SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Identifying and Serving Child Trafficking Victims

A When Child/Youth Referred by Law Enforcement and Child/Youth is in Physical Custody of DSS (Foster Care and Adoptions)

If the child/youth is taken into emergency protective custody by law enforcement or by ex parte order of a family court judge and is suspected and/or identified as being a Child Trafficking Victim.

B When Child/Youth Referred by Outside Agency. (Shelter, Group Home, Hospital, etc.) and Child/Youth is Physical Custody of DSS (Foster Care and Adoptions)

If the child/youth self-reports, returns from running away or is referred by an outside agency and is suspected and/or identified as being a Victim of Child Trafficking.

C When Child/Youth Referred by Any Entity and Child/Youth is not in Physical Custody of DSS (Family Preservation)

Call local Law Enforcement within 24 hours.

Take the child/youth to the local ER for a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or acute medical examination within 12 hours of taking physical custody. For victims of Sex Trafficking, the Case Manager should request that the child/youth has a thorough examination including testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and birth control options, if appropriate.

Confirm with law enforcement that the FBI and SLED (803-737-9000) have been notified if the child/youth is trafficked across state lines. If the FBI has not been contacted, contact the FBI field office in Columbia, SC at 1-803-551-4200. They will direct you to your local FBI field office.

Consult with Regional Clinical Specialist regarding an appropriate placement and communicate RCS recommendation to placement unit prior to making initial placement.

Complete DSS Form 3010-Critical Incident Reporting, and forward to County Director with the appropriate Incident Category for Sex Trafficking.

Notify the Office of Child Health and Well-Being via email within 24 hours at: childtrafficking@dss.sc.gov

Pertinent Information

(Non-citizens who are Victims of Child Trafficking)

For children who have been identified as a Victim of Child Trafficking and a Non-citizen, the Case Manager should do the following:

1. Notify the Office of Child Health and Well-Being within 24 hours to assist in establishing child eligibility for federal benefits including Medicaid and IV-E funds. The Office of Child Health and Well-Being will complete the "Request for Assistance for Child Victims of Human Trafficking Form."

2. Case Manager will staff all trafficking cases of Non-citizens within 5 business days with the county attorney and the Managing Attorney County Operations.

**If the child/youth is determined not eligible for Medicaid or if the service is not covered by Medicaid, the the child/youth is entitled to the same medical, dental, vision and behavioral health services that a child/youth on Medicaid is entitled to receive.*

If the foster child/youth is a Non-citizen, please contact the office of Child Health and Well-Being by emailing: childtrafficking @dss.sc.gov

A child/youth is a Non-citizen if they do not have a U.S. Birth Certificate, U.S. Passport, or Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization.

The child/youth could qualify for full or partial Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and Chafee or Educational and Training Voucher Funds coverage in certain situations. The Foster Care Health Liaison will work with the SC Department of Health and Human Services to solve Medicaid's eligibility issues.

If the child/youth is not eligible for Medicaid coverage or the service is not covered by Medicaid or the Managed Care Organization contact the Foster Care Liaison by emailing: **childhealthandwellbeingappeals@dss.sc.gov**, to determine whether an appeal should be filed.

If the child/youth is suspected or identified as a Non-citizen, the Case Manager will contact DHS and ICE.

Complete, scan, and upload DSS Form 1544 Child Trafficking Screening Tool into CAPSS under the Case ID. This form is not to be used as an interview tool, but rather an assessment of information known about the child/youth.

Document in CAPSS via the "Characteristic" section of the "Person" screen if the child/youth was not initially identified as a Victim of Child Trafficking.

Staffing Protocol

1. **Summarize** and discuss the child/youth's case.
2. **Assess** safety and well-being in current placement.
3. **Monitor** progress towards permanency goal and identify specific action steps to achieve permanency.
4. **Assess** all placement options, including potential kinship placements if secure and meet the needs of the child/youth
5. **Assess** placement with and positive connections to siblings, if appropriate.
6. **Receive** feedback from Department of Justice, Child Advocacy Center, SLED, and other provider agencies staff that support the child/youth.
7. **Track** and monitor ongoing staffing and respond to recommendations.
8. **Update** the results of the staffing in CAPSS Dictation.