



## MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TERRY R. CURRY, PROSECUTOR

251 E. OHIO ST., SUITE 160

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

PHONE (317) 327-3522 • FAX (317) 327-3531

### Media Release:

January 11, 2018

### Contacts:

Peg McLeish, (317) 327-5543, [Peg.Mcleish@indy.gov](mailto:Peg.Mcleish@indy.gov)

Michael Leffler, (317) 327-5516, [Michael.Leffler@indy.gov](mailto:Michael.Leffler@indy.gov)

## Prosecutor Curry calls attention to Human Trafficking Awareness Day

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry encouraged residents and businesses to learn more and become active in combatting human trafficking as the nation observes Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The day takes place during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month which is designed to draw attention to this growing problem, as well as to educate the public on the complexity of human trafficking and to increase services and support for survivors of this crime.

“Human trafficking, and specifically commercial sex trafficking, is more widespread than many believe and is happening here in our community,” Prosecutor Curry explained. “Once associated with individuals who travel through our city or visit for high profile events, the reality is that trafficking impacts residents of Marion County every day.”

The first criminal conviction for human trafficking was secured in Marion County in January 2011, and the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office has continued to work with local, state and federal police partners to investigate and prosecute traffickers and help rescue the victims of this crime.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day provides an opportunity to learn more about recognizing the signs of human trafficking and where to report suspected instances. While teens are increasingly becoming victims of commercial sex trafficking in Central Indiana, human trafficking victims can be any age. Any suspicion of human trafficking must be reported to a local police agency immediately.

Victims of human trafficking can seek help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

Possible red flags for human trafficking include:

- Lacking freedom to make basic decisions during work or free time
- School-age juveniles not attending school
- Sexually explicit online profile
- Involvement in prostitution
- Indebtedness to employer
- Lacking personal possessions
- Lacking control of identification documents
- Possessing multiple cell phones
- Lying about age or identity
- Avoiding answering questions about self
- Resisting offers for help
- Expressing unusual fear of law enforcement

-more-

In October 2017 the Marion County Prosecutor's Office invited experts to talk about the realities of human trafficking in Central Indiana to attendees of the Prosecutor's Community Justice Academy. The informative presentation by the FBI and Delaware County Circuit Court Judge Kimberly S. Dowling is available for viewing online at [www.indy.gov/mcpo/cja](http://www.indy.gov/mcpo/cja).

For more information about human trafficking, please visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website at <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>.