

What to Look For:

- ◆ Children with no income who have cell phones, sudden and frequent trips out of town and new clothes.
- ◆ Children who reference being on the “track”, having a “pimp” or “daddy”, being in a “stable” and/or having a “wifey.”
- ◆ Children who live and work at the same place or live with their boss.
- ◆ Children whose family owes someone a smuggling debt for assisting their child into the country.
- ◆ Children whose boss owes them money.
- ◆ Children with new tattoos of a person’s name or reference to money, cash, dollar bills or the “\$” sign.



Children can be victims of labor or sex trafficking.

Do Something. Call for Help!

If you suspect a child is a victim of human trafficking, please call the

Florida Abuse Hotline

at

1-800-96-ABUSE

or

your local law enforcement agency.



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Human Trafficking

Is a Child You Know at Risk?



Florida's Children are NOT for sale!

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking -

the exploitation of men and women, adults and children, foreign nationals and United States citizens for financial gain.

The Problem

Every part of Florida has seen some form of human trafficking. Reports have come from cities, suburbs and rural communities stretching from Pensacola to Key West. Human trafficking victims include high school students, maids in hotels, employees in country clubs and adults.

In 2017, 1601 calls were made from Florida to the National Human Trafficking Hotline — the third highest call volume in the nation.

Who is at Risk

While trafficking can happen to anyone, some factors have been known to contribute to a person's vulnerability of being trafficked. These factors include:

- ◆ Lack of attachment to family or community
- ◆ Frequent running away or homelessness
- ◆ Poverty
- ◆ Lack of education or job opportunities
- ◆ Illegal citizenship status

Traffickers target young victims through social media websites, after school programs, on the streets, at shopping malls, or in clubs. In some cases, teens who are already involved with the traffickers are used to recruit other victims.

What DJJ is Doing

The Department of Juvenile Justice has begun using a victim identification tool to identify children who may be victims of human trafficking. DJJ is also conducting training across the state to educate both professionals and citizens on the issue of human trafficking, what to look for and what to do about it.

In a study completed by DJJ, only 4% of children identified as victims of human trafficking were arrested on prostitution charges. Instead, these children were brought to DJJ for offenses ranging from trespassing to battery. They also had higher rates of substance abuse, mental health issues and runaway episodes than children not involved in human trafficking. In 2016, HB 545 mandated that children can no longer be arrested for prostitution.

Myths

Victims of human trafficking will identify themselves as victims of a crime and ask for help.

NOT TRUE. Often, human trafficking victims do not seek help or identify themselves as victims of a crime. They may not trust others, blame themselves, or have been told by their traffickers how to behave and what to say to law enforcement or others.

All victims of human trafficking are from another country.

NOT TRUE. The vast majority of sex trafficking victims found in Florida are American.

There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking victim.

NOT TRUE. These do not have to happen for a situation to be a case of human trafficking. Psychological control, such as lying to victims or threatening them with arrest or deportation if they go to police are enough to make human trafficking a crime. Traffickers may also withhold pay or food or bribe victims.

TRUE: Florida's children are not for sale!