



TIP SHEET

FOR MOVERS

Additional information to help those in the moving and storage industry identify human trafficking as a part of their regular job.

RED FLAG INDICATORS

There are four main scenarios in which moving companies may be exposed to human trafficking. Below we have broken down each and listed some specific red flag indicators for each one. If human trafficking is ever suspected, please make an anonymous call to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888 (US) or 1-833-900-1010 (CAN). If you are witnessing a crime in progress, please call 911.

ON THE ROAD

Whether the van operator is an OTR driver, or operating regionally/locally, many of the same red flags apply:

- Any time you see a minor engage in a commercial sex act
- Any time you believe you are witnessing someone under the control of a pimp, regardless of the age or gender of the victim
- If a passenger vehicle pulls into the truck parking area of a rest area or truck stop and multiple people (usually females) get out of the vehicle and begin going from truck to truck
- Any time you hear a suspected victim mentioning that they have to make a quota
- People that seem to have a lack of knowledge of their surroundings or area
- Someone that appears to have restricted or controlled communication or is unable to speak for her/himself
- Suspected victims that have signs of branding (tattooing that would indicate ownership of a particular trafficker)

SEX TRAFFICKING: RESIDENTIAL BROTHEL OR HOME OF EXPLOITATION

Movers may have the opportunity to witness signs of human trafficking taking place at a residential brothel or home of exploitation by either physically entering the home or noticing red flags going on in a neighborhood in which you are working. Red flags may look like:

Within the home of the job:

- Evidence of bedrooms with locks on the outside of the door
- An unusual amount of pornographic material or pornographic material that is overt and in your face
- Evidence of lots of condoms (either new or used), especially in rooms that appear to be bedrooms of minor children
- Evidence of video equipment in bedrooms or closets adjacent to bedrooms, especially bedrooms of minors
- Overt evidence of drugs and/or weapons
- Children that, when engaged, are not shy about using explicit language or bragging about sexual activity
- Potential victims that have signs of branding

Example: An adult survivor who had been a child victim of sex trafficking noted that her mother (also her trafficker) once arranged for movers to pack and move their family home. The survivor noted that there would have been multiple used condoms in the bathroom adjoining her otherwise normal-looking bedroom, which was obviously decorated to the taste of a little girl. She also noted that in the storage room connected to her bedroom there were tons of video equipment, which was used throughout the course of her exploitation. There was also pornographic material all over the home. All of these would have been red flags. She went on to note that had any of the male movers dared to engage her in any kind of conversation, she would have likely made inappropriate comments and referenced explicit sexual activity that would not have been normal for a child of her age. No one did attempt to engage her in communication, but even so, the evidence of red flags would have been clear.

In the neighborhood of the job:

- Lots of traffic (typically men) in and out of one particular residence over the course of the move
- Extreme security measures at that particular home that appear out of place

SEX TRAFFICKING: HOME OCCUPIED BY A TRAFFICKER AND THE WOMEN THEY ARE EXPLOITING

Movers may also have the opportunity to notice human trafficking red flags if the job they are at is the home of the trafficker and his victim(s). In these situations, red flags may be:

- Evidence of drugs/weapons
- Evidence of porn and/or lots of condoms
- A house with minimal furniture, especially in the bedrooms
- Bedrooms that lack any personality or personal effects of the occupant
 - Does the occupant seem like a guest in the home?
 - Is the room sparsely furnished with perhaps only a suitcase of clothes in the room or the closet?
- Windowless bedrooms or odd traffic patterns to the home (i.e., victims occupying back bedrooms that would have to pass by another bedroom that the suspected trafficker may occupy)
- Multiple women's clothing either in one bedroom or all bedrooms
 - Traffickers have also been known to keep the nicer, "working" clothes of their victims within their own bedrooms, so that they can dictate what a woman wears before going out
- Multiple women in the home at the time of the move, perhaps trying to sleep during the mid-day move
- Potential victims that have signs of branding

LABOR TRAFFICKING: EVIDENCE OF DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Red flag indicators of potential labor trafficking may look like:

- A bedroom or area separate from the rest of the family home that appears to be in a different condition (i.e., different standard of living, cleanliness, number of personal effects, etc.) than the other family bedrooms
 - Is there a mattress on the floor (or substandard arrangement) in the basement or garage that appears to be the bedroom area of a particular “family member”?
 - Are there multiple people living in close quarters that seem to have a different standard of living than other people in the household?
- Evidence of excessive security at the home
- A bedroom or part of the home that has a lock on the outside of the room, rather than the inside
- Evidence that appears to indicate the person is only a guest in the home
- Certain people at the property who are not as engaging as others in the family, as if they have been told not (or are unable) to communicate with the movers

TAKEAWAYS

It is important to remember that this crime knows no racial, gender, or socioeconomic bounds when it comes to who could be the victims and also who could be the perpetrators. Traffickers have been known to like to live in gated communities, as it helps to control the flow of access to the home, both in and out. We also have evidence of trafficking taking place in otherwise regular neighborhoods: it does not have to be “the slum,” and it does not have to be a million-dollar home ... but it could be happening in each, and in every kind of home in between.

One red flag on its own may not mean anything, but if you are noticing multiple red flags or other parts of the story don’t add up, please make an immediate call to the national hotline.

We recognize that movers are not social workers, nor are we asking you to be. But if things don’t add up and multiple red flag indicators are present, please take a second look and be willing to make a call.