child Safety that fall within statutory parameters as set forth in the "Child Welfare" section of this document.
- Conduct a victim-centered investigation (e.g., Family Advocacy Center MDT investigation).
- Provide an officer with advanced sex trafficking training as lead investigator in sex trafficking cases.
- Assess and document any evidence of psychological trauma, coercion and/or physical or other abuse, determine if emergency medical evaluation or treatment is needed, and arrange for such evaluation and treatment.

### Medical Services

All hospitals, Emergency Departments and urgent care centers will develop

policies regarding youth sex trafficking. These policies at minimum should address the following:

- Trauma-informed training for all incoming medical providers, as well as nursing and clinical staff to recognize the indicators for sex trafficking in order to improve the identification of victims. Ongoing training provided as needed.
- Process for reporting victims to DCS and/or law enforcement once a victim is suspected.
- Educating staff on regional resources for training and victim services including centers capable of SANE exams.
- Acute care response for victims where a medical forensic exam is appropriate. Medical sites lacking personnel with medical forensic exam training should consider developing a protocol to refer/transfer patients to sites with forensic examiners, who have specialized training and clinical preparation for medical care and potential evidence collection with sexual assault, domestic violence, and strangulation patients.

All medical training programs in the state are strongly encouraged to build in curricula that would encompass training to recognize indicators for sex trafficking and improve the identification of victims. These programs would include but not be limited to medical schools, nursing schools, nurse practitioner and physician assistant schools.

Long-term follow up with primary care providers and mental health services should be anticipated and referrals made when the acute issues are stable.

## Prosecutors

County prosecutors are responsible for the filing of charges and prosecution of all felony crimes within a specific county, all juvenile crimes, and misdemeanor offenses from unincorporated areas. The practice and approach of prosecuting attorneys differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Prosecutors should use a collaborative approach to all cases involving sex trafficking. This approach includes consulting with law enforcement, advocates, and service providers to ensure that victims receive the full spectrum of services available in the community, and to ensure an appropriate disposition of any criminal case involving sex trafficking.

For a youth identified as trafficked, alternatives to incarceration should be considered and acted upon whenever possible.

All prosecutors who handle sex trafficking cases should receive specialized training related to the investigation and prosecution of such cases.

## Schools<sup>2</sup>

In order to build healthy learning environments, educators and school personnel must be knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of

All prosecutors who handle sex trafficking cases should receive specialized training related to the investigation and prosecution of such cases.

<sup>2</sup> This section was adapted from Human Trafficking in America's Schools.

trafficking, ways to support disclosure, and the steps to take if there is a strong suspicion of trafficking. School personnel cannot, and should not, address these complex issues alone. Effectively responding to youth trafficking demands increased awareness and a clearly defined course of action, supported by collaboration with DCS, law enforcement, social services, and community-based service providers on the local Coalition.

Schools have several responsibilities regarding sex trafficking including:

- Increase staff awareness and educate staff on the indicators and the nature of the crimes.
- Increase parent and student awareness of the risks and realities of sex trafficking; and develop and clearly articulate district or school-wide policies on and protocols for identifying a suspected victim or responding to a disclosure from a suspected victim.
- Develop, adopt, enforce, and implement a policy to address youth sex trafficking and make sure all school personnel are properly trained on the policy.
- Make certain campus security is in place so that all visitors are screened.
- Provide programs and roles for parents and guardians to make them part of their children's safety and security, both at school and when travelling to and from school.
- Assess the environmental structure and take every possible step to help make it safe.
- Partner with local experts to provide a parent awareness program on the dangers and warning signs of child sex trafficking.
- Partner with local law enforcement agencies to protect the routes that students use to travel to and from schools.
- Sex education should address risk factors for child sex trafficking and prevention.

### Victim Advocate Agencies and Organizations

Victim advocates span across a broad range of agencies and organizations (e.g. Family Advocacy Centers; domestic violence shelters; medical settings, legal settings, faith-based organizations) and can include formal staff and volunteer positions. The role of the victim advocate is to stabilize basic needs, assess for strengths, determine services needed, and connect the youth with resources. Although there is some overlap in responsibilities, victim advocates in different settings often have distinct roles. Community-based and systems-based advocates have specialized training related to their role in the social and legal systems. Most community-based advocates are employed by domestic and sexual violence service providers and family advocacy centers. The purpose of community-based victim advocates is to serve the interests of the victim and provide services such as crisis intervention, accompaniment, and referrals. Systems-based victim advocates are employed by government entities such as the prosecutor's office and law

The role of the victim advocate is to stabilize basic needs, assess for strengths, determine services needed, and connect the youth with resources. Although there is some overlap in responsibilities, victim advocates in different settings often have distinct roles.



enforcement departments. The purpose of system-based advocates is to navigate and provide support for youth throughout the criminal justice process. Therefore, while some of the responsibilities overlap, these advocates have distinct functions. These similarities and differences in victim advocate responsibilities are detailed below.

The responsibilities of all victim advocates include:

- Describe the role of an advocate and the limitations of that role, including information on mandatory reporting requirements and confidentiality policies.
- Accompany the youth until they are under the care or supervision of another adult.
- Develop knowledge regarding local and national resources that could assist sex trafficked victims.
- Be familiar with local county protocols for investigation and prosecution of youth abuse and the roles of advocates on multi-disciplinary teams.
- Assist in developing the steps advocates will take when encountering a trafficked victim (e.g. U.S. citizen as compared to a foreign national; juveniles, etc.).
- Identify exploited youths and those at risk for exploitation, provide adult support to these youths at the point of initial contact and until they are under the care and supervision of another adult.
- Establish immediate rapport with the youth:
  - ask the youth about what happened to her/him
  - inquire about what the youth immediately wants and needs (medical care, help with addiction if in acute distress, etc.)
  - explain what the advocate is and is not able to do or provide, including requirements for mandatory reporting and the extent to which shared information can be held confidentially
  - explain the process, their options, and rights, as well as what next steps will likely occur
- Participate as a member of the MDT. Advocates may assume responsibility for convening and facilitating the work of the MDT within 24 hours of contact with the victim, and maintaining MDT activities related to any given case overtime.
- Participate in regular multi-disciplinary team case reviews of trafficked victims as a vital member of the MDT response to the investigation, prosecution, and “wrap-around services” provided to trafficked juveniles.
- Offer community education, outreach, and professional trainings on youth sex trafficking.
- Provide support to reduce anxiety, including active listening, validating feelings, assisting survivors with calming intense emotions using techniques such as deep breathing and grounding in the present, and helping survivors discover their own strengths and positive resources.

The responsibilities of community-based advocates include:

- Refer victims to appropriate community service providers, such as crisis and other counseling, support groups, housing, and health and social services.
- Assess the needs of family/caregivers, if appropriate, and refer them to community services.
- Discuss safety needs and planning, such as maintaining separation from traffickers and addressing suicidal ideation and intent.
- Assess acute medical needs, including substance use/dependence/withdrawal
- Connect victims to culturally-responsive service providers (e.g., for victims who identify as LGBTQ, male, non-English speaking).

The responsibilities of systems-based advocates include:

- Provide victims with information and resources, including information about legal and court proceedings and their legal rights.
- Coordinate with other agencies in ensuring the youth's safety, and provide ongoing case management and support while the youth is involved with the legal system.
- Respond 24/7 to calls from law enforcement or other members of the community and arrive as quickly as possible to the location of the victim.
- Strategize with law enforcement, other MDT members, and others, as appropriate, to determine next steps including how to keep the youth safe.
- Refer to legal services and/or be legal advocates for victims and family, providing information about rights under state law, and accompanying victims and family members to legal appointments and court hearings.

## Victim Identification

Agencies participating in the development of regional a response to youth sex trafficking should have the following in place:

- All agency staff who work with youth should have specialized training in youth sex trafficking risk factors and knowledge regarding the indicators of victimization in order to properly identify victims.
- Staff should be trained on mandated reporting requirements, including coordination with law enforcement and to ensure integrity of the investigation process.
- Staff should be trained on trauma informed care and how to work with victims of a sex-related crime.
- Protocols should be developed that address appropriate medical care and treatment for victims as well as sexual assault medical forensic exams.
- Agencies should have established relationships with community advocates and key stakeholders such as presiding judges, prosecutors, youth service agencies and others who may assist in serving the victim.

Within each professional discipline, there are times when a youth will share information that falls within a mandated reporting obligation and requires law enforcement to be notified. When such a matter occurs it is critical to be mindful of key factors:

- All inquiries should be trauma-informed, recognizing that a youth may have experienced significant trauma that may impact the information he or she shares and how it is shared.
- Follow specific protocol that does not hinder law enforcement investigation or prosecution of criminal facts.
- Utilize only the questions below to obtain initial information for notifying law enforcement of a crime.
- Document in detail, the information you receive from the youth.

Interview-Mandated Reporting Questions	
Interview date:	Youth gender:
Youth name:	Interviewer name:
Youth age:	Interviewer gender:
Referrals made:	
Comments regarding referrals:	
Other:	
1. What happened?	
2. Who did this?	
3. Where were you when this happened?	
4. When did this happen?	
5. Where do you go to school?	

The five questions above intentionally limit the interview. The practitioner should NOT probe or ask for information beyond these questions, as they may impede an investigation by law enforcement. When it becomes apparent that a crime may have been committed, law enforcement and DCS need to be notified. Documenting your communication with the youth and observations is critical to relaying accurate information to the authorities. Youth often develop positive relationships with the professional adults they encounter. Youth in therapeutic services and involved in probation and detention may begin to feel confident enough to share their stories. When this occurs, the professional may need to inquire and obtain more specifics regarding the information shared. During these conversations, the professional may learn that the victimization of the youth may be current, or may have happened in the past. It is important to realize that this information may or may not have been previously reported to DCS or law enforcement. Once the professional is provided the initial information by the youth, the five questions listed above should be asked and documented prior to the call being made to law enforcement or DCS. Further discussion of the victimization should be avoided until law enforcement has had the opportunity to formally interview the youth. Coordination with law enforcement is essential so that the youth may continue to receive therapy or services, and law enforcement is enabled to proceed with their case against the trafficker.

When a belief that a youth has been sex trafficked exists, but the youth does not disclose, and no other evidence to support the belief exists, screening questions can be used to try to learn if the youth has been a victim of sex trafficking. To avoid utilization of a “tool” that is not validated, a small set of questions that are directly correlated to the experience of youth sex trafficking may be added to existing questionnaires.

These questions are as follows:

- Are you able to live on your own without assistance? If yes, how do you get the money for the things you need? If no, what kind of assistance do you need?
- Who are the people who help you? In what ways do people help you?
- Are you afraid of someone or something? Tell me about that.
- Are you worried or afraid for someone else? Tell me about that.
- Are you telling me everything about what has happened to you? If not, why?

- When you leave here who will you be with over the next hours? Over the next days?
- Do you think you will be in trouble for telling me your entire story? Tell me about that.
- Who would you be most comfortable talking to?
- If your best friend or family member were in your situation, would you want them helped?
- Have you ever runaway? If yes, what type of assistance did you need to live?

If a youth who is undocumented (unaccompanied alien youth) is found to be a victim of human trafficking, please contact your local office of the FBI or Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the numbers below. The youth will be placed in an ORR (Office of Refugee Resettlement) facility until he or she can return to his or her country of origin, can be placed with a family member, or may age out of ORR care at the age of 18. Any law enforcement should also contact the FBI or HSI/ICE in this situation (HSI/ICE: (602) 200-2200 and FBI: (623) 466-1999).

If a youth has not identified as a victim and if the interviewer suspects that he or she may be a victim, the provision of the following is suggested:

- Pamphlet or materials on sex trafficking awareness, steps to report, seek treatment, etc. (<http://endsextrafficking.az.gov>).
- Number for a 24-hour crisis hotline for trafficking victims (888-373-7888).
- Referral for therapy and other basic needs.
- Information to facilitate safety-planning and follow-up (e.g., victim advocate contact, investigator cell phone number).
- Provision of awareness material to family and friends of suspected victim when appropriate.



## Training Guidelines

All agencies that work directly or indirectly with children should ensure that their staff receive basic training on youth sex trafficking and how to identify trafficking victims. In addition to training on the regional response, sex trafficking specific training should be available at both the basic and advanced levels. The appropriate level of training will differ among participating agencies and individuals. For example, MDT members should have advanced training (8 hours), whereas Coalition members will need a basic level of training (8 hours).

It is recommended that a diverse group provide the training including sex trafficking survivors and social service, law enforcement, and service provider staff (medical, legal, etc.) and researchers. Trainers should have experience working with youth sex trafficking victims and must be experts on the training areas listed below.

Below are recommendations for basic and advanced youth sex trafficking curricula.

All agencies that work directly or indirectly with children should ensure that their staff receive basic training on youth sex trafficking and how to identify trafficking victims.

## Basic Curriculum

Target: All MDT and coalition members, law enforcement and others as applies

(8 hours)

- Social and cultural context of sexual exploitation
- Oppression, power, and privilege
- Gender construction; how this sets the stage for “supply and demand”
- Language and definitions
- Vulnerable populations and risk factors (individual, environment and social)
- Pathways into sex trafficking (runaways, homelessness, recruitment, etc.)
- Sub-culture of sex trafficking (language, indicators, rules)
- Types of exploitation (traffickers, gangs, families, LGBTQ)
- Internet based tools and predators
- Identification and red flags
- Recruitment, grooming and “turning out”
- Laws (state, federal and Safe Harbor movement/mandatory reporter training)
- Mental health impacts and trauma bonding
- Basic screening questions
- Challenges to exiting for victims
- Medical issues and physical health
- Engagement with sexually exploited youth
- Understanding priorities of sexually exploited youth
- Basic and on-going needs
- Stages of change (how to use with this population)
- Trauma-informed perspective for sex trafficking-focused treatment
- Best practices of innovative interventions for sex trafficking victims
- How multidisciplinary teams functions
- Connecting to on-going therapeutic services and building a support network for each youth

## Advanced Curriculum

Target	Hours
<p><b>Group 1:</b> Direct Service Providers (advocates, social services, nurses, counselors, mental health providers)</p>	<p><b>8 hours</b>                      Trauma responses (PTSD, aggression, learned helplessness, cognitive difficulties)                      Identity and subculture issues (street persona vs. authentic self)                      Trauma bonding                      Cognitive issues (educational and intellectual deficits)                      Assessments of sex trafficking , GAIN, PTSD, crosswalk)                      Interventions (motivational interviewing, trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy, case management)                      Legal advocacy and detention based services                      Employment/vocational services                      Education and Life skills services                      Residential services and considerations                      Mandatory reporter</p>
<p><b>Group 2:</b> Judges, law enforcement serving on the MDT, prosecutors, probation and detention staff, and others.</p>	<p><b>3.5 hours</b>                      Not a “typical” victim                      Identifying sexual exploitation/trafficking in the field                      Evidence collection                      Screening and Interviewing sexually exploited youth and perpetrators                      Trends (technology, where youth are taken to “work”, gangs)                      Working with other systems/providers to build cases                      Challenges to exiting sex trafficking situations                      Recruitment and retention techniques of the sex traffickers                      Laws and legal tools (one-part consent exception)                      Best practices for working with sex trafficking victims                      Diversions                      Best practices with probation and supervision services with sexually exploited youth</p>

## Understanding Youth Sex Trafficking

To better understand youth sex trafficking, the MDT is encouraged to collect data that have the potential to inform the region on characteristics of victims and factors that place youth at risk for sex trafficking. Data collection supports several needs, including supporting law enforcement and prosecutors in pursuing predators, tailoring services to meet the needs of victims, and the support of grant writing. Although data collection is not mandatory, should the MDT choose to collect data, the following data elements are recommended:

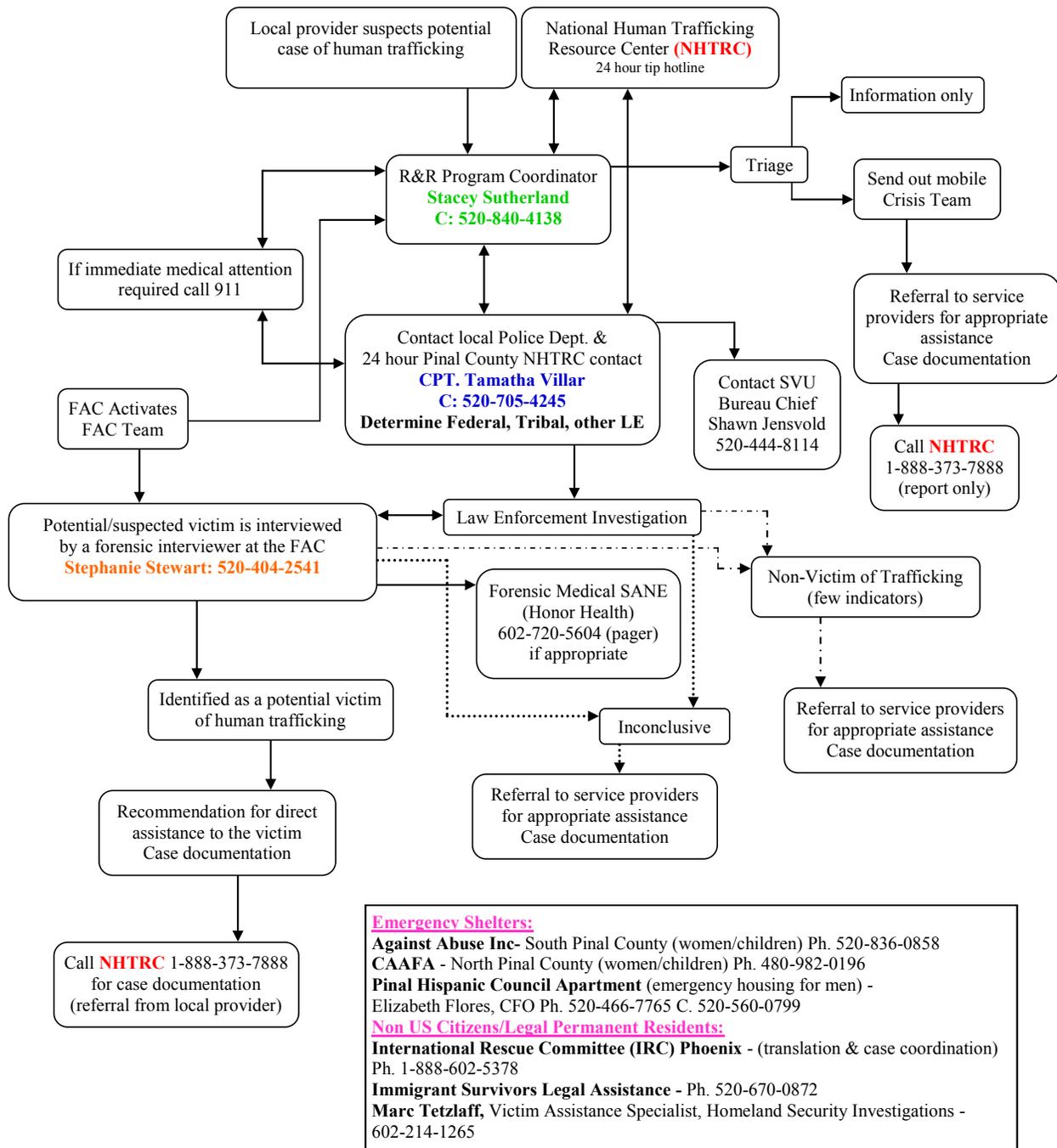
- Where the youth was located
- Where the youth originated from
- Age, gender affiliation, race/ethnicity, tribal affiliation of the youth
- Youth's trafficking history
- Relationship of youth to his/her guardian
- Status of youth's parents
- Prior involvement with child welfare
- Youth/family involvement with law enforcement
- Youth's living situation (with parents, with trafficker, in foster care, homeless/street involved)
- Involvement with a gang
- Locations where victim has been trafficked
- Legal status (foreign national/country of origin)
- Number of arrests and charges
- Age at first arrest
- Number of times detained and reasons
- Probation status
- Federal material witness
- Youth's safety status
- School and grade level
- Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)
- Referred to or received sex trafficking specific services in past
- Sex trafficking specific services
- Is youth receiving or participating in any services/programs and, if so, which services/programs
- Substance abuse or mental health issues
- Physical and sexual health issues
- Disabilities
- Ever pregnant or parenting

Data collection supports several needs, including supporting law enforcement and prosecutors in pursuing predators, tailoring services to meet the needs of victims, and the support of grant writing.



## Appendix A. Sample MDT Flowchart and Case Review Checklist

### Potential Human Trafficked Victims in Pinal County EMERGENCY RESPONSE Victim - Adult



The project described is supported by Grant Number 90ZV0119-02 from the Office of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

## Pinal County Attorney's Office Family Advocacy Center MDT Case Review Checklist

### Preparation:

- Core MDT members, along with invited professionals (specific to particular case), confirmed participation prior to case review; If core team member not present, designated colleague has confirmed attendance
- Set Up Early – all equipment working; Telephones ready for telephonic participation of those who cannot attend in person;

### Case Review:

- Read Mission Statement
- Our Mission Statement  
The Pinal County Attorney's Office Family Advocacy Centers (FACs) mission is to "protect and empower our most vulnerable by providing a victim-centered, team approach to investigating and prosecuting crimes of personal violence while facilitating recovery and healing of crime victims." The FAC embraces the guiding principles of: 1) no single individual or agency has the skills, knowledge or resources to provide comprehensive assistance to crime victims and 2) irrespective of criminal justice outcomes, victims must be provided resources to restore their lives and futures.
- Read Confidentiality Agreement
- Advise group that signing the sign-in sheet is an acknowledgement that they will abide by the Confidentiality Agreement
- Remind group that we do not take notes, phones off and no texting of information during the review
- If members are present by phone, ask them to acknowledge verbally their agreement to the Confidentiality Agreement

- General presentation format (revised as needed):
  - A. Law Enforcement
  - B. DCS/OCWI
  - C. Forensic Interviewer
  - D. Medical Provider
  - E. Victim Advocate
  - F. Prosecutor
  - G. Mental Health Provider
  - H. Juvenile Probation/Courts
  - I. Any other professionals/specialists (i.e. school; cultural specialist, etc.)
    - Check with each member of the core MDT and other invited professionals to determine if they have anything to add regarding the case
    - Educational component – 15 minute presentation from team member regarding research or “practice item” related to the case that the team can learn from (i.e. medical findings; effective interview method, unaccompanied alien minor procedures, etc.)
- Recap what worked well
- What things we may need to consider doing differently
- Any follow-up needed (Specify who will be doing what and when)

## Appendix B. Sample Memoranda of Understanding

Sample Memorandum of Understanding

### Regional Youth Sex Trafficking Coalition

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the understanding between the partners listed and signing below.

#### Purpose

The goal of the [insert locality name here] Regional Youth Sex Trafficking Coalition is to raise awareness and to foster a coordinated community response to sex trafficking.

#### Protocols

Members to this MOU incorporate by reference the Arizona Guidelines for Developing a Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking. Members further agree to implement the core principles, roles and responsibilities set forth therein to the best of their ability.

#### Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of the partners. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the partners and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

Date: _____	Date: _____
Signature: _____	Signature: _____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Organization: _____	Organization: _____
Position: _____	Position: _____

Date: _____	Date: _____
Signature: _____	Signature: _____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Organization: _____	Organization: _____
Position: _____	Position: _____

Date: _____	Date: _____
Signature: _____	Signature: _____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Organization: _____	Organization: _____
Position: _____	Position: _____

## Sample Memorandum of Understanding

### Regional Youth Sex Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the partners listed and signing below.

#### Purpose

The Regional Youth Sex Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is a small group of professionals responsible for immediate consultation and investigation and prosecution of sex trafficking cases as they arise, and for longer-term follow-up on a case-by-case basis as needed.

#### Protocols

Members to this MOU incorporate by reference the Arizona Guidelines for Developing a Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking. Members further agree to implement the core principles, and roles and responsibilities set forth therein to the best of their ability.

#### Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of the partners. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the partners and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

Date: _____	Date: _____
Signature: _____	Signature: _____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Organization: _____	Organization: _____
Position: _____	Position: _____

Date: _____	Date: _____
Signature: _____	Signature: _____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Organization: _____	Organization: _____
Position: _____	Position: _____

Date: _____	Date: _____
Signature: _____	Signature: _____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Organization: _____	Organization: _____
Position: _____	Position: _____



## **The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family**

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF) creates a brighter future for youth and families by providing Arizona with programming, resources and expertise.

GOYFF is staffed by individuals dedicated to improving the lives of all individuals in our state and our communities.

For more information about the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, please visit:  
**[GOYFF.AZ.gov](http://GOYFF.AZ.gov)**

## **ASU Center for Child Well-Being**

Through ASU's Center for Child Well-Being, faculty researchers and students will support, sustain and improve services to children and families. This commitment will be achieved through study of emerging best practices, evaluation focused on system improvement, and infusion of learning to build capacity and knowledge within the field of child welfare and well-being.

For more information about the center for child well-being, please visit:  
**[child-wellbeing.asu.edu](http://child-wellbeing.asu.edu)**

**[EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov](http://EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov)**



Governor's Office  
of Youth, Faith and  
Family