

# Human Trafficking: What to Know and How to Respond

Presented by

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# Let's Talk Human Trafficking



- ▶ Intending to subject or knowing that a person will be subjected to forced labor or commercial sex acts
- ▶ Victims of trafficking are not liable for criminal trafficking activity
- ▶ The buying and selling of people as if they were store-bought goods
- ▶ Human smuggling is not the same as human trafficking

# Roadmap



The Attorney General's Office Introduction

Sex Trafficking vs. Labor Trafficking

What is Sex Trafficking

Sex Trafficking Types

Signs to Look For

Who Is This Most Likely to Effect

Who are Possible Traffickers

What Actions Do Traffickers Take

Steps to Take

How You Can Help

Conclusion

# Attorney General Lynn Fitch

- Chief legal officer and advisor for the State of Mississippi on both civil and criminal matters.
- General Fitch's responsibility is to represent public officials and governmental agencies and to issue legal opinions that interpret state law. Most importantly, she represents the people of the State of Mississippi.
- Bachelor of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Mississippi.
- She has over 30 years of both private and government law experience.
- First female Attorney General for the state of Mississippi.





# Sex Trafficking VS Labor Trafficking

Trafficking  
for the  
purpose of  
sexual  
exploitation

MS Code  
§97-3-54

Trafficking  
for the  
purpose of  
forced  
labor

Our more  
rural  
counties see  
both labor  
and sex  
trafficking

## Know the Signs for Human Trafficking:

Human Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery where people profit from the exploitation of others. Victims of Human Trafficking can be men, women, or children of all races, nationalities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Human Trafficking takes place in cities and towns throughout Mississippi and is one of the fastest growing crimes in our state.

### People may be vulnerable to trafficking if they:

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have previously experienced other forms of violence such as sexual abuse or domestic violence
- Have run away or are involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare system
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
- Have a caregiver or family member who has a substance use issue
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol

### Signs to look for:

- Have a controlling parent, guardian, romantic partner, or “sponsor” who will not allow them to meet or speak with anyone alone or who monitors their movements, spending, or communications
- Are there bruises or other signs of physical abuse?
- Are there signs of psychological abuse?
- Is the person submissive or fearful?
- Is the person being controlled?
- Is the person being deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Is the person allowed to be in public alone?
- Can the person freely contact friends or family?
- Is the person allowed to socialize or participate in extra-curricular or religious activities?

**Suspect Human Trafficking? Report it. Be The Solution.**

National Human Trafficking Hotline  
**1-888-373-7888**  
Text INFO to 233733

# What is Sex Trafficking?

A person is made to perform a sex act

The use of force, fraud, or coercion

A minor under the age of 18

Sex Act=sex act exchanged for “anything of value”

# Sex Trafficking Types



Familial Trafficking



Pimp Controlled Trafficking



Gang Controlled Trafficking



Survival Sex Trafficking



# Signs to Look For-*Force*

Providing a controlled substance to a person for purpose of compelling them against their will

Physical harm or beatings to control the victim

Physically restraining or confining someone

Use of a scheme or plan to cause any person to believe they or another person would suffer harm



# Signs to Look For-*Fraud*

False promises regarding employment, wages, working conditions, love, marriage

Blackmail through photos/obtained information

Cause or threat of financial harm

Changes in work conditions, compensation, or the nature of the relationship

# Signs to Look For-*Coercion*

Psychological manipulation

Document confiscation-Destroying documentation like a passport, drivers license, immigration documents

Shame and fear inducing threats

Using threats that could subject a person to criminal or immigration proceedings

# Signs to Look For-*In Your Field*

Signs of physical abuse,  
black eyes, Bald  
patches, burns, scars,  
malnutrition,  
dehydration and dental  
problems

Victim has no spending  
money

Victim appears to be  
under the supervision of  
someone who is not a  
guardian

Victim seems anxious  
and/or depressed

Victim's story doesn't  
make sense

Focus of the  
relationship/interactions  
between an adult and a  
minor

The traveler who  
brought the victim in  
speaks for them or will  
not allow you to speak  
to them

Someone possessing a  
victim's travel  
documents, bags,  
money, and  
identification

Tattoos of names or  
branding

A traveler that is in  
constant proximity to a  
victim. They may even  
physically escort them to  
the restroom.

Victim may not have a  
cell phone or tablet in  
the concourse

Traveler or victim might  
make their ticket  
purchase in person at  
the last minute





# PORTRAIT OF EXPLOITATION





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Who is this  
most likely to  
effect?

Adults or minors in rural,  
suburban, or urban

All demographics, all ages

Runaway youth/homeless  
youth

The provider for the family

# Who Are Possible Traffickers?

- ▶ Anyone can be a trafficker
- ▶ All races, genders, ethnicities
- ▶ School teacher, gym coach, medical professionals
- ▶ One of the biggest alarming factors, human trafficking is so prevalent
  - ▶ YOU have probably crossed paths with someone trafficking or being trafficked

# Actions of Sex Traffickers

## Recruiting

- Includes proactive targeting of those who are vulnerable, grooming behaviors are used as well

## Harboring

- Includes isolation, confinement, monitoring

## Transporting

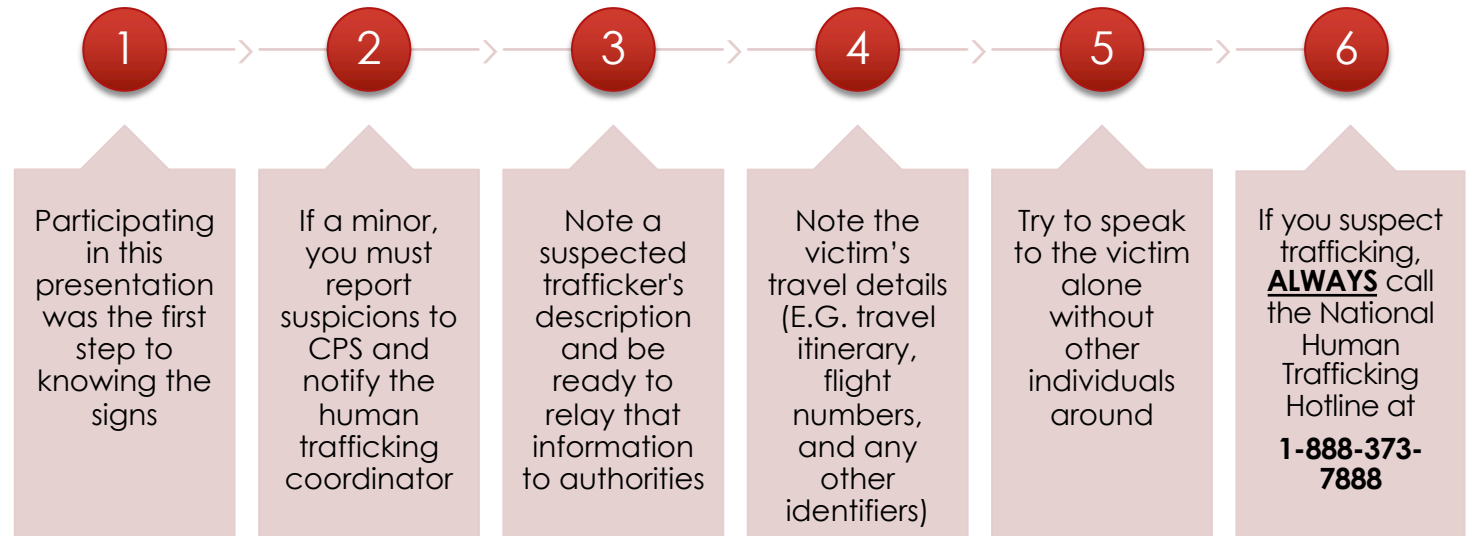
- Includes movement and arranging travel

## Soliciting

- Includes offering the person in exchange for something of value



# What Steps Can I take?



# Questions That Could Be Asked

- ▶ Where are you from?
- ▶ What brings you in tonight?
- ▶ How did you get here?
- ▶ What type of work do you do? Do you have a schedule?
- ▶ Are you paid for your work? What are your wages?
- ▶ Have you been threatened with violence while working or trying to leave?
- ▶ Are you being forced to do this?
- ▶ Do you have any identification?
- ▶ Do you have permission to eat, drink, or sleep?
- ▶ Where and with whom do you live? Do you have freedom to come and go?



# Take Away

- ▶ Sex trafficking is real, and it is in our state
- ▶ Do not engage with the pimp/individual that brought a victim in
- ▶ Make sure to contact CPS and the Human Trafficking Statewide Coordinator if the victim is a **MINOR**
- ▶ Listen to the victim as if they are your dearest friend
- ▶ No victim of trafficking chose this life. It was chosen for them
- ▶ Encourage others to read up on the human trafficking signs to look for
- ▶ Human trafficking does not discriminate, remember it could be someone among you
- ▶ Make sure you voice your concern, don't stay silenced



# Be The Solution





## RESOURCES

### ***Mississippi Attorney General's Human Trafficking Division***

601-497-3555  
HumanTrafficking@ago.ms.gov

### ***DPS Human Trafficking Division***

601-987-1671  
ReportHT@dps.ms.gov

### ***Mississippi Bureau of Investigation***

601-987-1530

### ***NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN (NCMEC)***

1-800-THE-LOST  
CyberTipline.org

# Contact Information

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