



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACT SHEET

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

**1-888-3737-888**



## INSIDE STORY

A 20-year old woman from a small village in Latin America learned of an opportunity from a friend to pursue her dreams of going to school and working for a family at the same time. After convincing her parents that this would help their family's economic situation, she left with the family to the US. But her dreams soon turned into a nightmare as she quickly realized the promises made were deceitful and just an illusion. For three years, she slept on a mattress in the family's kitchen. She was not allowed out of the house. She worked twelve hours straight, seven days a week. She cooked, cleaned, cared for the two infants and an elderly parent, and was responsible for all the household maintenance. Threats of deportation, verbal abuse and intimidation were constant. She was paid roughly 30 cents an hour.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that deprives a person of their personal liberty for the exploitative purpose of performing labor services or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Human trafficking is often referred to as modern-day slavery. Slavery is a state of being that results from enforced systemic violence with complete disregard for human dignity or human rights, and when occurred over long periods of time may build up tolerance or acceptance of those conditions as a "natural" state for the person being victimized. It is with the intention of subjecting violence, fear, and coercive conditioning against a person's free will in order to carry out the duties of the services meant to derive financial gain. This condition builds a psychological handicap designed to create a disproportionate and purposeful setting of power and control to the advantage of the benefactors of the slavehood.

Human trafficking happens all over the world, including Orange County. Victims of human trafficking come from all backgrounds, cultures, races, ages, genders and sexual orientations. Human trafficking is punishable by up to life in prison.

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

### Possible Settings:

- Agricultural Farm
- Elderly Care Facility
- Restaurant
- Residential Home
- Beauty Salon
- Car Wash
- Sweatshop
- Hotel/Motel

### Warning Signs:

- Documents/Passport Taken Away
- Legal Threats (Deportation, Prison, Criminal Record)
- Physical Violence
- Threats Against Family
- Little or No Pay
- Excessive Daily Work Hours
- Control/Restricted in Movement
- Malnourishment
- Paying off Debt
- Fines/Fees Added to Debt Bondage
- Limited or No Contact with Family
- Fraudulent Paperwork
- Money Laundering
- Expired Temporary Visa
- Sexual Harassment

### Things to Consider:

- Vulnerability:
  - ◆ Poverty
  - ◆ Low Education
  - ◆ Gender/Minority
  - ◆ Discrimination
  - ◆ Need to Provide for Family
  - ◆ Lack of Knowledge/Understanding of Laws and Rights
- Manipulation:
  - ◆ Fraudulent Job Offer/Opportunity (by Owner, Middleman, or Recruiter)
  - ◆ Cultural/Language Isolation
  - ◆ False Promise of Temporary Situation
- Fear:
  - ◆ Shame/Judgment
  - ◆ Corruption
  - ◆ Personal Information/Safety
  - ◆ Retaliation Against Family
  - ◆ Connection to Organized Crime
  - ◆ Illegal Status/Deportation

## SEX TRAFFICKING

### Possible Settings:

- Street
- Hotel/Motel
- Massage Parlor
- Chiropractic Office
- Residential Home
- Strip Club
- Escort Service
- Modeling Agency
- Internet

### Warning Signs:

- ID/Passport Taken Away
- Bruises, Fractures
- Multiple Abortions
- Untreated STI/STD
- Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding
- Cigarette Burn Marks
- PTSD, Trauma
- Controlled Environment (Transportation, Needing Permission for Everything, Limited Freedom of Movement/Isolation)
- Paying off Debt/Owe Money
- Limited/No Family Contact
- Multiple Cell Phones
- Runaway/Missing Person
- Tattoo Branding
- Gang Affiliation

### Things to Consider:

- Vulnerability
  - ◆ History Sexual/Physical Abuse
  - ◆ Neglectful/Abusive Home
  - ◆ Age First Prostituted
  - ◆ Survival/Living on Streets
  - ◆ Low/No Education
- Manipulation
  - ◆ Creating False Sense of “Protected/Loving” Family
  - ◆ Prostitution Only Temporary
  - ◆ Stockholm Syndrome
- Fear
  - ◆ Personal Safety
  - ◆ Corruption
  - ◆ Deportation
  - ◆ Shame/Judgment

**Any commercial sex act or the commercial sexual exploitation of a person under the age of 18 is human trafficking.**

### INSIDE STORY

A 14-year old girl ran away from home to be with a “wonderful guy” who was in his mid-20s. They had great plans of living together and becoming rich. She thought it was everything she wanted until her boyfriend told her that if she loved him, she would help make money by having sex with men. It was too late to go back home. She was introduced to the other women he was pimping and shown how to make money for “the family”. One night his friends came by their motel and raped her. Afterwards, he said that it wouldn’t have happened if she had just listened to him in the first place. She was put on the streets to work right after the rape and met her first buyer. She had to make a quota of \$500, but on her first night she only made \$50. Her pimp took the money and beat her in front of the other girls to show everyone a lesson. The next day, she worked without sleep and came back with \$500 to give to her pimp. After the second day, her trafficker finally brought her something to eat. In order to make sure she had learned her lesson and never disobeyed him again, he locked her in the closet to sleep.

## COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

### Possible Settings:

- Internet
- Hotel/Motel
- Residential Home
- School
- Street
- Orphanage
- Group Home
- Shelters
- Bus Stops
- Parties

### Warning Signs:

- Frequent/Unexplained Truancy
- Chronically Runs Away from Home
- Depression, Withdrawn Behavior
- Sudden Change in Appropriate Attire
- Sexual References Beyond Age-Specific Norms
- Socializing with Noticeably Older Crowds (Access to Alcohol, Drugs, Night Club Culture)
- Possession of Unexplained Expensive Merchandise
- Sleep Deprivation, Exhaustion, Malnourishment
- Tattoo/Branding
- Sexting
- Multiple Cell Phones

### Things to Consider:

- Vulnerability
  - ◆ Age, Developmental Growth
  - ◆ Neglectful/Abusive Home
  - ◆ Child Abuse/Trauma
  - ◆ Distrust in Adults
  - ◆ Peer Pressure, Low-Self Esteem
  - ◆ Media/Social Influence
- Manipulation
  - ◆ False Sense of Love/Family
  - ◆ Brainwashing, Conditioning
- Fear
  - ◆ Shame/Judgment
  - ◆ Getting in Trouble
  - ◆ Arrest
  - ◆ Personal Safety

**CHILD TRAFFICKING IS CHILD ABUSE**