



RESOURCES

Mississippi Human Trafficking Coordinator
601.987.1671 | ReportHT@dps.ms.gov

Mississippi Child Abuse Hotline
800.222.8000

National Human Trafficking Hotline
888.373.7888 or text *HELP* or *INFO*
to 233733 (*BEFREE*) for additional info

SOCIAL MEDIA & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The digital age has opened many doors for contact-- including the doors to traffickers. Human Traffickers are flooding our digital gateway more frequently, looking to manipulate our children and young adults.

Social Media Platforms to Watch:

Facebook

Instagram

Snapchat

TikTok

Kik

Meetme.com

WhatsApp

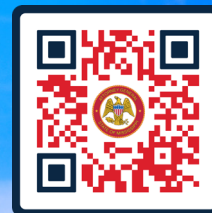
Dating Sites (Tinder, Grindr, Bumble, Hinge,
& Plenty of Fish)

Traffickers may use social media to prey upon a vulnerable individual's emotional state by forming an intimate relationship with them. Please visit AttorneyGeneralLynnFitch.com for more information on how you can protect your and your child's social media accounts.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING



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WHAT IS 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.

- Sex trafficking occurs when a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or when the person performing the commercial sex act has not attained 18 years of age.
- Trafficking does not require force, physical abuse, or physical restraint--other forms of coercion such as threats, intimidation, or blackmail are often used by traffickers. Nonphysical forms of coercion may include:
 - threats to publish sexually explicit photographs or videos of the victim; or
 - providing, administering, or withholding drugs or alcohol to/from the victim.
- Traffickers prey on victims' insecurities and vulnerabilities to gain trust and control. Once a trafficker has control over a victim, they often use threats of physical harm, or threats of physical harm to the victims' family, in order to force victims into unwanted sexual activity.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT PROSTITUTION

- **Human Trafficking victims do not choose to engage in prostitution.** Victims are often lured by traffickers with promises of love, family, and financial security.
- **Children are not prostitutes.** A child under the age of 18 who has been identified as a victim of Human Trafficking is not liable for criminal activity committed during their time as a Human Trafficking victim, including but not limited to the crime of prostitution. Any person who knowingly subjects, recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains a minor under the age of 18 to engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performances, or the production of sexually explicit material shall be guilty of procuring sexual servitude of a minor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to 20 years to life in prison. **Miss. Code Ann. 97-3-54.1**
- Runaway and homeless youth are particularly susceptible to traffickers.
- Contrary to popular belief, the vast majority of Human Trafficking victims are not kidnapped or physically forced into sexual servitude.
- Many victims are trafficked by someone they know, whether a friend, a romantic partner, or even a family member.



HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

If you suspect something is wrong, ask yourself these questions:



1 Are there bruises or other signs of physical abuse? Are there signs of psychological abuse?

- 2** Is the person submissive or fearful?
- 3** Is the person being controlled? Is the person being deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- 4** Is the person allowed to be in public alone?
- 5** Can the person freely contact friends or family? Is the person allowed to socialize or participate in extra-curricular or religious activities?

For a complete list of warning signs to look for, please visit:

AttorneyGeneralLynnFitch.com



HOW DO TRAFFICKERS CONTROL VICTIMS?

Human Trafficking poses a significant danger to our nation's most vulnerable. Human traffickers prey on individuals living in poverty, struggling with addiction, and victims of familial and sexual abuse, just to list a few. How are these victims controlled?

FORCE: physical restraint, transporting, beatings, rape.

FRAUD: false offers of employment, marriage, or a better life.

COERCION: threats, destroying legal documents, withholding personal identification information, abuse of the legal process, debt bondage, psychological abuse.