

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 737 (SB 83)

2026 Regular Session

Edmonds

New law requires, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each public school board (including charter school boards) to adopt a policy on human trafficking victim identification and reporting and to require each school to designate at least one employee, who must be a school counselor, mental health professional, or school administrator to receive annual advanced training on human trafficking. Requires the state Department of Education, in conjunction with the governor's office of human trafficking, to provide information on curricula to school boards and provides specific instruction components. Requires each school to retain records relative to new law and requires school boards to document and verify that each school is in compliance with new law.

Prior law required the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to make care coordination and advocacy services available for child victims of child sex trafficking.

New law adds a requirement that DCFS also make advocacy services available for youth victims (18-21 years of age) of human trafficking.

New law provides for the following defined terms:

- (1) "Child" means a person who is under the age of 18.
- (2) "Human trafficking" means the perpetration or attempted perpetration of the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, trafficking related to commercial sexual activity, or debt bondage or labor trafficking.
- (3) "Youth" means an individual who is 18-21 years of age.

Prior law, with respect to children found to be victims of human trafficking, required DCFS, in conjunction with the La. Dept. of Health (LDH), to develop a plan for the delivery of services to victims of human trafficking. New law instead provides that a child is eligible for specialized services for victims of human trafficking.

New law requires that the child is to be reported to the DCFS reporting hotline, in accordance with existing law. New law also requires DCFS to make available care coordination and advocacy services to serve the child or youth victim of human trafficking.

New law requires state agencies with custodial care of children to ensure that a child in their care who is determined to be a victim of human trafficking has full access to care coordination and advocacy services.

Prior law required the DCFS plan to include provisions for the following:

- (1) Identifying victims of human trafficking in La.
- (2) Assisting victims of with applying for benefits and services.
- (3) Coordinating the delivery of health, mental health, housing, education, job training, child care, victims' compensation, legal, and other services to victims.
- (4) Preparing and disseminating programs and materials to increase awareness of human trafficking and services available to victims among local departments of social services, public and private agencies and service providers, and the public.
- (5) Referring child victims to the appropriate community-based services.
- (6) Assisting victims with family reunification or return to their place of origin, if the victims so desire.

New law removes prior law and instead requires that services for victims include those services provided in present law (R.S. 17:2161.1) and new law.

Prior law required DCFS and LDH, in developing the plan to provide for victims' services, to work together with state and federal agencies, public and private entities, and other stakeholders.

New law instead requires, in developing a comprehensive strategy to prevent human trafficking and address the needs of victims, the governor's office of human traffic is to coordinate with DCFS and the office of juvenile justice and work with the entities listed in existing law.

Prior law provided that any victim, 18 years or older, in which the trafficking activity included commercial sexual activity who was referred to DCFS and found to be a victim of human trafficking was to be referred by DCFS to the appropriate department, agency, or entity for certain services.

New law instead requires that such a person, regardless of the circumstances of the human trafficking, be provided information on any treatment or specialized services for victims or referred as provided in existing law.

Prior law, in coordinating victim services, required DCFS to work with state and federal agencies, public and private entities, and other stakeholders.

New law instead requires the governor's office of human trafficking to work with those listed in existing law to implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent human trafficking and address the needs of human trafficking victims.

Prior law required certain private entities, law enforcement entities, and district attorneys to submit an annual report to the governor's office of human trafficking prevention and DCFS on its operations relative to human trafficking.

New law requires reporting to continue to be made to the governor's office of human trafficking prevention under existing law but removes the requirement in prior law that reporting also be made to DCFS.

New law:

- (1) Defines "care coordination entity" or "care coordination team" as an entity authorized by DCFS through a procurement contract to provide care coordination services and specialized multidisciplinary teams for victims of human trafficking.
- (2) Requires care coordination teams to comply with the rules of multidisciplinary investigative teams.
- (3) Provides that care coordination teams are responsible for the investigation and multidisciplinary coordination of child trafficking cases, accepted by the team in compliance with the team's protocols, and requires each team to develop and institute interagency protocols.
- (4) Authorizes a care coordination team to obtain all information necessary to perform its official duties from any public agency, department or other organization, including material otherwise made confidential or privileged.
- (5) Authorizes any public or private department, agency, or organization to share with a care coordination entity all information that is made confidential by law when it is needed to provide or secure services.

New law changes references in prior law (Ch.C. Art. 610) from "sex trafficking" to "human trafficking".

New law provides that the implementation of new law that requires DCFS to make certain services available to children and youth victims of human trafficking is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for this purpose.

Effective June 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 46:51(16)(intro. para.) and (b)(intro.para.), 2161, and 2161.1 and Ch.C. Art. 610(A)(4)(b) and (E)(4); adds R.S. 17:419.5 and 3996(B)(92), R.S. 46:51(16)(c), and Ch.C.Art. 508.1)