

# Georgia Office of the Attorney General Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



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# Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



Created in 2019 by  
**Attorney General Chris Carr**  
with support from

**Governor Kemp**  
**First Lady Marty Kemp**  
**Leaders in the General Assembly**

# Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



## Goals of the Unit:

- Investigate, arrest, and prosecute offenders statewide
- Rescue victims of sex trafficking
  - Provide resources and rehabilitation to victims
  - Help to set victims up for success in their future
- Reduce the demand for sexual exploitation of children

# What is Human Trafficking?



## SEX TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing, obtaining, patronizing, soliciting, or advertising of a person **for a commercial sex act**, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act had not reached 18 years of age.

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing 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.

# Georgia's Anti-Human Trafficking Law



Any person who knowingly . . .

## ACTION

Maintains  
Recruits  
Entices  
Harbors  
Transports  
Provides  
Obtains  
Solicits  
Benefits financially

## MEANS

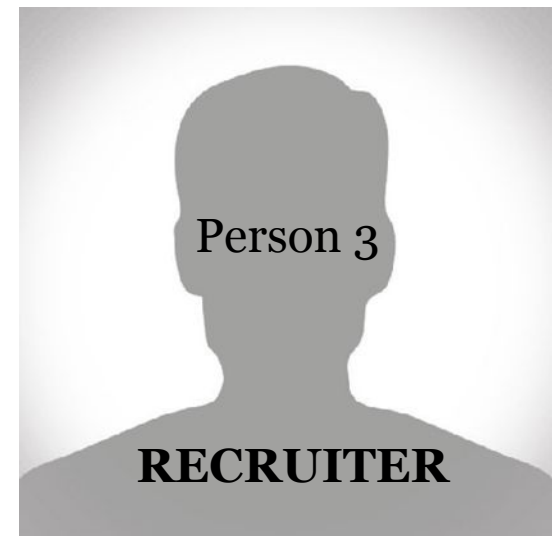
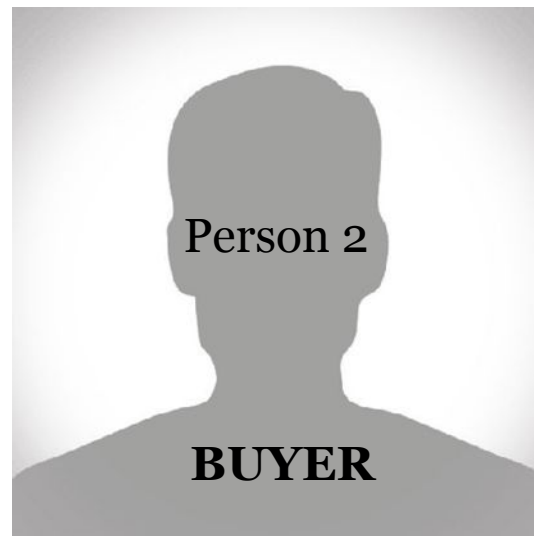
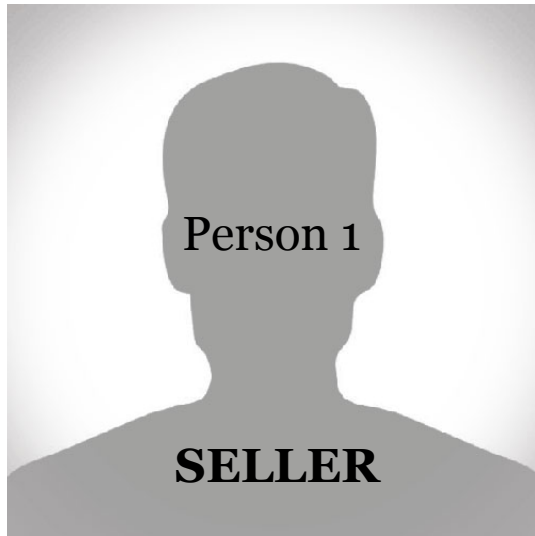
Force  
Physical assault, sexual assault,  
confinement  
Fraud  
False promises, false conditions,  
withholding wages  
Coercion  
Threats of bondage, psychological  
manipulation, confiscation of docs

## PURPOSE

Sexual Servitude  
(commercial sex act)

*\*If the Victim is a minor, then force/fraud/coercion is not required as an element.*

# Georgia's Anti-Human Trafficking Law



Who can be charged?

# Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



1. Recognition

2. Prevention

3. Reporting

# Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



## RECOGNITION



# Recognition



*Human trafficking victims will often not present themselves as “victims”.*

*Average age of entry is 11-13 years old.*

# Recognition



## *Common misconceptions:*

- Victims are eager to be rescued.
- Sex trafficking is a metro Atlanta problem.
- All victims are being forced, threatened, or coerced.
- Traffickers are kidnapping the victims.
- Cheap motels are the only place this happens.
- Relatives are never traffickers.
- Victims choose to be in “the life”.
- Only girls are victims.
- All traffickers are males.

# Recognition



*“Why don’t human trafficking victims run?”*

Manipulation

Power

Control

# Trauma Bonding



## Stockholm Syndrome – 3 elements:

1. A Victim must feel a perceived threat to their physical or psychological survival, as well as hold a belief that the abuser would carry out the threat.
2. There must be the presence of a perceived kindness by the abuser.
3. The Victim should also have the perception that there is no escape from their situation.

# Recognition: Who are the Victims?



## Vulnerabilities:

- Unstable home environment
  - The vast majority have DFACS involvement
- Needs being unmet
  - Emotional
  - Housing
  - Food
  - Safety
- Prior sexual abuse
  - Over 90% of the victims

# Recognition: Who are the Victims?



- May appear malnourished or lack hygiene
- Hair and nails may be done
- Unexplained gifts or money
- Behavioral changes/problems
  - Depression/ withdrawal
  - Aggression
  - Recruitment of other youth
- Absences for extended periods of time
  - But note that not all traffickers travel with their victims
- Repeat runaways
- Truancy
- New or unusual tattoos

# Recognition



- Relationships with traffickers differ:
  - Parent/guardian
  - Boyfriend figure
    - May be referred to as “boyfriend” or “Daddy”
  - “Aunt” figure
  - More experienced peer

# Recognition



## *Methods of Recruitment:*

- Relationship (boyfriend) scenario
- Internet (social media) recruitment
- “Cold Calling” technique
- Peer recruitment
- False advertising for modeling, acting, or dancing
- Gorilla recruitment



# Recognition



## ● Relationship (boyfriend) scenario

- “No one loves you like I do.”
- “I will take care of you.”
- “I’ll give you everything you need and want (food, clothing, shelter, etc).”
- “If you do this, then we can get an apartment together.”
- “I’ll be the daddy you never had.”
- “No one understands you, but I do.”
- “No one appreciates you, but I will.”

# Recognition



## ● Internet Recruitment

- Can be as simple as the trafficker sending a direct message to a new social media connection. Then, they will often times move them off of the social media platform to another platform – i.e., Kik, Snapchat, WhatsApp, texting, etc.
- “Hey, thanks for adding me...”
- “You’re very pretty. Would you be interested in a job making easy money?”
- “Text me so we can talk more.”
- “Add me on \_\_\_\_\_.”

# Recognition



- “Cold calling” technique (scouting)
  - The trafficker scouts places where he may encounter vulnerable youth – i.e., malls, youth shelters, bus stops, juvenile court, etc.
  - Traffickers sometimes use other victims to make the initial approach in an effort to disarm the minor victim.
  - “You’re so beautiful – you could be a model.”
  - “Do you need a ride somewhere?”
  - “I know how you could make some money.”

# Recognition



## Barriers to Self-Identification

- Threats to family and friends
- Fear of arrest
- Lack of transportation or controlled movements
- Fear of retaliation
- Loyalty to the trafficker
- Loyalty to other victims
- False promises
- Distrust of authority
- Hopelessness
- Debt bondage
- Isolation
- Language barriers

# Quote from a Trafficking Victim



“Being in foster care was the perfect training for commercial sexual exploitation. I was used to being moved without warning, without any say, not knowing where I was going or whether I was allowed to pack my clothes. After years in foster care, I didn’t think anyone would want to take care of me unless they were paid. So, when my trafficker expected me to make money to support the “family” . . . it made sense to me.”

# Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



**PREVENTION**

# Prevention



- **Do not overlook or ignore the indicators.**
  - Excessive absences or truancy, often runs away from home, withdrawn behavior or signs of depression, change in physical appearance or inappropriate attire, avoids eye contact, exhibits signs of physical abuse.
- **Engage with the minor.**
  - He/she most likely will NOT want to talk, but it does no harm and there is always the possibility that you are approaching that youth when he/she is desperate to speak with someone.
- **Communicate with other individuals & agencies that may be involved with the youth and his/her family.**
  - The courts (probation officers) and schools should be working together. Both are great sources of information for how the youth is generally doing. We all have to be mindful not to share confidential or sensitive information, but general topics and concerns regarding the youth's overall welfare can most certainly be discussed.

# Prevention



- Know where your children are and who they are with
- Monitor internet usage
  - Any app with a chat or communication feature is an app for traffickers to utilize
  - Always promote and talk about internet safety



# Prevention



- **Recommend trainings for staff & students.**
  - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)  
<https://georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org/learn-more/attend-training.html>
  - GA Center for Child Advocacy  
<https://georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org/learn-more/attend-training.html>
  - Street Grace  
<https://www.streetgrace.org/training/>
  - Homeland Security Investigations -- Blue Campaign  
<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>
  - First Lady Marty Kemp's Awareness Training  
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/uaXBI-qF9wc?rel=0>

# Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



## REPORTING

# Reporting



If you suspect that a youth is being sexually trafficked, a report should be made to the following agencies:

- ✓ 24-Hour Statewide Trafficking Hotline
- ❖ 1 (866) 363-4842 (1-866-END-HTGA)
- ❖ Run by Child Advocacy Centers of Georgia's CSEC Response Team
- ❖ <https://www.cacga.org/csec-response-team/>
- ✓ Local law enforcement agency (*to include your school resource officer*)
- ✓ School Social Worker
- ✓ Division of Family & Children Services Intake Line
- ❖ 1 (855) 422-4453 (1-855-GA-CHILD)

*Note: When speaking with each agency, let them know if you have already spoke with someone from another agency. Provide them with the name and contact information for whom you spoke with. This will help to maintain a clear line of communication for all individuals/agencies involved.*

# Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit



# QUESTIONS?

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