



# DV NEWS

*A Newsletter of the Domestic Violence Program*

*of*

**Catholic Charities  
of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties**

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## **The Intersections of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is an ever present issue in society. It is defined as the practice of exploiting a person for the purposes of sexual or labor servitude, against their will, by using force, fraud or coercion. Examples of this can include, but aren't limited to: prostitution, sweat shop labor, or maid services. Force, fraud, and coercion, while often used in human trafficking cases, are also often present in cases of domestic violence. Sometimes in human trafficking cases we see that the trafficker is a person that the victim trusted or even loved. Abusers and traffickers often will use the same tactics to exert power and control over a victim. In fact, looking at the power and control wheel for both human trafficking and domestic violence one will see the two are very similar. Abusers and traffickers will use force, such as a physical or sexual violence; fraud, including lies or deception, such as a bait and switch, or the classic "I really love you and need you to do this" and false promises; or coercion, threats of harm to the victim, or their family, or using intimidation tactics. Often times both abusers and traffickers are using other forms of abuse, such as economic/financial abuse to keep their victim in their current situation. They can be using emotional abuse, which often encompasses the fraud and coercion discussed before, but can also include the abuser or trafficker using their privilege (such as gender roles, citizenship status, or nationality), or gas lighting, to make a victim question their own perception of reality. Traffickers and abusers can use a number of these tactics to control a victim without ever raising a fist. It is important to acknowledge that there is an intersection between domestic violence and human trafficking. The two can be intertwined, and understanding one can help us understand the other.

Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking. Young people can be especially vulnerable. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 defines any person under the age of 18, who exchanges a sex act for anything of value, is automatically a victim of sex trafficking. So how do you spot a victim of trafficking? After being manipulated, and abused emotionally, physically, or otherwise, victims tend to be fearful, anxious and exhibit submissive behaviors. They avoid eye contact, and are fearful of authority. They may not be able to speak freely and are constantly monitored. They may seem disoriented and malnourished or lacking sleep. Look for signs of physical abuse, which may present as injuries such as bruises in different stages of healing, or signs showing lack of medical care.

The best way to end human trafficking is prevention. Knowing signs and patterns of a trafficking victim can help prevent it from happening. Parents need to understand that it can happen to anyone, anywhere, and also understand abuse and trafficking, and their red flags. Red flags can include: sudden changes in dress/appearance, unexplained absences from school, the presence of an *older* partner, sudden possessions of expensive clothing, purses, or electronics that you did not purchase, a second cell phone, a fake ID, changes in relationships with their peers/friends, signs of physical abuse, new and unusual tattoos, unexplained cash, or drug and alcohol use.

If you believe you know someone who is a victim of human trafficking you can contact Safe Harbor of Schoharie County. Please call 1-888-373-7888 or text "INFO" or "HELP" to Be Free (233733).



**Domestic Violence Program**

489 West Main Street  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Phone: 518-234-3581  
Fax: 518-234-8423

**24 Hour Crisis Hotline:**  
**(518) 234-2231**  
**Collect Calls Accepted**



CharitiesCCDOS.org  
SCDVInfo.org



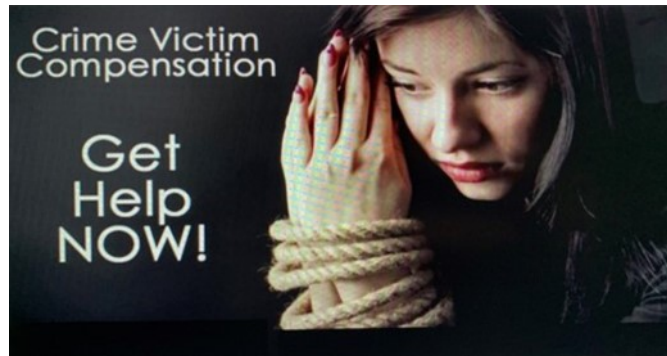
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**HAVE YOU BEEN THE  
VICTIM  
OF A CRIME?**

**You may be eligible for compensation**

For More Information

Call Catholic Charities and speak to an OVS Case Manager

**CALL (518) 234-3581**