

LSNJ PROTECT: Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive and Holistic Legal Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking

**Guide for Making Legal Referrals to LSNJ PROTECT**

Victims of human trafficking typically have many civil legal needs, and need a comprehensive holistic approach to legal assistance. Victims may have legal needs that should be addressed both during and after the actual trafficking to ensure stability and recovery.

The LSNJ PROTECT team can assist victims of human trafficking, both sex and labor, as well as undocumented and minor victims. We will counsel and where possible represent victims in *any* civil legal matter they are facing. While our conversations with clients are required to be confidential, we are happy to receive your initial calls on behalf of victims to first establish the contact with LSNJ PROTECT, to the extent that the victims wishes and consents. Contact the LSNJ PROTECT Hotline (**1-844-576-5776**) if you are working with a victim who may need our help.

**Typical Legal Issues Confronting Trafficking Victims**

This list includes the most common issues that will be handled by LSNJ PROTECT and the statewide legal services network. It is illustrative but not exhaustive.

- ❖ **Family Law**
  - Restraining orders, protection orders under the Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act, custody, divorce, child support, emancipation, guardianship, state child welfare interactions and removals, name changes
- ❖ **Immigration**
  - T-visas and Continued Presence, U-visas and other forms of immigration relief
- ❖ **Language Access**
  - Access or denial of an interpreter or translation at a government agency
- ❖ **Victim-Defendant Support and Advocacy**
  - Trafficking victims may be victim-witnesses *or* defendants in criminal cases and should be aware of their rights
- ❖ **Expungement**
  - Clearing a criminal record to obtain gainful employment and housing
- ❖ **Housing**
  - Eviction defense, habitability, and obtaining a security deposit
- ❖ **Employment**
  - Wage theft and other workplace violations
- ❖ **Crime Compensation**
  - Restitution and private civil suits against traffickers
- ❖ **Healthcare**
  - Access and denials to healthcare, medical debt
- ❖ **Gov't Benefits**
  - Welfare, food stamps, cash assistance, Social Security Insurance
- ❖ **Tax Assistance**
  - Assistance filling out tax forms or handling debt for unpaid taxes