

Identifying Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the exploitation of others. Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel someone to provide labor or services such as sexual acts, cleaning or farming that generate a monetary value (cash, debt forgiveness, shelter, etc.) for the trafficker. However, if the victim is a minor force, fraud or coercion is not required for the act to be considered human trafficking. Transportation from one place to another also is not required for human trafficking to occur.

Venues for Sex Trafficking

- Streets
- Hotels and motels
- Truck stops
- Online escort services on websites such as [www.backpage.com](http://www backpage.com) and www.craigslist.com
- Brothels
- Massage parlors
- Migrant camps

Venues for Labor Trafficking

- Domestic work at a private residence, motel/hotel, in diplomatic residences
- Agricultural industry— farms, packing plants, etc.
- Drilling sites
- Factory work
- Restaurants
- Nail salons

Potential Human Traffickers:

- Parents, legal guardians and other family members
- Boyfriends/husbands
- Pimps and other acquaintances
- Men and women— despite ideas about women being maternal and safe, women can be traffickers and pimps of women, men and children
- Smugglers (trafficking can begin as a smuggling agreement and then turn into trafficking)
- Drug dealers
- Gang members
- Employers and agencies such as job placement, adoption and modeling agencies, etc.



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Physical Indicators

- Tattoos, brands or scarring indicating ownership
- Injuries from beatings or weapons
- Signs of malnourishment
- Signs of torture (e.g., cigarette burns)
- Fear, anger, sadness, grief, humor or no emotion

Social Indicators

- Youth involved in street begging
- Prostitution involving a child
- Adult prostitution that involves a third party (pimp) is highly indicative of the use of force, fraud, or coercion which is human trafficking
- Parent or older sibling involved in prostitution
- Chronic runaways
- Youth lives on the street or with adults who have “taken them in”
- Truancy from school or not attending or enrolling in school
- A child/adolescent who is with someone who is purchasing or intends to purchase drugs (Children are often used as a commodity and traded to enable adults to obtain drugs.)
- Trafficker maintains control through constant cell phone communications
- Not allowed to freely contact friends and family
- Lives with other children and adults being commercially sexually exploited (hotels, motels, apartments, houses, etc.)
- Have children they are denied access to by traffickers/pimps
- Isolated from the community
- Women or girls driven to migrant camps on payday
- Massage parlors where women live on premises and/or are not seen coming or going freely
- Debt bondage (An individual must work for a trafficker to pay off his/her debt or the debt of family members.)

Assistance & Resources:

- **Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape: 1-800-692-7445, www.pcar.org**
- **Polaris Project, National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888**
- **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/**
- **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: 1-800-THE-LOST, www.missingkids.org**