

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Wage Hour Division.

**Please note that this is not an official

Departmental position but a local response to aid in coordinating assistance to victims of trafficking.

A. Methods to notify the Seattle Wage Hour Office about possible trafficking cases.

- 1) Call District Director Donna Hart at 206-398-8041 directly.
- 2) Fax your information to Seattle District Office at 206-398-8050.

B. How are cases handled once a complaint is received?

Once a complaint is received, the victim's condition and location will be ascertained to determine if others need to be notified for immediate assistance or protection/services for the victim. Once the victim is safe and secure, Wage Hour will open an investigation to determine the facts concerning the labor issues, ie. the victims' working hours, wages due, working conditions, etc.

C. Does Wage Hour work with minor victims?

Yes, our youth employment regulations cover minors in employment and govern the safety and wellbeing of minor workers. The Federal law prohibits employers from employing minors in hazardous occupations, in unsafe workplaces, for long hours, outside of school hours, etc. and requires that they be paid for all of their working hours. The minimum age for non-agricultural employment is 14 years of age and 12 years of age in agriculture under specified conditions.

Wage Hour can assess civil money penalties up to \$11,000 for each employee who is the subject of a youth employment violation, can seek an injunction to halt interstate commerce of goods tainted by "oppressive child labor, can seek injunctions against violators to compel compliance, can seek, in willful violations, \$10,000 fines and or imprisonment.

D. Does Wage Hour house victims of trafficking?

Wage Hour does not typically house victims but may assist other agencies or service providers in housing victims of trafficking.

E. What is the role of Wage Hour in the Certification Process?

Wage Hour will work with the US Attorney/ OIG and /or ICE in seeking to retain victims locally in order to identify other workers who may be trafficking victims, obtain restitution of wages, and/or assess damages and penalties against their employers.

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