



Child Trafficking Legislation

2

Three Significant Changes to the Code

§ 63.2-1508 Valid report or complaint.

§ 63.2-1506.1 Sex trafficking assessment by local departments.

§ 63.2-1517 Authority to take child into custody.



Child Trafficking Legislation

3

Expansion of Caretaker Status

§ 63.2-1508 Valid report or complaint.

B. A valid report or complaint regarding a child who has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as defined in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C § 7102 et seq.) and in the federal Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-22) **may** be established if the alleged abuser is the alleged victim child's parent, other caretaker, **or any other person suspected to have caused such abuse or neglect.**



Child Trafficking Legislation

4

Sex Trafficking Assessment

§ 63.2-1506.1 Sex trafficking assessment by local departments.

Universal Prevention Response

• Safety Assessment • Risk Assessment • Referrals for Services

The sex trafficking assessment is short-term intervention designed to assess the safety and risk factors associated with the child victim and his family/caretaker(s). It should be child-centered and family-focused by providing protective and rehabilitative services to the child and family. The sex trafficking assessment does not focus on the sex trafficker.



Child Trafficking Legislation

5

Temporary Hold of Child Victim

§ 63.2-1517 Authority to Take Child into Custody

- Agency may assume temporary custody (up to 72 hours) of child victim to ensure the child's immediate protection.
- Agency shall locate and notify the child's parents/guardians as soon as practicable and assess the parents/guardians' ability to protect the child.
- Agency shall obtain an ERO if they cannot safely return the child to the custody of his parents/guardians.



Preparation for Implementation

6

- Developed Program Guidance.
- Made System Enhancements to Child Welfare Information System.
- Conducted 5 Training Webinars.
- Convened Workgroup.



Child Trafficking Workgroup

7

- Focused on improving statewide response to child trafficking.
- Comprised of key stakeholders from public and private sectors.
- Meetings held in June, August, and October.
- Subcommittee of the Virginia Anti-Trafficking Coordinating Committee.



Impact on Child Welfare System

8

Six Human Trafficking Assessments

- Henrico (2), Loudon, Fairfax (2), and Wise
- Two of six youth were in foster care.
- One youth was from out-of-state.



One Human Trafficking Investigation

- Portsmouth



Recommendations for Improvements

9

- Resource Development
 - Clinical and Placement Services
 - Funding
- Cross-System Collaboration
- Code Change to § 63.2-1506.1
 - Change Sex Trafficking Assessment to Human Trafficking Assessment
- Code Change to § 63.2-1518
 - Add human trafficking assessment



Questions

10



