

**“An Introduction to... Human Trafficking”**  
**Dr. Seema Nanda & Grapevine CE LLC Presentation**  
*Texas Health and Human Services requirements for H.B. 2059*  
*Texas Optometry Board 1-Hour Continuing Education for Human Trafficking*

Mandatory Reporting for Minors:

- If the patient is a minor, report to:
  - Texas Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS)
    - Protected from liability when reporting & providing information in good faith
    - Not protected when reporting your own abuse or neglect of a child -OR-
    - Intentionally file a false report against someone else.  
(Texas family code, section 261.106)
  - Criminal offense!
    - Failure to report suspected child abuse & neglect
  - Call the 24-hour, toll-free abuse hotline at: **1-800-252-5400**
    - From anywhere in US
    - To report abuse or neglect in Texas.

Mandatory Reporting for Elderly or Disability:

- MUST report to DFPS when an elderly person OR person with a disability is being:
  - ABUSED, NEGLECTED, OR EXPLOITED
  - Misdemeanor or felony offense – if fail to report suspect abuse
    - If reporting abuse in good faith – immune from civil or criminal liability.
    - DFPS keeps name of the person making report confidential.
- If the patient is elderly or has disability:
  - **Texas Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400**
    - Toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, nationwide
  - **Online:** <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx>
    - Response within 24 hours
  - **Call 911** or local law enforcement agency in an emergency or life-threatening situation that must be dealt with immediately.
- Safety Protocol:
  - Include security or safety officer – if present in facility
  - Provide an area for victim to separate from trafficker, if they ask for help.
    - Private bathroom, visual field, or testing room.
    - Have poster in bathroom with National Human Trafficking Hotline phone number
  - Train your staff to use CODE words or phrase
    - Ex: “We need to change the batteries on the smoke detector.”
    - Implies – where there’s smoke, there’s FIRE! BE ALERT!
  - Have monthly staff meetings to remind and encourage

### Safety Concerns with Reporting:

- When aiding patients/clients concerned about reporting:
  - Offer both the child and adult: referrals, hotline numbers, and materials.
  - Ensure written materials will not jeopardize safety
  - Offer services, if they choose to return.
  - Schedule a follow-up visit, when possible.
  - Document injuries and treatments - info can be used in court proceedings.
- If victim not ready to accept assistance:
  - Validate and normalize patient's feelings
  - Provide information that they choose to act on later
  - Give referral information for help verbally and privately
    - Be mindful of any written material a trafficker may see.
  - Abide by state laws as a mandated reporter if the victim is a minor.
- Protect yourself and victim from physical violence.
  - If a child is in immediate danger – call 911.
  - Call National Human Trafficking hotline: 888-3737-888
  - Implications of Law Enforcement Involvement
  - Contact DFPS instead – Human Trafficking Hotline
    - Follow office policy reporting to law enforcement in situations of immediate, life-threatening danger: **Call 911**

### Importance of Organizational Protocols

- Creating Organizational Protocol:
  - PEARR Tool Trauma-Informed Approach
    - <https://www.dignityhealth.org/-/media/Documents/PEARRToolm7.ashx?la=en&hash=74777E2CFE9B7948DF422155CFDA3F61571E1423>
  - SET-UP in your clinical practice TODAY!
  - Can utilize toolkit from HEAL: Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage
    - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqbiPFdEAS29AwYTBOrD5Fdwmk810FMt5toomfXeVwAjp7PQ/viewform>
- Provide patient with options from Provider Guidebook:
  - Download: <https://hhs.Texas.Gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/safety/human-trafficking/provider-guidebook-services-victims-human-trafficking-texas.Pdf>
- Make necessary referral to social worker or other service provider as needed.
- Protect yourself and victim from physical violence.
- If a child is in immediate danger – call 911
  - Call National Human Trafficking hotline: 888-3737-888
- National Human Trafficking Hotline: **888-3737-888**
- State & Local Resources to Collaborate With:

- Crime Stoppers: **800-222-TIPS**
  - [https://crime-stoppers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CrimeStoppers\\_Human-Trafficking-Awareness\\_2020.pdf](https://crime-stoppers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CrimeStoppers_Human-Trafficking-Awareness_2020.pdf)
  
- Unbound Houston
  - Prevention & Awareness
  - Professional Training
  - Survivor Advocacy
  - Contact Hotline: 346-202-4299
  - Office: 346-313-7664
  - [www.unboundhouston.org](http://www.unboundhouston.org)
  
- Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition
  - <https://www.hothtc.org/>
  
- Childproof America :
  - Empowers families against sex trafficking.
    - To educate, equip and empower America's parents in protection & defense of children
    - To improve quality of aid to impacted families.
  - Provide legislative pathways to enforce harsh penalties to those violating the innocence of children.
  - <https://childproofamerica.org/about>
  
- "Children of the Night"
  - **800-551-1300**
  - <https://www.Childrenofthenight.org>
  
- ACF Victim Services:
  - Services available to anyone:
  - <https://www.Acf.Hhs.Gov/otip/victim-assistance/services-available-to-victims-of-trafficking>
  - Food, medical, mental health, monetary, shelter, witness protection, employment, vocational training, etc.,
  - Provides links to services available to victims of trafficking