



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

2420 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420  
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director  
(919) 733-3055

February 14, 2008

### **Re:** Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking

Dear County Director of Social Services:

#### **Attention:** Program Managers and Supervisors

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-386, allows adult individuals who have been certified as an adult subjected to a severe form of trafficking by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to be potentially eligible for benefits and services under the same conditions as refugees. In addition, the N. C. General Assembly recently passed Senate Bill 1079 that further supports protection of victims of human trafficking.

A trafficking victim is any individual who has been subjected to "severe forms of trafficking in persons" which includes:

- Involvement in activity in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under 18 years of age; or,
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

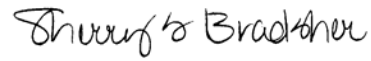
Identified victims of trafficking receive an official letter of certification from the ORR. Child victims of trafficking (under age 18) do not require certification in order to receive services and benefits. The ORR issues a letter stating that a child is a victim of a severe form of trafficking and is therefore potentially eligible for benefits. Samples of official certification letters are attached to this letter. The certification letter is the only acceptable documentation for severe forms of trafficking victims.

As defined in the Work First Family Assistance (WFFA), Medicaid, Food and Nutrition Services, and Refugee Assistance manuals, trafficking victims are "Qualified Aliens" who meet

immigration eligibility requirements to receive benefits. Trafficking victims are not subject to the five year disqualification period. Refer to the appropriate program policy instructions for additional information to determine if these persons meet all other eligibility requirements.

Please share this information with your staff. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your program representative or Gail Andersen, Refugee Assistance Program Consultant at (919) 733-4650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry Bradsher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherry Bradsher, Director

Attachments  
**PM-PC-01-2008**