

Identifying Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a crime where people profit from the exploitation of others. According to the law, human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel someone to provide labor or sexual acts in exchange for something of value, which may include money, food, shelter, or drugs. However, if the victim is a minor, force, fraud, or coercion is not required for the act to be considered human trafficking. Human trafficking can also occur without a person being relocated from one place to another.



Venues for Sex Trafficking

- Streets
- Homes
- Online
- Hotels and motels
- Truck stops
- Online escort services on websites
- Brothels
- Massage parlors
- Migrant camps



Venues for Labor Trafficking

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



Potential Human Traffickers

- Parents, guardians, or other family members
- Romantic partners
- Friends or acquaintances
- Pimps and those associated with them
- 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.



Physical Indicators

- 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, modeling agencies, etc.



Social Indicators

- Domestic abuse calls (especially at hotels, motels, or truck stops)
- Prostitution (streets, massage parlors, brothels, hotels, motels, truck stops, online ads)
- Responding to reports of runaways
- Investigating gang activity
- Child abuse/neglect investigations
- Narcotics investigations
- Homicide investigations
- Routine traffic stops
- Physical and sexual assaults
- Robberies/burglaries at private residences and businesses
- Creation, possession, and distribution of child sexual abuse images

Assistance & Resources

Polaris Project, National Human
Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888 or Text "BeFree"
(233733)

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
717-728-9740 | www.pcar.org

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