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| **Judicial System**  This may be your first involvement with law enforcement or the judicial system. It is very common for people to expect what they have seen on television or movies to apply to their current circumstances. Unfortunately, these expectations are often unrealistic or a distorted snapshot of how things truly operate.  There are laws and regulations in place aimed at protecting human trafficking victims. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and other federal, state, and local programs, victims can be granted special protections. For cases involving prosecution, court advocates can provide information, education, and support that will help reduce your fears and uncertainties.  Criminal case resolution by plea agreement is a practice that is often utilized. This may mean that the defendant pleads guilty to a less serious charge, or to one of the several charges, in return for the dismissal of other charges; or it may mean that the defendant will plead guilty to the original criminal charge in return for a more lenient sentence Through both negotiation and agreement, this approach to resolution can prevent the need for your testifying in court.  Education and information about how the judicial system works, your rights, and your role can help you navigate these processes. | |  | | --- | | **Who Can Help?**  [*Agency*] Victim Services can assist you with information regarding victims’ rights, Crime Victim Compensation, case status, navigation of the criminal justice system, and referrals to the appropriate community resources or helping professionals or organizations according to your specific needs.  **Resources**  Local Resources  [*Insert state Crime Victims’ Compensation information*]  [*Insert other relevant local resources*]  National Resources  **National Human Trafficking Hotline**  1-888-373-7888  [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)  **U.S. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign**  [www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign)  This publication was produced under [*Grant Number*] awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this draft publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.  [*Revision Date*] | | |  | | --- | | **Human Trafficking**  **[*Agency*] Victim**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Services**  **[*address*]**  **[*phone number*]**  **[*Insert Agency logo*]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  Name/ID Number:  Direct Number: | |
| **You May Be a Victim if…**  The Department of Justice defines human trafficking as exploiting a person through forced labor, trafficking with respect to peonage (forcing someone to work to pay off debt), slavery, or involuntary servitude, and sex trafficking of children or of others by force, fraud, or coercion.1  You may be a victim of human trafficking if someone has:   * Forced you to work against your will. * Collected a debt by using threats or forcing you to work to pay the debt. * Forced you to work using threats to harm you and/or your family. * Forced or pressured you into prostitution or to do other sexual acts. * Taken away your passport, birth certificate, or identification card to intimidate and control your movements.   **Immigration Relief**  Victims can be trafficked within or outside the borders of the United States. If you are not a legal resident of the United States, you may be able to stay in the United States for a certain period, depending on your individual circumstances. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, victims of trafficking can apply for special visas or be eligible for other forms of immigration relief.  The law provides certain legal benefits and services for those who assist federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the crime.  It is important to talk to an immigration attorney or community organization that can advise you about your choices. [*Agency*] Victims Services can help connect you to valuable resources in the community and provide you with referrals to a no- or low-cost attorney.  1 U.S. Department of Justice, “[Human Trafficking](https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking)” (2018). | **Common Reactions**  As a victim, you may experience a number of feelings and physical reactions including:   * Feelings of embarrassment * Feelings of guilt or shame * Intrusive/ruminating thoughts (mind wandering, flashbacks to the event, or sense of reliving event) * Nightmares * Avoidance of places/activities/people that remind you of the trauma * Mood swings (sudden and unprovoked fear, anger, crying, irritability, hyperactivity) * Poor concentration * Forgetfulness or memory lapses * Difficulty showing emotion * Inability to recall important aspects of trauma * Disinterest in previously enjoyable activities * Exaggerated startle response * Change in sleeping or eating patterns * Lack of energy   If these reactions are impacting your quality of life, you may want to seek counseling to help you cope with your experiences.  **What May Help**  Although reactions to a traumatic event can be expected, the following tips may help:   * Refrain from excessive substance use. * Engage in regular physical activity when you can do so. * Maintain a proper diet. * Get regular rest. * Continue contact with colleagues, friends, and family—people who will listen supportively. * Be honest with yourself regarding your stress level and your ability to cope. | **Services Available to**  **Victims of Trafficking**  Victims of human trafficking may need a variety of services. Getting connected to resources such as stable housing or medical services can help you cope. Talk to [*Agency*] Victim Services for information on federal, state, and local resources available to you. These may include:   * Food * Clothing * Housing * Medical services * Mental health services * Financial assistance * Employment assistance * Education assistance * Protection during criminal investigations and trials   **Benefits of Counseling**  When it is safe to do so, consider speaking to a counselor. Some benefits to seeking counseling:   * Coping skills and strategies can help you to continue daily activities and relationships. * Establishing a support network can help to decrease the negative physical, psychological, and emotional effects that often result from traumatic experiences. * In a confidential setting, you can discuss topics such as:   + Safety planning and options for the future.   + The event and how it made you feel.   + Legal and judicial decisions. |