

Appendix D

Maryland Mandated Reporter Decision Tree

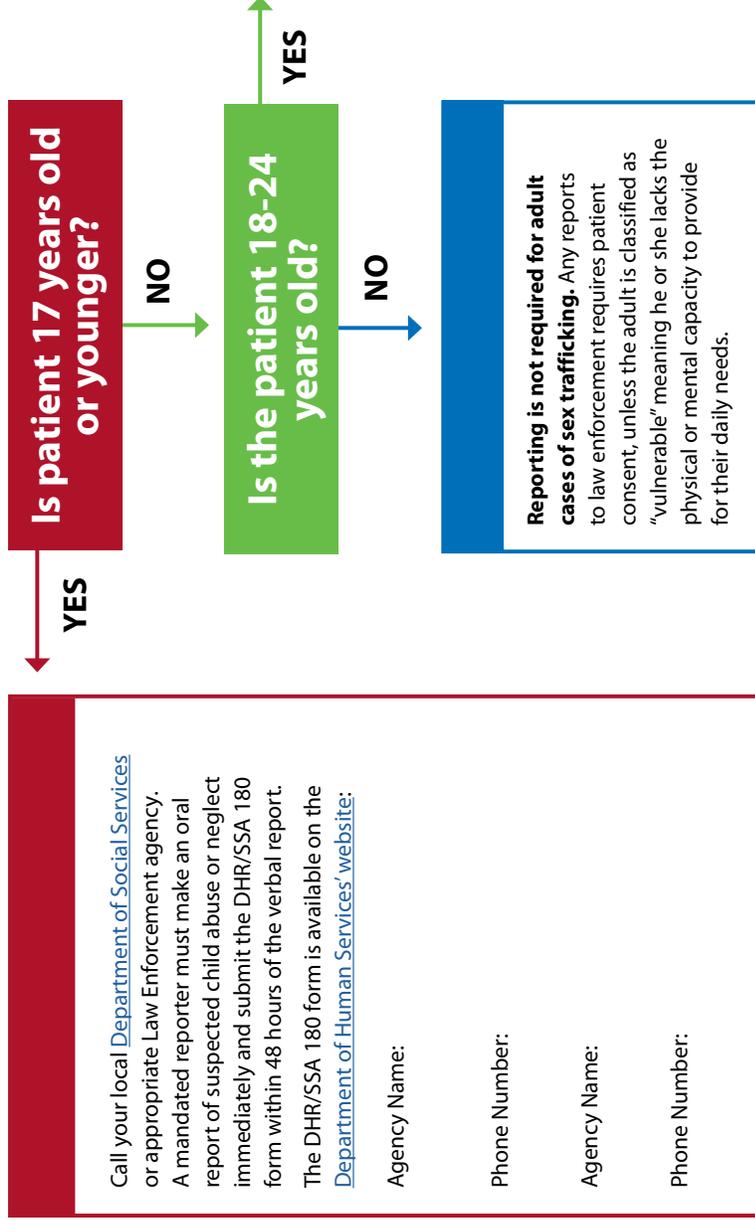
Cases of Suspected or Confirmed Sex Trafficking of Youth

Mandated reporters in Maryland include health practitioners, police officers, educators, and human service workers. If a mandated reporter has reason to believe that a child has been the victim of sex trafficking, they must notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency. It is not necessary to be sure, suspicions are all that is needed for reporting child abuse and neglect.

For youth under 18, involvement in any commercial sex act is considered sex trafficking, regardless of stated consent, or the presence of force, fraud or coercion. If you are working with a minor that you have reason to believe has been exploited through commercial sex, a mandated report must be made.

“Sex trafficking” is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a child for the purpose of a commercial sex act (Maryland Family Law § 5-701). A commercial sex act is sexual activity in exchange for something of perceived value (money, food, housing, etc.). All commercial sex of a minor is considered human trafficking, even in the absence of force, fraud or coercion.

Follow the steps outlined in this decision tree to help you evaluate if a report to the Department of Social Services is required.



NOTE: Providers should discuss their role as a mandated reporter prior to screening. Youth should be informed that they are not required to answer questions. Providing youth an opportunity to regain control during the interview process is important. However, patient consent is not required to report a cases of sex trafficking for children under the age of 18.