# Human Trafficking Reporting Policies for South Carolina

**SOUTH CAROLINA IS A MANDATED REPORTER OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## National Policies

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.

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## *State Policies*

**Under 18:**
South Carolina does mandate reporting to the Department of Social Services online or via phone or local law enforcement by all medical professionals with reason to believe that a child has been abused, neglected, or trafficked.
DSS: 1-888-CARE4US or 1-888-227-3487

**18 and over:**
South Carolina does not mandate reporting of trafficking of adults unless patient is a vulnerable adult protected under APS (call 1-888-CARE4US [1-888-227-3487]). All other reporting should only be done with either patient consent or per HIPPA Privacy Rule regulations, if concern for imminent harm.

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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.