

Human Trafficking

Realtors

As Front-Line Identifiers

Overview

Detecting human trafficking is a complex and sensitive issue that requires collaboration with law enforcement agencies and a deep understanding of the signs and indicators associated with this crime. While real estate professionals may not have the authority to investigate or intervene directly, they can play a crucial role in recognizing potential indicators and reporting suspicions to the appropriate authorities. Here are some steps realtors can take to help detect human trafficking:

Educate Yourself

Familiarize yourself with the signs, red flags, and indicators of human trafficking. Attend training sessions or workshops conducted by local law enforcement agencies, anti-trafficking organizations, or other relevant community groups.

Be Aware of Behaviors

Be attentive to unusual or suspicious activities during property showings or interactions with clients. This may include situations where an individual exhibits:

- signs of control or coercion
- appears fearful or disoriented.
- seems unable to answer basic questions about their circumstances.

Property Usage

Keep an eye out for properties that show signs of being used for illegal activities such as:

- an unusually high number of unrelated individuals living in a single property
- makeshift living quarters – including outbuildings and sheds.
- excessive security measures
- door handles on backwards
- hidden or private rooms
- unusual use of noise protection barriers

Neighborhoods

Remember, activity may not always be happening at the property. Keep an eye on neighborhood activities as well.

- high volume of cars coming and going from a house.
- neighboring home with excessive security measures
- comments from sellers regarding any unusual activity in their neighborhood