

Protections for Child Victims of **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



Florida Department of
Children & Families



Child Trafficking in Florida

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Webinars:

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Objectives

- Understand the basic elements of human trafficking
- Identify trafficked children and human trafficking situations
- Identify the role that you play in trafficking cases
- Understand and be able to access relief, benefits and resources for trafficked children

Operating Procedure

- Describes DCF Family Safety response to child trafficking;
- Outlines responsibilities of:
 - Florida Abuse Hotline
 - Child Protective Investigators
 - Community Based Care Lead Agencies;
- Details service options for trafficked children;
- Gives Definitions

Human Trafficking Defined:

(A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or



BBC

Human Trafficking Defined: (cont)

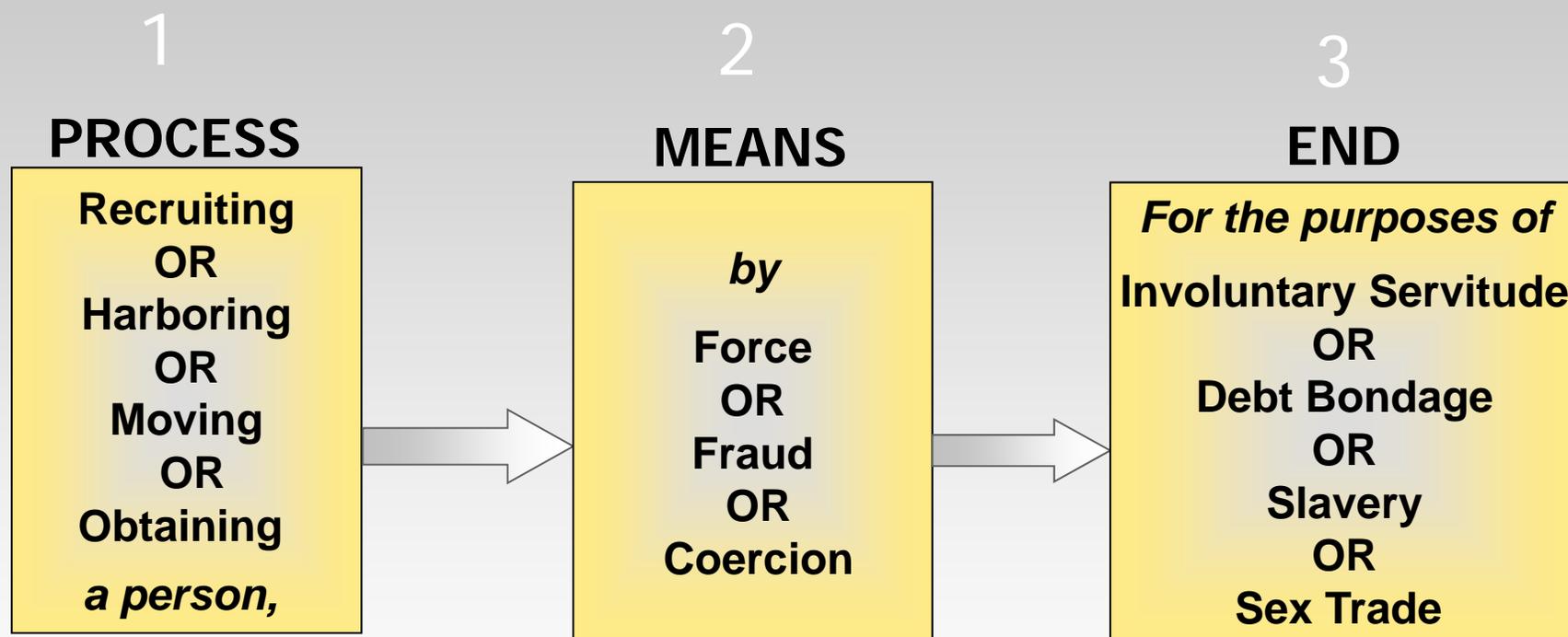
(B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

**(Victims of Trafficking and
Violence Protection Act of 2000
§103)**



OPC

What is Human Trafficking?



Scenario*

A woman came to see Maria's mother in her Mexican village to offer Maria a job as a cook in America. She promised that Maria would make \$200 per month and could go to school. The woman brought Maria into the U.S. by car and took her to a bar in Florida. Maria was told she would be working in the bar and had to pay off a \$7,500 debt to the owners by working as a prostitute. When Maria refused to do the work and asked to go back home, the owners beat her and threatened to harm her mother if she did not do the work.

* Adapted from Freedom Network Training Institute

- **Process**

- Recruited her from village
- Brought her to U.S.
- Kept her in a bar

- **Means**

- Was promised \$200/month
- Made her work in a bar
- Owners beat her
- Owed a debt
- Threaten to harm mother

- **End**

- Prostitution
- Debt bondage

Scope of the Problem

- Prime Destination States: Florida, Texas, New York, and California
- In the U.S.: 14,500-17,500 annually, 80% women and children
- Globally: accounts range from 600,000 to 4 million people trafficked worldwide each year
- 27 million people in slavery around the world

In what sectors and industries does trafficking occur?

- Agriculture and Landscaping
- Hotels and Restaurants
- Sex Industry: Prostitution (Brothels and “Delivery Services”), Strip Clubs, Massage Parlors, Pornography
- Nursing Homes
- Domestic Service: Housekeeping Care (Private Homes)
- Factories and Sweatshops
- Others



Spotless

Who Are the Victims?

- **ANYONE**
- Trafficking victims may be undocumented immigrants, legal immigrants, or even U.S. citizens.
- Includes men, women, children and families.
- What all victims have in common is some kind of vulnerability that can be exploited and manipulated by the trafficker.

Who Are the Traffickers?

- “Mom and Pop” organizations
- Caretakers and/or people posing as caretakers
- Labor subcontractors
- Organized crime
- Pimps
- Diplomats



Who Are the Traffickers?

- Members of the victim's own ethnic or national community
- In the U.S. with legal status and maintain close contact with their home country
- Fluent in English as well as a native language
- Non-immigrants and U.S.-based businesses
- Have significant social or political status in their home countries

Possible Indicators

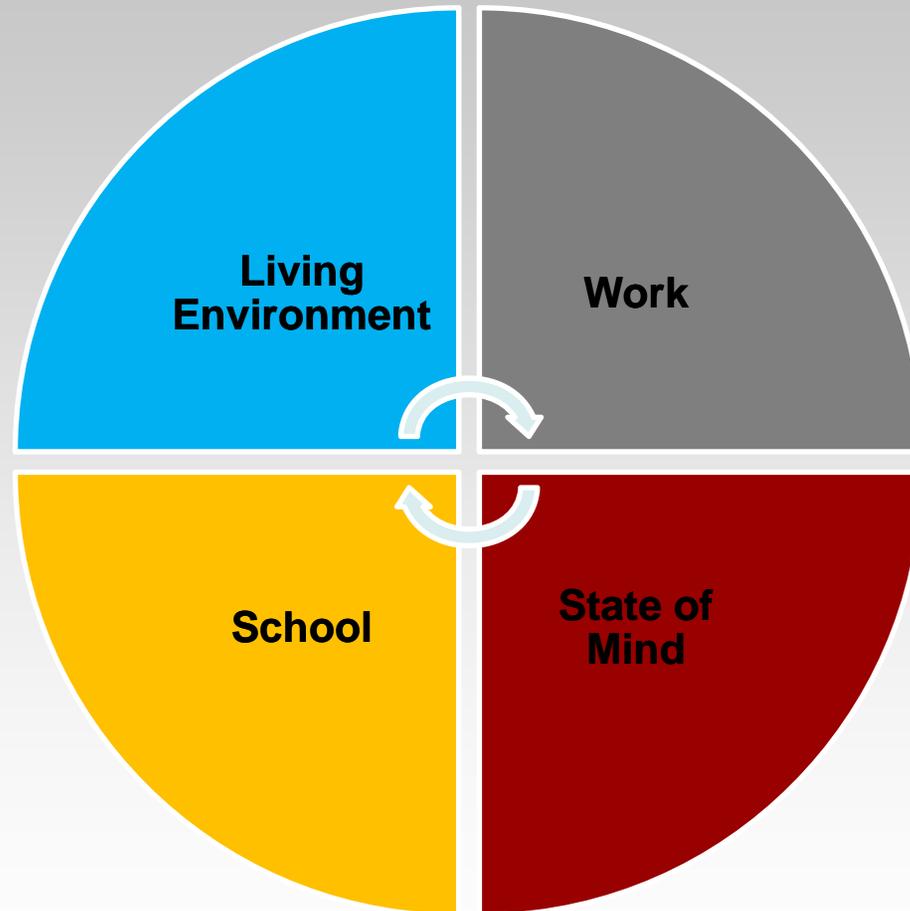
The child:

- Shows evidence of physical, mental, or sexual abuse
- Cannot or will not speak on own behalf and/or is non-English speaking
- Is not allowed to speak to you alone
- Is being controlled
- Works unusually long hours and is unpaid or paid very little
- Does not have access to identity and/or travel documents
- Will not cooperate, e.g., gives you wrong information about identity and living situation
- Lives at his/her workplace or with employer and/or lives with many people in a small area
- Is not in school or has significant gaps in schooling
- Has a heightened sense of fear and distrust of authority
- Has engaged in prostitution or commercial sex acts



Foreign Policy Association

Questions to Consider



How Do Traffickers Control Their Victims?

- Psychological abuses
- Beatings, burnings, sexual abuse, and starvation
- Isolation
- Threats of deportation
- Threats against the victim's family members
- Drug/alcohol dependency
- Withholding of documents
- Debt
- Other examples?



CPI Responsibility

If identified by Hotline or suspected:

- Contact law enforcement
- Coordinate with law enforcement
- Add “Human Trafficking” maltreatment if discovered during investigation
- Hold multidisciplinary staffing

CBC Responsibility

If human trafficking is suspected:

- Contact law enforcement
- Call in a report to the Hotline
- Retain primary case management
- Hold multidisciplinary staffing (CBC is lead)

Key Responders

- Florida Abuse Hotline Staff
- Child Protective Investigators
- Community Based Care Providers/Child Welfare Service Workers
- Family Safety
- Refugee Services and Providers
- Guardians ad Litem
- Children's Legal Services Attorneys
- Child Welfare Service Workers
- Child Protection Teams
- Mental Health Professionals
- Law Enforcement
- Schools
- Faith Community
- Health care
- Others?



Aaron Favila, AP/WWP

Interview Considerations

- Language barriers
- State of mind of the child victim
- Cultural and religious differences
- Building trust
- Immigration status
- Ensure confidentiality

Confidentiality and Safety

- Cases are very complex
- Find safe environment for interviews
- Limit the number of people involved in interviewing the victim
- Always use a reliable interpreter
- Understanding confidentiality in trafficking cases is key

What could you do if you suspect or discover trafficking?

- Call 911 if there is immediate danger
- Add “Human Trafficking” maltreatment
- If trafficking is suspected, contact law enforcement
- If additional information is required, contact DCF, Refugee Services, Tallahassee: 850-488-3791 or Miami: 305-377-7917

Victims of Human Trafficking Are Entitled To:

- Safety
- Privacy
- Information
- Legal representation
- Immigration Relief
- Be heard in court
- Restitution
- Education
- Civil compensation for damages
- Medical assistance
- Social assistance
- Seek residency
- Return home
- Be informed about process
- Family Reunification

Assessing Immediate Needs

- Housing
- Food, clothing and personal necessities
- Medical care
- Mental health care
- Life skills
- Legal representation



Programs and Services for Trafficked Children

- Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program
- Licensed Out of Home Care:
 - Foster Care
 - Group Homes
- Immigration relief, such as a T-visa
- Obtaining services and benefits – “Eligibility”
- Repatriation



P. Jack Public Gallery

ATTENTION Trafficking cases are complicated. Contact an attorney with experience in this area of the law.

Florida Resources

- **Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services,**
Tallahassee: 850- 488-3791 or Miami: 305-377-7917
 - Regina Bernadin, Statewide Human Trafficking
Coordinator: 305-376-1948
- **Local law enforcement**
- **Local federal authorities**
 - Northern District – 850-942-8439
 - Middle District – 239-461-2225
 - Southern District – 305-961-9001
- **Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) *Lucha* Project,**
305-573-1106
- **FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights
(CAHR), 850-644-4550**

Website Resources

- US Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division
www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwedo_ctip.html
- US Health and Human Services
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)
www.lirs.org
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
www.usccb.org
- Florida Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services
www.dcf.state.fl.us/refugee/index.shtml
- Florida's Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare
centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/kb/humantraf/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Questions?

Thank you!



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