

I AM NOT FOR SALE

YOU COULD SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE

If you suspect a child is involved in trafficking,
please call the national hotline.
1-888-373-7888



What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is the buying and selling of individuals for forced labor or sex. The most vulnerable population of this crime are those under the age of 18. The average age of a domestic sex trafficking victim is 13. These children are often traded for money, drugs, or anything of value. Adolescents are forced into trafficking by fraud or bullying. They may be pulled into the world of trafficking after being kidnapped or running away from home. However, some victims may still be living at home with their families.

What is the scope of the problem?

Between 100,000 and 300,000 children in the United States are forced into sexual slavery every year. Human trafficking is a \$32 billion per year global business. The growing problem is fueled by the normalization of prostitution, the sexualization of children, the anonymity of the Internet, and society's lack of knowledge about the issue.

Where is this happening?

The national human trafficking hotline receives more calls from Texas than any other state, and much of the trafficking happens right here in our community. **Recently, the FBI named Dallas and Houston two of the 14 cities in the nation with the highest incidence of children sold for sex.**

Who is involved?

Victims can be girls or boys. These children often come from abusive or broken homes. They may be looking to someone older as a parent figure or caretaker. They are longing for love or approval. Pimps are masters of manipulation. They seek out children with low self-esteem, and promise them love, better lives, gifts or fame. Pimps may find their victims at school hangouts, malls, gas stations, amusement parks and through social media Web sites. They build trust with the victims and then exploit them to make money. The victim's pimp could be a family member, friend, significant other or stranger.

Protect your child.

One of the most important things you can do is to help your child develop a strong sense of self-worth. Have an open and trusting relationship with your child. Let them know that they are loved. Most of all, tell them their life has no price tag. They are not for sale.

By following these tips and reporting to the authorities if you believe that your child or one of your child's friends may be in trouble, we can bring an end to human trafficking in our community.

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Sudden change in looks, clothing or possessions
- Bruises, burns and other signs of abuse
- Tattoos, and other symbols of ownership or property
- Frequent school absences
- A story that doesn't make sense
- A cell phone paid for by someone else
- Use of words common to prostitution
- Frequent travel to other cities
- The child is constantly fearful
- An older, controlling boyfriend or female friend



What can you do to prevent your children from becoming victims?

Know your child's friends. Don't let your child hang out with friends, go to someone's house, or sleep over unless you know the friend and the friend's parents. It is also important to be aware of all others living in a household that your child may visit. Family friends, siblings and other family members could also be a danger to your child.

Be your child's parent, not a friend. It is important to be a well-informed parent. Ask your child questions like: "Where are you going?" "Who are you going with?" and "How do you know this person?"

Beware of social media. Don't allow a child under 13 to have a Facebook account. If he/she is older and has an account, monitor it very closely. Tell your child that no one online needs to know his/her location, where he/she goes to school or where he/she lives. Beware of photos, too. For example, a cheerleading or football photo could identify the child's school name. Check the child's smartphone to turn off any location settings.

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