



RESPONDING TO A  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
REPORT

JUNE 2022





# POLICE

<b>KEY STATUTORY PROVISIONS</b>	<b>P2</b>
<b>COMMON TERMINOLOGY</b>	<b>P3</b>
<b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>P4</b>
<b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS</b>	<b>P5</b>
<b>METHODS OF TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>P6-7</b>
<b>MANIPULATION METHODS</b>	<b>P8</b>
<b>SEX TRAFFICKING VS LABOR TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>P9</b>
<b>SEX TRAFFICKING TYPES</b>	<b>P10</b>
<b>LABOR TRAFFICKING</b>	<b>P11</b>
<b>MANDATORY REPORTING</b>	<b>P12</b>
<b>REPORTING PROCEDURES</b>	<b>P13-14</b>
<b>MISSING CHILD INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>P15</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>P16</b>

# KEY STATUTORY PROVISIONS

# 2

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- M.C.A. § 97-3-54.1 (1): **Human Trafficking Act**  
(a): Trafficking  
(b): Procuring Involuntary Servitude  
(c): Procuring Sexual Servitude of a Minor
- M.C.A. § 97-3-54.4: **Human Trafficking Act Definitions**
- M.C.A. § 97-29-51 (1): **Procuring Prostitution**
- M.C.A. § 97-29-51 (2): **Promoting Prostitution**
- M.C.A. §§ 97-5-31-37: **Child Exploitation**
- M.C.A. § 43-21-105 (m): **Abused Child**
- M.C.A. § 97-5-39: **Child Neglect**
- M.C.A. § 97-3-53: **Kidnapping**
- M.C.A. § 97-3-65: **Statutory Rape**
- M.C.A. § 97-3-95: **Sexual Battery**
- M.C.A. § 97-3-7 (4): **Aggravated Domestic Violence**
- M.C.A. § 97-3-7 (3): **Simple Domestic Violence**

# COMMON TERMINOLOGY

3

## **BOTTOM**

Female appointed by trafficker/pimp to supervise the other women and report violations, aka his “right hand”.

## **BRANDING**

A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by trafficker/pimp/gang.

## **FINESSE PIMP/ROMEO PIMP**

One who prides himself on controlling others primarily through psychological manipulation. Although he may shower his victims with affection and gifts (especially during the recruitment phase), the threat of violence is always present.

## **GUERRILLA PIMP**

A pimp who controls his victims almost entirely through physical violence and force.

## **INCALL**

The buyer goes to the woman/man’s location.

## **OUTCALL**

The woman/man will come to the buyer’s location.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

4

## ANYONE CAN BE TRAFFICKED

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** can be a hidden crime as victims hardly come forward due to fear of law enforcement or because they do not recognize or self-identify as a victim.

Human trafficking is intending or knowing an individual will be subjected to forced labor, commercial sex acts, and/or sexually explicit activity through threat and use of force, fraud, or coercion.

A trafficker's goal is to exploit and enslave their victim, so they make a profit for self gain at the cost of the victim, both physically and mentally.

**NOTE:** Refer to M.C.A. 97-3-54.1

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

- 1 Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- 2 Has a child stopped attending school?
- 3 Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- 4 Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- 5 Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- 6 Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- 7 Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- 8 Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- 9 Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
- 10 Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
- 11 Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- 12 Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- 13 Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

# METHODS OF TRAFFICKING

## 6

### COERCION, FORCE, AND FRAUD

- **M.C.A. § 97-3-54.4(d)**

**COERCION** includes but is not limited to:

(i) Causing or threatening to cause bodily harm to any person, physically restraining or confining any person, or threatening to physically restrain or confine any person;

(iv) Providing a controlled substance to a person for the purpose of compelling the person to engage in labor or sexual servitude against the person's will;

(v) Causing or threatening to cause financial harm to any person or using financial control over any person;

(vii) Using blackmail;

(ix) Using any scheme, plan, or pattern of conduct intended to cause any person to believe that, if the person did not perform the labor or services, that the person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint.

# METHODS OF TRAFFICKING CONTINUED

7

- **M.C.A. § 97-3-54.4(h)**  
“**FORCED LABOR OR SERVICES**” means labor or services that are performed or provided by another person and are obtained or maintained through coercion.
- **According to *Black’s Law* FRAUD is defined as:** a knowing misrepresentation of the truth or concealment of material fact to induce another to act to his or her detriment.

**NOTE:** Refer to **M.C.A. § 97-3-54.4** for all Human Trafficking Act definitions.





# MANIPULATION METHODS

8

The victim sees their trafficker showing kindness when they supply food and shelter for them. In return, the victim wants to please the trafficker to increase their rate of survival. To do this, the victim becomes aware of the trafficker's likes and dislikes, disregarding their own feelings which makes them overwhelmingly grateful to their trafficker. The victim will then do what the trafficker asks them to do so their basic needs are continued to be cared for by the trafficker.

## VICTIMS ARE EXPLOITED BY TRAFFICKERS IN 4 MAIN WAYS

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Sexual Exploitation

Domestic Help

Forced Labor

Benefit Fraud

**NOTE:** *Stockholm Syndrome* can take root in the victim during the process of *Grooming*.

*Grooming* is when someone builds a relationship, trust, and emotional connection with an individual so that they can manipulate, exploit, and abuse them.

# SEX TRAFFICKING VS LABOR TRAFFICKING

**Pursuant to M.C.A. § 97-3-54.1 (1)(a): HUMAN TRAFFICKING** is coercing, recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining by any means, or attempting to coerce, recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means, another person, intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to forced labor or services, or benefiting, whether financially or by receiving anything of value from participating in an enterprise that he/she knows or reasonably should have known has engaged in such acts.

**Additionally,** children under 18 involved in commercial sex are automatically victims of child sex trafficking under US and MS law. (See M.C.A. § 97-3-54.1 (1)(c))

## SEX TRAFFICKING

**SEX TRAFFICKING** is a form of Human Trafficking that subjects victims to commercial sexual activity by force, fraud, or coercion. The presence of force, fraud, and coercion are not required if the victim is a minor.

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

**LABOR TRAFFICKING** is a form of Human Trafficking that subjects victims to forced labor or services such as involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

# SEX TRAFFICKING TYPES

10

## **FAMILIAL TRAFFICKING**

When family members allow their children, spouses, or vulnerable adults to be sexually exploited in exchange for something of value, money, drugs, rent, etc.

## **PIMP CONTROLLED TRAFFICKING**

When an individual controls a victim engaged in commercial sex acts.

## **GANG CONTROLLED TRAFFICKING**

Differs from pimp controlled in that the entire gang controls the victim.

## **SURVIVAL SEX TRAFFICKING**

Victims exchange sexual services for food, cell phone, or a place to stay.



**LABOR TRAFFICKING** can occur in any industry and is an underreported crime. Victims often fear for their safety and wellbeing. Industries more frequently subject to labor trafficking include agriculture, domestic work, construction, landscaping, factories and manufacturing, and healthcare.

## **METHODS OF TRAFFICKING IN PRACTICE**

- **FORCE** - physical assault, sexual assault, isolation, confinement of a person.
- **FRAUD** - false/deceptive offers of employment, sham marriages, lying about work situations or living conditions, withholding wages and/or documentation.
- **COERCION** - threats of violence against a person or the person's family, threats of arrest/deportation, debt bondage, withholding legal documentation.

**NOTE:** *Smuggling* can facilitate Human Trafficking.

# MANDATORY REPORTING

# 12

## GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING

- 1 In accordance with **M.C.A. §97-3-54.9(4)**, every investigation of a Human Trafficking offense **MUST** be emailed to the **DPS Human Trafficking Coordinator** at:  
**ReportHT@dps.ms.gov**
- 2 Check the **MBI Records Management System** for information on your suspect, Victim Intelligence Analyst Support, and/or Forensics Operation Support.
- 3 For further assistance, contact the **Mississippi Attorney General's Human Trafficking Unit** at **601-497-3555** and **HumanTrafficking@ago.ms.gov** or contact **MBI** at **601-987-1530**.



## ADULT

**ALWAYS MAINTAIN A VICTIM CENTERED APPROACH,  
I.E. TREAT THE INDIVIDUAL AS A VICTIM.**

- 1** After beginning a conversation with the victim:
  - Let the victim know they are safe and you are there to help them.
  - Speak to them in a manner that you would speak to a friend.
- 2** Questions to ask to assess the victim's needs:
  - When was the last time you had a meal?
  - Are you on any medication or do you need any medical attention?
  - Do you need any personal hygiene products/ facilities?
  - Do you have any children? If so, when did you last speak to them?
- 3** Preserve any and all evidence, including:
  - Digital (cell phone, laptop, iPad).
  - Forensic (condoms, condom packaging, needles, blood).
  - Physical (hairbrush, toothbrush, underwear).

# REPORTING PROCEDURES CONTINUED

# 14

- 4 Document any and all injuries on any party present.
- 5 Reiterate the victim centered approach and remember a victim may not always “appear” or “identify” as a victim.
- 6 Explain to the victim that you can provide them with a victim services directory should they like to seek free additional help.

## MINOR

*If a minor is suspected of being trafficked:*

- 1 Call **CPS** at **1-800-222-8000** and request an investigator. CPS must send someone to your location.
- 2 For youth who are in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program, you **MUST** call **CPS** at **1-800-222-8000**.

### FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE CONTACT:

The Mississippi Attorney General’s Human  
Trafficking Unit at:  
601-497-3555 or [HumanTrafficking@ago.ms.gov](mailto:HumanTrafficking@ago.ms.gov)

and

The MBI Trafficking Coordinator at:  
601-987-1671 or [ReportHT@dps.ms.gov](mailto:ReportHT@dps.ms.gov)

## MISSING CHILD PROCEDURE

Upon receiving a report of a missing child, the law enforcement agency shall:

- File a report in the jurisdiction where the child resides or where the child was last seen or both.
- Institute or assist with appropriate search and investigative procedures.
- Inform all on-duty officers within the agency of the report.
- Through your local dispatch, transmit a report to **National Crime Information Center (NCIC)** within 2 hours, and input all **NCIC** required information.
- Transmit a report to **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** at:  
**CyberTipline.org** or **1-800-THE-LOST**
- Update information in **NCIC** at least every 30 days.

**NOTE:** A runaway child is a missing child and shall not be excluded as such because the child has voluntarily left their place of residence.

Law enforcement shall not require a mandatory waiting period before accepting a missing child report and commencing an investigation.



## *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

