



State of South Carolina
Department of Social Services

Work Aid 16.2: Trafficking Screening Tool

Supplemental to DSS Policy 1600: Recognizing and Serving Child Trafficking Victims
Chapter 16 – Special Topics

A. Overview of the Screening Tool	1. All programs areas shall use DSS Form 1544: Child Trafficking Screening Tool to assess a youth. • DSS Form 1544: Child Trafficking Screening Tool contains a series of questions intended to determine if the alleged victim is a confirmed, high-risk, or at-risk for child trafficking (sex, labor, or both). 2. The tool shall be started after initial contact with the alleged victim. It can be used at any point during case management. 3. The tool shall be completed based on the knowledge of the youth's circumstances in addition to information gathered from other sources. 4. The tool shall not be used to question the youth. 5. The alleged victim should not see the screening tool or even be aware that this form exists. 6. Case managers shall: a. Pay attention to the terms used by potential victims to describe their experiences. b. Be aware that answering direct questions about sexual activities or even forced labor may be difficult for victims. 7. The tool may be used with various persons including, but not limited to, the youth, parents, caregivers, siblings, and other collateral contacts. 8. Inconsistent answers may be a response to trauma, not untruthfulness, as the person may not want to repeat distressing details or may have repressed them. 9. Each person and trafficking case is different. Thus, how the screening is applied should conform to the needs of each individual and case.
B. Completing the Form	1. The case manager completes the top portion of the DSS Form 1544: Child Trafficking Screening Tool (name, date, case ID, etc.). 2. Starting with the "Confirmed Victim" section of the form, the case manager selects the appropriate box or boxes under Sex Trafficking and/or Labor Trafficking.

3. If more than three boxes are checked beneath sections for sex and/or labor trafficking, the youth is considered high risk. If one or two boxes are checked, the youth is considered at risk.
 - a. For Box 1, Confirmed Victim of Sex Trafficking, the youth has made a disclosure about an exchange.
 - Victims will often not disclose. This does not mean the trafficking is not happening.
 - Reasons could include fear of perpetrator/trafficker, cultural or religious reasons, shame/embarrassment, do not see themselves as a victim nor the perpetrator as a perpetrator.
 - For youth under the age of 18, force, fraud, or coercion is not required when a commercial sex act is involved.
 - b. For Box 2, Confirmed Victim of Sex Trafficking, law enforcement was able to confirm trafficking/exploitation.
 - c. For Box 3, Confirmed Victim of Sex Trafficking, the youth reported being forced or coerced for someone else's benefit.
 - d. For Box 1, Confirmed Victim of Labor Trafficking, the youth is employed and under the age of 14 years old.
 - e. For Box 2, Confirmed Victim of Labor Trafficking, the youth has been forced to work to pay off a debt.
 - The debt can belong to the youth, parent/caregiver(s), sibling(s), other family members, or other unrelated individuals.
 - f. For Box 3, Confirmed Victim of Labor Trafficking, the youth is working to pay someone for housing, legal documentation, or other expenses.
 - g. For Box 4, Confirmed Victim of Labor of Trafficking, the youth reported being forced to do different work than promised.
 - General risk indicators can be applied in both sex and labor trafficking.
4. Team leaders and case managers shall assess intervention services if there are multiple high-risk indicators.
5. The tool coincides with the FAST and CANS. High risk indicators on [DSS Form 1544: Child Trafficking Screening Tool](#) reflect on the victimization and exploitation portion of the other assessments.
6. The case manager uploads and links [DSS Form 1544: Child Trafficking Screening Tool](#) to CAPSS.
7. If a new incident occurs or additional arise, this information must be added to the tool and the case manager reuploads the updated document.