



Children's Commission.

For Judges and Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

January 22, 2018

The Texas Response to Human Trafficking

Children and youth in foster care are at an increased risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, specifically child sex trafficking. January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Please reference the following information about related efforts.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) coordinates the statewide [Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force](#). The OAG task force is focused on the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking crimes. The OAG recently released a digital training tool entitled "[Be the One](#)," designed to improve victim identification.

The Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) focuses on strengthening supports for child sex trafficking survivors. Its mission is to protect, recognize, recover, restore, and bring justice to survivors. The Governor's Office has also launched an initiative to create care coordination teams around the state, starting in Houston and North Texas. These teams will coordinate all aspects of recovery from addressing basic needs to long term restorative services. For more information about the Governor's CSTT, please contact Andrea Sparks at Andrea.Sparks@gov.texas.gov.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and Texas Juvenile Justice Department will begin to use a new screening tool called the CSE-IT, which stands for Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool, to help identify victims and children at high risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking. Also, DFPS recently hired a Director of Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation. For more information on DFPS' goals, you can reference the recent Texas Tribune article interviewing the new Director [here](#).

There are also regional anti-trafficking coalitions throughout several areas in Texas, including East Texas, Central Texas, Heart of Texas, Alamo area, Houston, and Rio Grande Valley.

The Children's Commission Child Protection Law Bench Book includes a [chapter](#) and a [checklist](#) on human trafficking. The Children's Commission also provides periodic trainings on human trafficking.

Judges and attorneys are key partners in all of these efforts and can work to prevent and address trafficking by either joining an existing coalition or assessing the need for a local initiative. If you are interested in getting connected to statewide or local efforts to combat human trafficking, please contact children@txcourts.gov.

For more information about defining trafficking and identifying victims please reference a previous Jurist in Residence letter on [Foster Care and Human Trafficking](#).





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