

December 15, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of Senate
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
State House, H-101
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: MSAR #12140 – Report on Child Sex Trafficking
Completed pursuant to Family Law Article §5-704.4(g)(2)

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is required to submit an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly, as well as the Department of Legislative Services on child sex trafficking reports and referrals to regional navigators in accordance with provisions of the Family Law Article §5-704.4(g)(2). In accordance with this reporting requirement, DHS is pleased to provide you with the enclosed report.

If you should require additional information please contact the Office of Government Affairs at 410-767-8966.

Sincerely,



Lourdes R. Padilla
Secretary

cc: Sarah Albert, Mandate Reports Specialist, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)



REPORT ON CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Completed pursuant to Family Law Article § 5-704.4(g)(2)

December 15, 2020

REPORT REQUIREMENT

This report is hereby submitted in response to the following reporting requirement found under Family Law Article § 5-704.4(g)(2):

(g)(2) Beginning December 1, 2019, the Department of Human Services shall annually report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

- (i) the number of reports of child sex trafficking made in the State in the preceding year;*
- (ii) the outcome or disposition of reports of child sex trafficking made in the State in the preceding year; and*
- (iii) the number of referrals made to regional navigators under this section in the preceding year.*

Source: Family Law Article § 5-704.4(g)(2)

BACKGROUND

The Department of Human Services has tracked sex trafficking data since 2013. Data collected includes the number of reports received by Child Protective Services (CPS), as well as the disposition of each investigation on a state-wide level. In 2019, three jurisdictions were awarded grants for regional navigator programs: Cecil, Montgomery, and Washington Counties.

CPS investigations can have one of three dispositions as defined by Family Law § 5-701:

- **Indicated** -- a finding that there is credible evidence, which has not been satisfactorily refuted, that physical or sexual abuse, or neglect did occur.
- **Unsubstantiated** -- a finding that there is an insufficient amount of evidence to support a finding of indicated or ruled out.
- **Ruled out** -- a finding that physical or sexual abuse, or neglect did not occur.

The following table summarizes sex trafficking data for calendar year (CY) 2019.¹

Reports Received	Reports Screened Out	Reports Screened In	Indicated	Unsubstantiated	Ruled Out	Referred to Regional Navigator
175	54	121	39	24	58	0

¹ Data for this report were compiled from the Maryland Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (MD CHESSIE) and the Child, Juvenile, and Adult Management System (CJAMS).

**NUMBER OF REPORTS OF CHILD
SEX TRAFFICKING MADE IN MARYLAND IN 2019**

A total of 175 reports of child sex trafficking were made in Maryland in CY 2019. Of this number, 121 reports were screened in and investigated, and 54 reports were screened out.

**OUTCOMES OR DISPOSITION OF REPORTS OF
CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING MADE IN MARYLAND IN 2019**

Of the 121 child sex trafficking investigations, 39 (32 percent) resulted in a finding of “Indicated,” 24 (20 percent) resulted in a finding of “Unsubstantiated,” and 58 (48 percent) had a finding of “Ruled out.”

NUMBER OF REFERRALS MADE TO REGIONAL NAVIGATOR IN 2019

No referrals were made to the Regional Navigator Programs in CY 2019, as the programs were not operational due to grant monies not being awarded until January 2020 to any of the three participating jurisdictions.