

## Red Flags

These items should be considered as a list of red flags for potential victims of human trafficking. Please consider three or more of these indicators as cause to refer youth for further assessment.

- Changes in behavior
- Hanging around older men/women or has a noticeable older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Inappropriate dress or behaviors on social media
- Chronic running away– patterns of multiple AWOLS from home for days at a time
- Suspicious jewelry and/or tattoos
- Access to material things that the youth cannot afford such as new hairstyles/nails, new clothes or expensive gifts, new or multiple cell phones or online devices (especially upon return from AWOL)
- Signs of bruising or physical abuse from an unknown source
- Disconnected from family
- Frequent periods of unaccountable time
- Missing school, changes in grades, chronic truancy
- Has to report back to someone or ask permission to do things
- Has access to hotel keys and money
- Engaged in sexual situations beyond age appropriate norms
- STDs or frequent bladder or yeast infections
- Involved in ongoing delinquent behaviors
- Signs of trauma, fatigue, injuries, abuse depression
- Suspicion of sexual abuse incident
- Fear/mistrust of law enforcement/social workers/CCDCFS

## Safe Harbor Docket Team

### **Magistrate Holly Welsh**

Hears all safe harbor cases and makes all final decisions related to the case.

### **Safe Harbor Liaison**

Nadiyah Brown  
216-443-5052

Primary Contact and case manager for all youth enrolled in the Safe Harbor Docket.

### **Specialized Dockets Manager**

Thomas Pipkin  
216-443-3193

### **Public Defenders Office**

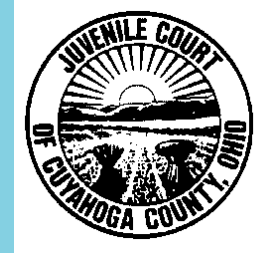
216-443-7295

### **Assistant County Prosecutor Office**

216-443-3407

*Updated October 2020*

## **CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**



## **SAFE HARBOR DOCKET**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court recognizes that children and families deserve the opportunity to live healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives.

The Safe Harbor Docket is a diversionary program that identifies at risk youth and survivors of human trafficking and provides them trauma informed, wrap-around support services to promote healing and empowerment.

**9300 Quincy Avenue, 7th Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106**

## What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a public health issue that impacts individuals, families, and communities. Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons or modern-day slavery, is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological. Exploitation of a minor for commercial sex is human trafficking, regardless of whether any form of force, fraud, or coercion was used.

Traffickers target at-risk populations, including individuals who have experienced or been exposed to other forms of violence (child abuse and maltreatment, interpersonal violence and sexual assault, community and gang violence) and individuals disconnected from stable support networks (runaway and homeless youth, unaccompanied minors, persons displaced during natural disasters).

## What is the Safe Harbor Docket?

The Safe Harbor docket is a voluntary program for identified at risk youth or survivors of human trafficking. There are two tracks of the Safe Harbor Docket: Traditional Safe Harbor and At Risk Safe Harbor. The Safe Harbor program will last at least six months and there are three phases of the program. Phase progress is determined on an individual basis. Factors of phase progress are based on the how actively the youth participates with their programing and makes progress with their treatment goals.

### Traditional Safe Harbor

For youth that the court has reason to believe that the child is a victim of human trafficking and their charges are related to their victimization. A hearing is held before the Safe Harbor Docket Jurist to determine if child shall be accepted onto the SH Docket. If the child is accepted onto the SH Docket, at this point the case is transferred to the docket of the Safe Harbor Jurist and the complaint is held in abeyance for up to 270 days. The youth must agree to being placed on the docket and will be responsible for compliance of their treatment program and court orders.

### At Risk Safe Harbor

For youth that do not meet the criteria for the Traditional Safe Harbor Track, however, the youth is engaged in high risk behaviors which puts them at risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking. In this track, the juvenile is adjudicated delinquent and if they want to participate on the docket and there are no objections, then the case is transferred to the Safe Harbor jurist. The youth will participate in treatment and follow court orders, just as if they would on probation.

## Referrals

Referrals may come from various sources, including; magistrates, court staff, probation officers, defense counsel, prosecutors, representatives from the Safe Harbor community, liaisons, and the judge.

- Upon receipt of the referral the Safe Harbor Liaison will interview the child/family to assess willingness to be reviewed for the docket.
- Once there is agreement the Liaison will make a referral to the Rape Crisis Center to complete further assessment
- Rape Crisis will contact family/youth to complete assessment. The assessment results are then sent to the Liaison.
- If appropriate, the Liaison will take steps to have youth enrolled, which may include requesting transfer of case to the Safe Harbor Docket
- A court date will be set
- Youth will be referred to case management
- If youth is not appropriate, jurist declines to transfer or youth refuses entrance, the service recommendations from the assessment will be provided to assigned probation officer to engage youth in services

### Services Provided

The Safe Harbor Docket provides enrolled youth with trauma informed, wrap-around support services to promote healing and empowerment. The services engaged/provided, but are not limited to:

- Trauma Informed Treatment Services
- Case Management
- Counseling
- Mentoring
- Educational Sessions
- Community Involvement