

Proposed by: East Region

NEW Rule 1-101: Definitions

Human Trafficking: exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sex. For sex trafficking of a person under the age of 18, the elements of force, fraud, or coercion are not needed since anyone under the age of 18 cannot consent to commercial sex acts.

Justification:

Currently there is no definition in the ICJ Rules for Human Trafficking. Due to the correlation of running away and Human Trafficking, we thought it is important to have a definition since runaways are at high risk for trafficking. Having a definition of trafficking will allow for better identification of trafficking cases to be documented in UNITY and case coordination with other stakeholders.

If Human Trafficking is mentioned in any future rules, there will already be a definition in place. This proposal is based on the federal definition of human trafficking.

Effect on Other Rules or Advisory Opinions: None

UNITY Impact: None

Forms Impact: None

Fiscal Impact: None

Effective Date: #/1/2026

Region Referral to Rules Committee: [12/10/2024](#)

Rules Committee Action: Click on meeting date to view approved minutes.

[12/18/2024](#) – Rules Committee voted 7-2-0 to not support this proposal because the term is not used in the ICJ Rules, and legal documents do not contain definitions that are not referenced in the document.