MISSOURI IS A MANDATED REPORTER OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING*

Federal law does currently mandate reporting by healthcare providers of suspected human trafficking of patients UNDER 18 (as child abuse per Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act); no mandated reporting for 18 and over.

Sex trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

Labor trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Under 18:
Missouri does mandate immediate reporting within 24 hours to the Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division online form by all healthcare providers. Report must include (if known): (1) names/addresses of child and his/her guardians; (2) child’s age, sex, and race; (3) nature and extent of the child’s injuries, abuse, or neglect, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse, or neglect to the child or his siblings; (4) name/age/address of person responsible for the abuse; (5) family composition; (6) source of the report; (7) name/address of person making the report, occupation, and where can be reached; (8) actions taken by the reporting source, including taking color photographs or making of radiologic examinations pursuant to sections.

18 and over:
Missouri does not mandate reporting of trafficking of adults unless patient is a vulnerable adult protected under APS (call 800-392-0210). All other reporting should only be done with either patient consent or per HIPPA Privacy Rule regulations, if concern for imminent harm.

Remember to consult with your patients about your concerns using trauma-informed care and respect patients’ autonomy.

Doctors, nurses, and social workers are mandatory reporters of all violations of human rights. Providers must get patient permission to report or call if 18+; it is a violation of privacy rights to report without consent.