

FACT SHEET: NATIONAL TRAFFICKING HOTLINE POSTING LAWS

NCJW has identified three priority areas of focus for state anti-trafficking advocacy: (1) National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws, (2) Safe Harbor Laws, and (3) Vacatur Laws. While there are many areas of need for survivors of trafficking, ensuring states have these laws on the books is a great first step. To learn what anti-trafficking laws exist in your state, visit the [VS. State Guide](#) used by the American Bar Association. **This fact sheet highlights National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws.**

What is The National Trafficking Hotline?

The National Trafficking Hotline is phone and text hotline operated by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. The phone number is 1- 888 - 373 - 7888 and the text number is 233733 (or BeFree). The hotline gives survivors a way to connect to crucial support services and provides law enforcement with critical information. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and is available in over 170 languages.

What is a National Trafficking Hotline Posting Law?

NHTRC Posting Laws require or encourage states to post or promote the hotline number within the state. An effective NHTRC Posting Law includes specific locations for the hotline to be posted, such as transportation hubs, sexually-oriented businesses, emergency care providers, job recruitment centers, hospitals, and entities found to be a nuisance for prostitution. Currently, 28 states and the District of Columbia have passed NHTRC Posting Laws.

Why are National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws Necessary?

Many states don't have statutes mandating the posting of state or national numbers. As a result, sex trafficking victims and survivors in these states don't have this critical resource to obtain support services or seek safety, and law enforcement do not have the data they need to address the problem.

What is the Impact of National Trafficking Hotline Posting Laws?

Since 2007, the NHTRC hotline has fielded over 115,000 calls, identified over 58,000 potential victims, and delivered more than 3,500 tips to law enforcement agencies which led to the successful arrest and prosecution of many traffickers. States that have laws mandating hotline posting in public spaces increase the visibility and awareness of the hotline, leading to higher call volumes and greater access to services for survivors. Additionally, the hotline records serve as indispensable investigative and prosecutorial resources for law enforcement.

What States Have These Laws?

28 states (as well as the District of Columbia) have enacted state or national hotline posting laws: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

What Can I Do?

Work with your state lawmakers and coalition partners to introduce National Trafficking Hotline Posting legislation or strengthen the legislation that already exists in your state. Template legislation from Polaris and the Uniform Law Commission is available [here](#).

For questions, contact Leanne Gale at leanne@ncjwdc.org.