

Sex Trafficking

HOW IT HAPPENS IN ALASKA



TARGETING

a connection is established in person or online with intent of developing a relationship for purpose of exploitation.



GROOMING

identifying and fulfilling the needs and dreams of the individual to build trust, buying gifts, providing drugs and alcohol.



ISOLATION

creating distance between individual and their loved ones.

MANIPULATION & COERCION



sending mixed messages of romance, making claims like "you owe me" or making threats of force.

FRAUD AND FORCE

sexual and physical assault, confinement and violence against others as punishment



EXPLOITATION

ensuring ongoing participation in commercial sex acts while taking away their earnings and independence.



Understanding how sex trafficking really works can help families and communities to recognize vulnerable people before they become victims and provide survivors with the support they need to break free, heal and move on with their lives.”
~ Polaris Project

Victim/Survivor Needs:

Victims and survivors have many basic needs including:

- Food
- Housing/shelter
- Clothing/Personal items
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Crisis intervention
- Mental health / substance abuse treatment
- Service coordination
- Medical/dental services
- Legal services
- Education
- Life skills
- Job training/employment
- Advocacy/peer support

If you believe you have identified someone still in a trafficking situation, alert law enforcement immediately.

Call 9-1-1

SEX TRAFFICKING IN ALASKA



ALASKA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING

Contact Us!

<https://dps.alaska.gov/CHST/Home>
dps.chst@alaska.gov

To Get Help

Contact The National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733 (BEFREE) for 24/7 confidential help.



Red Flags of Trafficking

These are some key red flags that could alert you to a potential trafficking situation that should be reported:

- Withdrawn from family & friends
- Overly controlling partner
- Signs of physical or mental abuse
- Submissive or fearful
- Inability to speak to individual alone
- Employer/"boyfriend" is holding identity documents
- Unpaid or paid less than minimum wage
- Under 20 and in prostitution
- Trading sex for anything of value; a place to stay, food, clothes, money, or drugs.
- No Identification card or driver's license
- Specific branding/tattoos

See something? Say something!

Sex Trafficking is modern day slavery.

Sex trafficking exists in Alaska and is a crime that includes exploiting a person for services, or commercial sex by force, fraud, or coercion.

"Sex trafficking is not something you can see happening across a crowded room. It is not a crime that occurs in an instant. In fact, many people in active sex trafficking situations do not recognize themselves as being victims because they have been expertly groomed by a trafficker to believe they have chosen to participate in commercial sex."

~ Polaris Project

If you or someone you know is in a labor or sex trafficking situation, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has local Alaskan resources for you. Get Confidential Help: 24/7

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1 (888) 373-7888,
or text at BEFREE (233733),
send the word "HELP" or "INFO."



Trafficking in Alaska

Human and sex trafficking is the second most profitable crime trade worldwide, only behind the illicit drug trafficking crime trade.⁴

Among Polaris Project trafficking victims/survivors surveyed, 80% reported living with people who were physically abusive to them at some point in their childhood.¹

100% of trafficked clients served at Priceless Alaska report a history of sexual abuse as a child.⁵

Anchorage Covenant House identified 3 common factors amongst their clients. Of these risk factors, 75% have 2 or more of the following:

- Less than one permanent connection in their life
- Suffered from disorders such as substance abuse, mental health, or behavioral conditions
- Had an income of less than \$1,341 monthly³

50% of trafficking clients at MyHouse Alaska have attempted suicide.²

Traffickers take advantage of people who are vulnerable.

Sources:

1. Polaris Project, 2023, <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/In-Harms-Way-How-Systems-Fail-Human-Trafficking-Survivors-by-Polaris-modified-June-2023.pdf>
2. My House Alaska, 2023, data included in Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking Data Summary Report
3. Covenant House, 2023, data included in Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking Data Summary Document
4. Monique Burr Foundation. November 2023, <https://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org/resource/human-trafficking/>
5. Priceless Alaska, 2023, data included in Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking Data Summary Document