



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner
Jaime Masters

Senate State Affairs Committee 2.26.20

HTCE Division supports the DFPS mission to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, through the development of policy, practices and identification of services that are:

- Survivor informed;
- Trauma Responsive;
- Victim Centered; and
- Evidenced-based where possible.

The DFPS HTCE division strives to:

- Strengthen continued compliance with all federal and state human trafficking mandates;
- Develop best practices in the prevention of trafficking; and
- Improve DFPS capacity in cases in which it has jurisdiction to identify, report, recover and support victims of trafficking in their restoration journey.

DFPS Jurisdiction

DFPS investigates allegations of sex trafficking (SXTR) and labor trafficking (LBTR) when the alleged perpetrator is traditionally responsible for a child or youth's care, custody, or welfare such as a family member, or an adult living in the home of an alleged minor victim.

Statewide Intake

Statewide Intake (SWI) will ensure that an intake is generated for all allegations of alleged child SXTR/LBTR by any person traditionally responsible for a child or youth's care, custody, or welfare. These intakes are prioritized and routed based on standard SWI assignment procedures, including making after hours notifications to on-call field staff when applicable. Law enforcement is automatically notified to ensure that they are aware of all allegations of human trafficking.

Definitions

Sex Trafficking

Compelling or encouraging the child in a manner to engage in sexual conduct that constitutes an offense of trafficking of persons under §20A.02(a)(7) or (8), Penal Code, prostitution under §43.02(b), Penal Code, or compelling prostitution under §43.05(a)(2), Penal Code.

Texas Family Code §261.001(1)(g)

Sex and Labor Trafficking

Knowingly causing, permitting, encouraging, engaging in, or allowing a child to be trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under [Section 20A.02\(a\)\(5\), \(6\), \(7\), or \(8\), Penal Code](#), or the failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent a child from being trafficked in a manner punishable as an offense under any of those sections.

Texas Family Code §261.001(1)(l)

SXTR: Penal Code Section §20A.02(a)(7), or (8)

LBTR: Penal Code Section §20A.02(a)(5), (6)

FY 2018 Data

In Fiscal Year 2018, a total of 52,397 children and youth were in DFPS conservatorship with 1,843 children and youth reported as missing at some point during the year. While missing, 105 reported experiencing some type of victimization (physical and/or sexual abuse) with 52 reporting being a victim of sex trafficking and less than 5 for labor trafficking.

- In Fiscal Year 2018, DFPS investigated 333 sex trafficking allegations resulting in 53 dispositions of “Reason to Believe”; 17 labor trafficking allegations resulting in zero dispositions of “Reason to Believe.”

Care Coordination Teams

The Office of the Texas Governor – Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT), Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. (CACTX), the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and local communities are establishing Care Coordination Teams (CCT) across the state to provide youth victims of sex trafficking with a continuum of care. CCT is made up of professional organizations in the community who provide services for trafficking victims, or who investigate and prosecute the trafficking cases. DFPS participates when the alleged victim is either within the jurisdiction of DFPS, alleged familial trafficking, or is in the conservatorship of DFPS.