

- Be traveling in groups and selling merchandise.
- Be performing work inappropriate for his or her age and/or is not being compensated for work performed.
- No longer have control of his or her driver's license or other identification documents.

Who can be a pimp/trafficker?

- Mothers and fathers.
- Sisters and brothers.
- Other family members or family friends.
- Friends, classmates or peers.
- Strangers.
- Gang members.
- ANYBODY.

Why don't victims seek help?

People may be unwilling or unable to seek help due to:

- Frequent accompaniment by or being guarded by the pimp/trafficker.
- Fear of the pimp/trafficker.
- Being ashamed of their situation.
- A distrust of law enforcement and service providers.
- Isolation from family, friends or other sources of support.
- Dependency on his or her pimp/trafficker.

The Illinois Safe Children Act removed references to "juvenile prostitutes" in Illinois' criminal code and ensures that innocent children who are lured or coerced into prostitution are immune from criminal prosecution and will be placed in the child protection system instead of the criminal justice system.



You can help put an end to the buying and selling of our children.

If you suspect a child is a victim of human trafficking, call 911 and the DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800.252.2873.



REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT

1.800.25.ABUSE

(1.800.252.2873)

DCFS.Illinois.gov

NOTICE

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. A violation of this subsection is a Class 4 felony. (Source: P.A. 97-189, eff. 7-22-11; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE

Buying or selling a child for sex or labor is human trafficking and child abuse. Turning a blind eye to the abuse is neglect.



What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations. When the individual is under the age of 18, force, fraud or coercion does not have to be present for the act to be considered human trafficking.

Labor trafficking occurs when a person is exploited for labor or services through force, fraud or coercion. Labor trafficking victims are often forced into domestic servitude, agricultural work, restaurant work or factory work.

Sex trafficking occurs when a person (any gender) is involved in a commercial sex act, including prostitution, stripping, sexually explicit performance or production of pornography in exchange for something of value (love, money, food, clothing, shelter, drugs, alcohol, etc.).

Targeted

Any person may be vulnerable to an individual who promises to meet his or her emotional and physical needs. Pimps/traffickers are predators who seek out vulnerable victims, often intentionally targeting children who are



The average age of entry into prostitution is 15-17 years old.

1 in 3 teens will be recruited by a pimp within 48 to 72 hours of running away from home.

experiencing trouble at home and/or who have run away. Pimps find victims in places like social-networking websites, shopping malls, schools, group homes, shelters, bus or train stations and on the streets.

Tricked

Through a calculated grooming process, pimps/traffickers may create a seemingly loving and caring relationship with their victim to

establish trust and loyalty. Pimps/traffickers will invest time and effort in their victim, buying them gifts, providing a place to stay or promising a loving relationship. Victims often view the pimp as a caretaker or boyfriend/girlfriend.

Traumatized

A pimp's/trafficker's use of psychological manipulation (causing the child to truly believe the pimp loves and cares for their well-being) coupled with physical control (threats, violence, drug addiction, etc.) can make a victim feel trapped and powerless.

What are potential indicators of trafficking and exploitation of a child?

The child may:

- Show signs of physical harm.
- Show shifts in behavior or mood, including becoming depressed, fearful or withdrawn.
- Have a history of running away or currently be on run.
- Return with expensive clothing, jewelry, manicures, pedicures, etc.
- Begin spending time with an older boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Be found in a hotel/motel.
- Have new tattoos or branding.
- Become isolated from family, friends or sources of support.
- Refer to having a “pimp” or “daddy.”