

# An Introduction to Sex Trafficking

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**DCJS**

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services





***Human trafficking can affect all socioeconomic statuses, genders, races, and ethnicities.***



# What Is Human Trafficking?

# What is Human Trafficking?

**There are 6 main types of human trafficking worldwide:**

- Sex Trafficking
- Labor Trafficking
- Organ Harvesting
- Forced Marriage
- Debt Bondage
- Child Soldier



Source: Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva, 2017. Retrieved on May 25, 2019 from [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575479.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf).

# Federal Definitions of Sex and Labor Trafficking

## Sex trafficking:

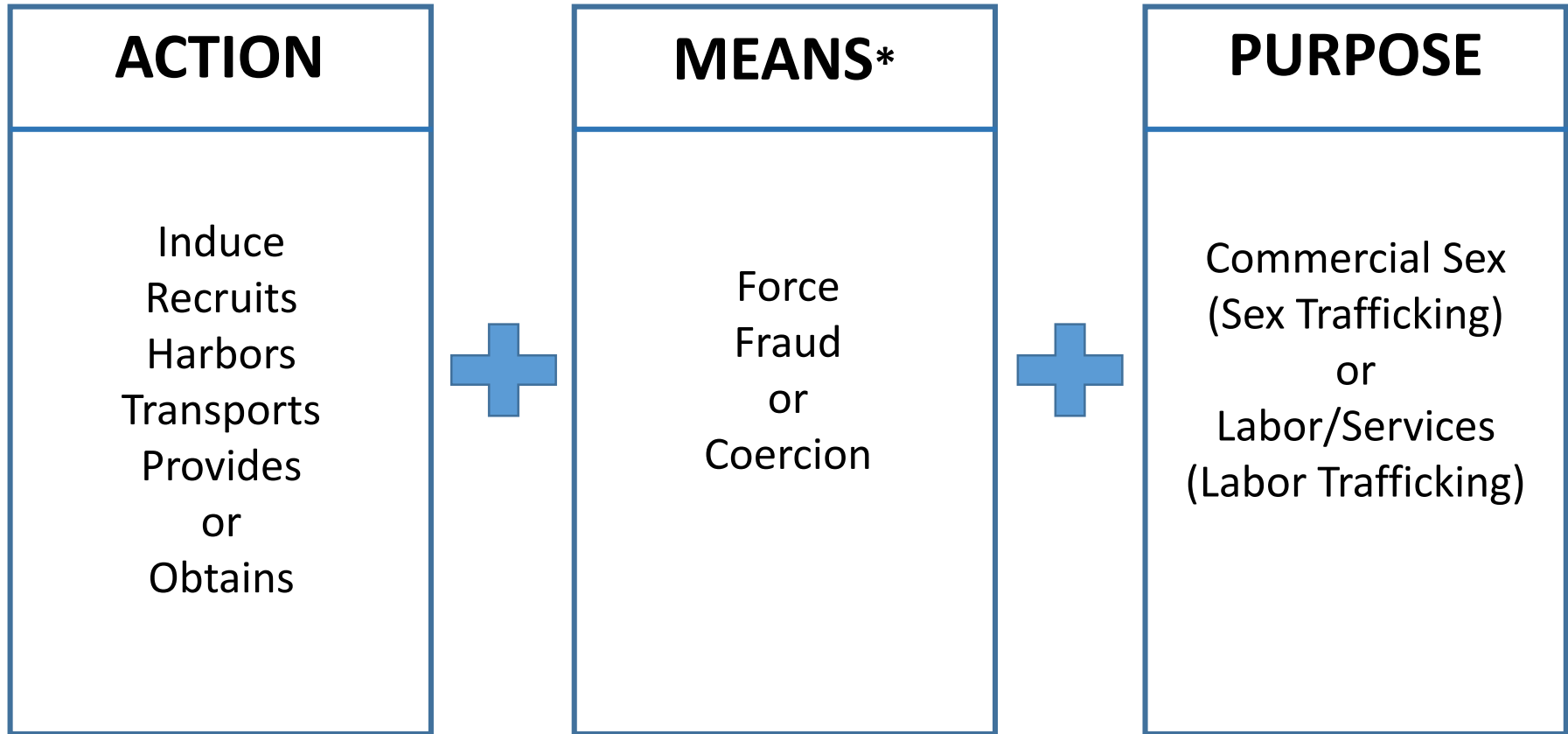
The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where such an act is induced by force, fraud, coercion or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. (22 USC 7102)

## Labor trafficking:

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. (22 USC § 7102(9))

Note: In cases involving juveniles there is no burden of proof for force, fraud, or coercion. This is automatically implied as juveniles cannot consent.

# The A-M-P Model



\* Force, Fraud, and/or Coercion do not need to be proven in the cases of minors.

# Virginia's Definition of Sex Trafficking

## *The Code of Virginia 18.2-357.1*

Any person who solicits, invites, recruits, encourages, or otherwise causes or attempts to **cause a person to engage in prostitution with the intent to receive money or other valuable thing** or to assist another in receiving money or other valuable thing from the earnings of such person engaged in commercial sex.



# Types of Control

## Sex Trafficking:

- Gang Controlled (MS-13 & 18<sup>th</sup> Street most prevalent)
- Family Controlled
- Pimp / Non-Gang Controlled

## Labor Trafficking:

- Domestic Servitude
- Construction
- Agriculture
- Hospitality and Services
- Illicit Massage Businesses

## Debt Bondage



# **How Does Sex Trafficking Happen in the United States?**

# The Grooming Process

Identify

- Trafficker(s) identify an individual to connect with

Connect

- Trafficker connects with identified individual and begins to build rapport and a relationship with them

Manipulate

- Trafficker fills a void, need, or desire to make a “better life” for the individual

Isolate

- Trafficker increases personal time with individual and begins separating individual from family and friends

Abuse

- Physical abuse begins to maintain control and assert power

# The Grooming Process

Identify

- Trafficker(s) identify an individual to connect with



- Introduced by friend or family
- Stranger
- Family Member

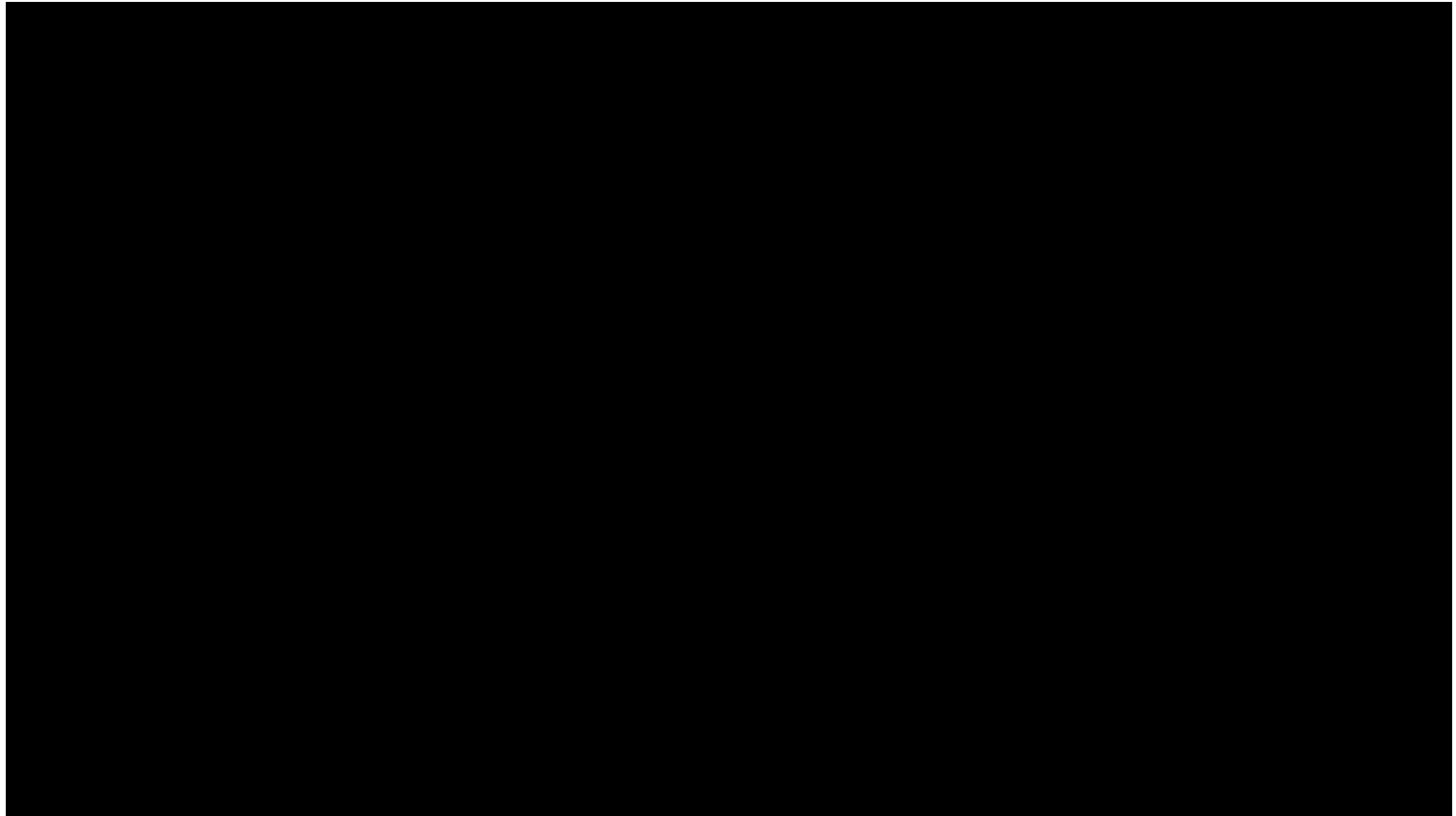


- Social Media Apps
- Texts
- Gaming Platforms
- Any technology that connects to others

# The Grooming Process

Identify

- Trafficker(s) identify an individual to connect with



Source: Bark (2020). "Social Media Dangers Exposed by Mom Posing as 11-Year-Old". Retrieved from [youtube.com/watch?v=dbg4hNHsc\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbg4hNHsc_8) on October 25, 2021.

# The Grooming Process

Connect

- Trafficker connects with identified individual and begins to build rapport and a relationship with them



Friendship?



Need Housing?



Romantic?



Money?



Family?



Drugs?

IT'S ALL ABOUT  
RELA TIONSHIPS

# The Grooming Process

Manipulate

- Trafficker fills a void, need, or desire to make a “better life” for the individual



- Family support
- Financial need
- Desire for romantic relationship
- Family neglect/abuse
- Foster care
- Illusion of “adulthood”
- Homelessness
- Substance abuse
- Something else.....

# The Grooming Process

Isolate

- Trafficker increases personal time with individual and begins separating individual from family and friends





# The Grooming Process

Abuse

- Physical abuse begins to maintain control and assert power



# Survivor Survey

Thorn: Released January 2018

260 survivors were surveyed. Of those with a trafficker:

- 42% stated that they trusted their trafficker within **1 month.**
- 28% stated that they trusted their trafficker within **4 months.**

***The Grooming Process Can Happen Quickly!!***

Source: Thorn. 2018. *Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*. Pg. 27.  
Retrieved from [https://www.thorn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Thorn\\_Survivor\\_Insights\\_090519.pdf](https://www.thorn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Thorn_Survivor_Insights_090519.pdf).

## Trauma Bonding

- "a strong emotional attachment between an abused person and his or her abuser, formed as a result of the cycle of violence." - Austin & Boyd

# Conditions of Trauma Bonding

Source: Trauma & Hope. Sexual Exploitation Treatment Training Services (2017).



Imbalance of power



Intermittent  
Reinforcement of  
Abuse



Victim denies abuse



Victim hides the abuse



# Indicators of Sex Trafficking

# Higher Risk Populations

\*Not an exhaustive list

- Runaways
- Homeless Youth
- Foster Care / System Involved Youth
- Refugee Population
- LGBTQIA2+ Population
- Familial Issues (Divorce, estranged parents, broken relationships, etc.)
- Abused (sexual, physical, and/or emotional)
- Financial Desperation
- Intergenerational Trafficking Families
- Gang Affiliated Families
- Substance Abuse

# Physical & Behavioral Indicators

\*Not an exhaustive list

- Scripted answers and responses
- History of abuse
- Not making eye contact
- Indicators of Physical Abuse
- Branding or Tattoos
- Behavioral Changes
- Older significant other
- Unexplained change in school attendance (truancy)
- Display of expensive items, bragging about money
- Sexualized clothing, explicit on-line profile, downloading pornography
- Parties (not age appropriate parties)
- Hanging out in unfamiliar neighborhoods or states
- New cell phone or overly attached to phone
- Gang affiliation
- Runaway behavior, leaving home without telling their whereabouts
- Isolating from family and other support systems

# Medical Indicators

\*Not an exhaustive list

- Untreated injuries from beatings and rape
- Unexplained bruises, scarring-signs of physical abuse
- Reproductive health problems (i.e. - exposure to HIV and STD's, fertility issues)
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Somatic complaints (headaches, chronic pain)
- Malnutrition
- Severe dental problems
- TB
- Addictions to drugs/alcohol
- Unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions
- Fatigue
- Significant weight loss



# Mental Health Related Effects of Trafficking

\*Not an exhaustive list

- Complex Trauma
- PTSD
- Extreme fear and anxiety
- Depression
- Inability to trust others
- Self-Harming Behaviors
- Profound shame and guilt
- Difficulty sleeping
- Difficulty concentrating
- Stress related disorders
- Panic attacks



# Reporting

# Reporting in Virginia



- Call [CPS Hotline](tel:1-800-552-7096): 1-800-552-7096
- Local Law Enforcement Agency
- Refer to the [Virginia Human Trafficking Resource Guide](#) on the DCJS website for specialized providers.
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](tel:1-800-THE-LOST) 1-800-THE-LOST
- [National Human Trafficking Hotline](tel:1-888-373-7888) 1-888-373-7888

**For life-threatening situations always call 9-1-1.**

# Department of Social Services

## Human Trafficking Related Updates

- Through legislation that was effective as of July 1, 2019 the Department of Social Services **shall**:
  - Initiate a human trafficking assessment upon allegation and/or evidence of a juvenile trafficking situation.
- The Department of Social Services **may**:
  - Now include traffickers as the “caretaker” for the purposes of initiating a human trafficking assessment and/or investigation;
  - Hold a juvenile for up to 72 hours for safety concerns relating to a human trafficking related investigation (as deemed necessary).
- Mandated reporters **must** report suspected human trafficking situations to their local CPS hotline.

# Department of Social Services

## Human Trafficking Related Updates

### Human Trafficking Assessment

(Code of Virginia § 63.2-1506.1)

- Update effective July 1, 2020:

When conducting a human trafficking assessment pursuant to this section, the local department may interview the alleged child victim or his siblings without the consent and outside the presence of such child's or siblings' parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis, or school personnel. (§ 63.2-1506.1 (G))



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