

Human Trafficking Fact Sheet



Know What's Up

Human Trafficking is defined by U.S. law as the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor, or services against their will. Common examples include: domestic servitude, forced begging, magazine selling crews, hotel/restaurant work, hair/nail salons, massage parlors, strip clubs, and agricultural work.

Sex Trafficking, one type of human trafficking, is when a trafficker uses **force, fraud or coercion** to engage someone in a commercial sex act. Common examples of sex trafficking include producing pornography, strip club dancing, or commercial sex acts for money or favors.

Child Sex Trafficking is inducing a minor into a commercial sex act. This is, by law, human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The average age a girl is first trafficked for sex in the U.S. is 12 -14, for boys it is 11-13.

Recruiting: Traffickers find victims through social networking and the Internet, but they also recruit at shopping malls, bus/train stations, in neighborhoods, at popular teenage hangouts, and even at schools.

Online Exploitation is a tactic often used to recruit victims.

Sexting is the sending or receiving of sexual words, pictures, or videos via cell phones, computers, or other digital devices. Sexting may lead to **sextortion**, which is the threat to reveal intimate images to force someone to produce and share additional content or force them into sex trafficking.

Traffickers often use false promises of:

- Love: pretend to be in a relationship
- A better life: shelter, protection, money
- Opportunity: a good job or modeling contract



Spot Red Flags

- Has limited freedom of movement
- Constantly has someone at their side who seems in control
- Is not allowed to speak for themselves
- Appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous, or paranoid
- Seems to have changed their habits, behaviors, and activities

Red Flags for Human Trafficking vary by the type of trafficking, but may include someone who:

- Protects a person who appears to be controlling or abusive
- Works long or unusual hours
- Shows signs of substance abuse or addiction
- Distances themselves from family and friends
- Shares scripted, confusing or inconsistent stories
- Has a new (often older) boyfriend or girlfriend
- Shows signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, fatigue, physical injuries and/or abuse
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Has unexplained money or possessions
- Has tattoos on their body (possibly their neck or back which is often branding by their trafficker)



Make a Move

To get help call the

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
[1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888)
or text [HELP](https://www.befree.org) or [INFO](https://www.befree.org) to BeFree (233733)



Talk It Up

Talk to a Safe Adult

Florida Abuse Hotline: 800-962-2873
National Runaway Safeline: 800-786-2929
National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-655-467
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

Why don't victims seek help or leave?

Isolation: Victims are often confined and isolated from friends and family.

Fear: Victims are often physically abused and they and their loved ones are often threatened.

Shame: Victims often blame themselves, feel hopeless, and don't see a way out of the situation.

Dependency: Victims may become dependent on drugs and/or develop a trauma bond with their trafficker, both of which makes it difficult to escape.



No Blame | No Shame

Victims of abuse, exploitation, and/or trafficking are never to blame!