



MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking, all of which include the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

MCO Healthcare has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery within the business and supply chains and we are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our dealings and relationships. We will implement and enforce effective systems and controls to ensure that modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in MCO Healthcare or within any third parties (agencies) that we are associated with.

All staff will be made aware of the issues surrounding slavery and human trafficking, whilst being encouraged and supported to report any concerns to MCO Healthcare management. MCO Healthcare will also support any staff that may be subject to slavery or human trafficking. Where modern slavery or human trafficking is identified, MCO Healthcare will share information with the specific safeguarding services to geographical area where client lives. Safeguarding Team to safeguard the individual from harm and with the objective of preventing future situations arising, to promote the elimination of routes and sources of slavery or human trafficking.

All line managers are responsible for ensuring that those reporting directly to them comply with the provisions of this policy in the day-to-day performance of their roles. All employees who suspect any members of the workplace being victim of modern slavery must notify their line manager. MCO Healthcare will take steps to ensure that sufficient communication and employee awareness training is undertaken with regards to Modern Slavery. All employees will be made aware of the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure at MCO Healthcare. The purpose of this policy and associated procedure is to enable MCO Healthcare to thoroughly investigate allegations of any wrongdoing raised by employees within MCO Healthcare without fear of reprisal. MCO Healthcare will use this policy to underpin and inform any statement on slavery and human trafficking that we may be required to produce to meet the requirements of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA).

Procedure

Reporting Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Concerns

The following procedure must take place where there are any concerns that someone is a victim of modern slavery or human trafficking. MCO Healthcare must ensure that staff are aware that victims of modern slavery or trafficking will often not self-identify. Many will present with a different issue.

a) A concern is identified - this could be a Client as a victim or perpetrator, or a Client

informs us of a concern they have

b) If an individual is, or group of people are, in immediate risk of danger or harm, the police must be immediately notified on 999

c) The staff member must discuss this with their line manager (where appropriate) immediately

d) The manager to escalate the concern immediately to Safeguarding Adults Team

e) A notification is made to the CQC via the provider portal

Safer Recruitment

All staff engaged with providing services at MCO Healthcare will be subject to thorough and rigorous recruitment procedures that will include a DBS check, identity check, confirmation of validity to work in the UK, employment history, suitability for the role and references. This will minimise the chance of employing a person that has been, or is subject to, slavery or human trafficking. MCO Healthcare will follow Right to Work Checks Policy and Procedure to ensure that a robust and fair process is followed at all times.

MCO Healthcare will only use staff provided by third-party organisations (such as agencies) that are either registered with the regulator or who can confirm that the staff being supplied are free to work in the UK and meet all the requirements for the role being provided for.

Training

All staff will undertake training on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. This will ensure that they are aware of the indicators of modern slavery which include:

- Individuals not being paid for the work they undertake
- Individuals being held in debt-bondage (being told they "still" owe money after having paid off a previous debt)
- An individual's passport being held by their "employer" in order to keep the individual at work
- Multiple benefit claimants having their benefits being paid into the same account
- An individual not having the freedom of movement (i.e. passport being taken)
- Clear exploitation of an individual by another for financial or sexual gain
- Shows signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, anxious/agitated or appear withdrawn and neglected. They may have untreated injuries
- Rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control, the influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work
- Relationships which do not seem right - for example, a young teenager appearing to be the boyfriend/girlfriend of a much older adult

- Believing in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address
- Have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes day in and day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work
- Have little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents retained, e.g. passports
- Bedropped off or collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night
- Unusual travel arrangements - children being dropped off/picked up in private cars/taxis at unusual times and in places where it is not clear why they would be there
- Avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation, fear of violence to them or their family

Staff will be advised that if they are subject to slavery or human trafficking, if they are aware of any individual that may be subject to slavery or has been trafficked, or if slavery or human trafficking is disclosed to them they must inform the Registered Manager of MCO Healthcare or the police.

Review of Effectiveness

MCO Healthcare intends to take further steps to identify, assess and monitor potential risk areas in terms of modern slavery and human trafficking, particularly in the supply chains of our providers.

We will also continue to support our staff to understand and respond to modern slavery and human trafficking, and the impact that each and every individual working in Care can have in keeping present and potential future victims of modern slavery and human trafficking safe.

Gain assurance that all staff at MCO Healthcare have access to training on how to identify victims of modern slavery and human trafficking

Review the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure at MCO Healthcare to ensure that Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are integral within the content and staff are directed to support and advice as needed.

Indicators of Forced Labour

Individuals may show signs of psychological or physical abuse. They might appear frightened, withdrawn or confused.

Workers may not have free movement and may always be accompanied

Individuals often lack protective equipment or suitable clothing and have not been trained

to safely fulfil the requirements of the role.

The person may not have access to their own documents, such as ID or their passport, with the employer having confiscated them.

Individuals may not have a contract and may not be paid National Minimum Wage or not paid at all. Workers are forced to stay in accommodation provided by the employer. This accommodation could be overcrowded. Individuals could live on site. Workers could be transported to and from work, potentially with multiple people in one vehicle. The person might not accept money or be afraid to accept payment Workers may work particularly long hours.

Last updated 13/10/2022