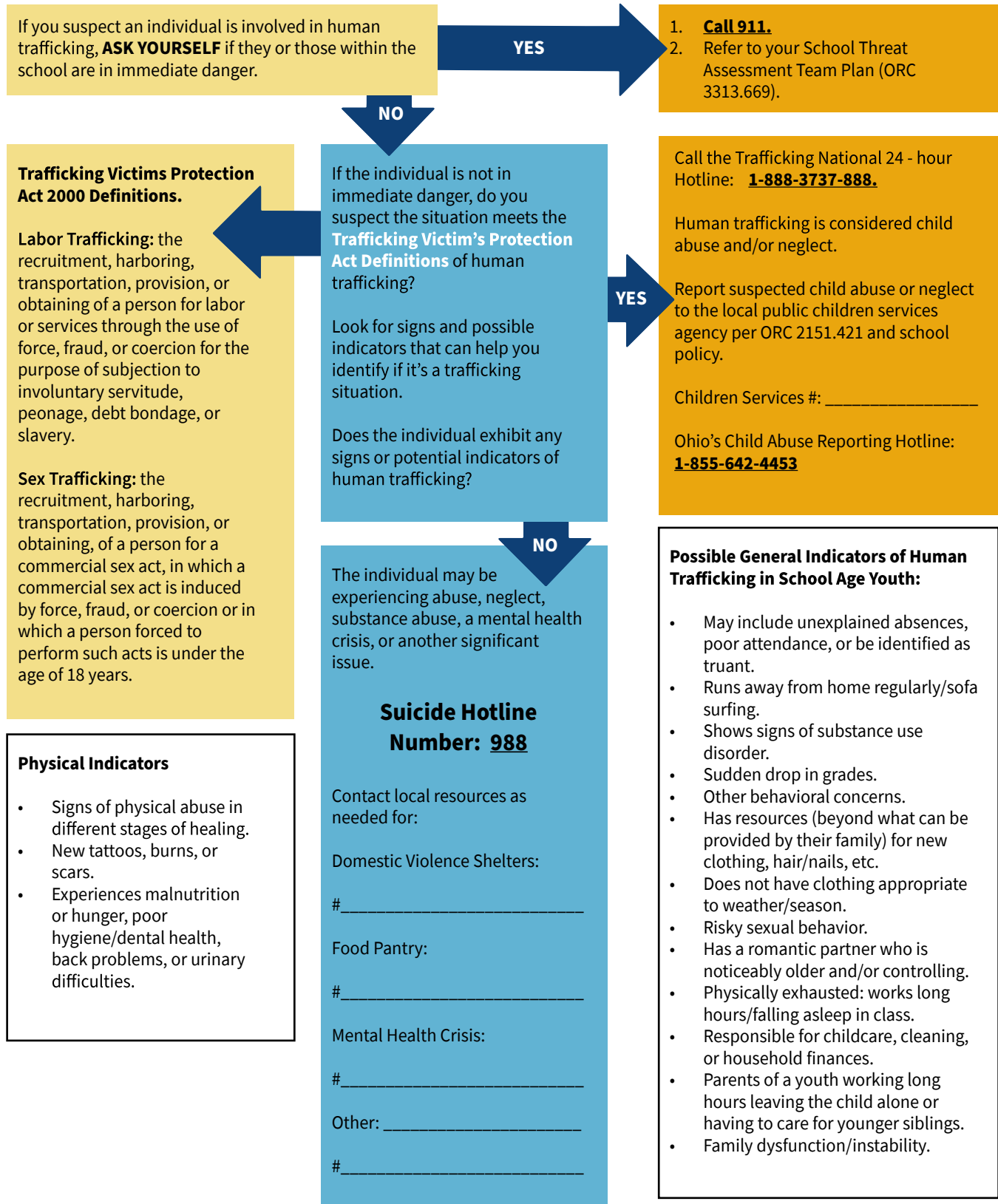


Ohio School Nurse Human Trafficking Observing and Reporting Protocol



“Human Trafficking Knows No Boundaries”

Not all youth see themselves as being trafficked, victimized, or in abusive situations. Some do not recognize that they are unsafe and may not want to be rescued from their situation. They may see their trafficker/abuser as the only person who cares for/loves them or provides for them. Telling them they are abused or that the trafficker is endangering them- instead of them telling you- may put the youth on the defensive or increase their loyalty to the trafficker/abuser. NOTE: The trafficker/abuser may be the parent, guardian, family member, another student, teacher, boyfriend, girlfriend, coach, or anyone in their life. A trafficker will coerce students to work for them in return for anything of value such as clothing, cosmetics, shelter, money, drugs, etc.

Human trafficking can happen to anyone. However, some youth are more vulnerable:

- Foster care.
- Gang involvement.
- LGBTQIA+.
- Previous abuse.
- Runaway/homeless.
- Substance abuse.

Pointers:

- Trust your intuition. It is better to be safe and risk being wrong about the situation than to ignore the signs and risk further harm to the individual.
- Slow down, take a deep breath, and establish trust with the youth.
- All discussions with the student and other professionals must be held in private.
- If youth is accompanied by someone, you can explain that “this part of the session is for the student only.” “I’ll come and get you in a few moments.”
- Meet immediate physical needs (a drink, snack, blanket, etc.).
- Consider asking - “Are you OK? I am concerned about you.”
- If the youth does not disclose, respect the “no” and don’t push. Be sure to let them know you are a safe person to talk to if they need to.
- Explain the limits of confidentiality (important with a minor — mandated reporting).
- Document your concerns and what is shared by the individual.

If the youth answer yes to any of these questions, they are either a victim of sex or labor trafficking or at high risk.

- Do you have to provide for your own basic needs?
- Does anyone force you to do work (job, sell drugs, etc.) that you don’t want to be doing?
- Does anyone force you to have sex with other people?
- Do you ever trade sex for anything you need or want (like drugs, money, a place to stay, etc.)?

If you have a suspicion of any form of abuse/exploitation/trafficking, ask no further questions. Report.

Key messages for youth:

- This is a safe place.
- Thank you for being willing and having the courage to talk with me today.