



Sex Trafficking of Juveniles

An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Behavioral Analysis Unit
Quantico, Virginia

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles:
An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU)

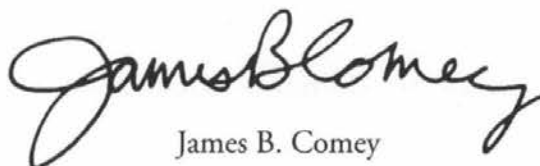
Message from the Director

Criminal programs are central to the FBI, especially our work to protect kids. Unfortunately, children are exploited every day in this country – on our streets and on-line. We and our law enforcement partners work together around the clock to disrupt child sex trafficking rings, apprehend child predators, find and stop child pornographers, and locate and recover child abuse victims. And we work just as hard to help kids and their families recover from trauma.

The information in this guide is based on research by our Behavioral Analysis Unit and experience from federal, state, and local investigators. Our hope is that this guide will help investigators better identify juvenile sex trafficking; recognize offender characteristics, motivations, and behaviors; conduct interviews; prosecute successfully; and most importantly, protect and heal victims of these terrible crimes.

Many thanks to all those who made this guide possible. We are best when we combine our talents to fight juvenile sex trafficking and this guide is a product of that combination.

There is no more meaningful, or more wrenching, work than rescuing children. Together, we can bring hope and healing to victims and swift and certain justice to those who would enslave them. Those who have made saving kids their life's work are true American heroes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Comey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Comey" clearly legible.

James B. Comey

Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) Contributors

Terri D. Patterson
Unit Chief
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Adrienne N. Isom
Supervisory Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Whitney Sloan
Intelligence Analyst
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Working Group Participants

Joseph E. Fonseca
Special Agent
Atlanta Field Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Jeffrey F. Johannes
Special Agent
Washington Field Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Derek Stigerts
Detective
Sacramento Police Department

Daniel A. Garrabrant
Special Agent
Newark Field Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Edward A. Price
Detective Sergeant
Michigan State Police

Steven J. Vienneau
Special Agent
Seattle Field Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Tamara N. Harty
Supervisory Special Agent
Cyber Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Daniel J. Steele
Sergeant
Denver Police Department

Criminal Investigative Division (CID) Contributors

James E. Hardie
Supervisory Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Eric A. Pauley
Supervisory Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Kelly C. Moorthy
Intelligence Analyst
Federal Bureau of Investigation

In addition, BAU would like to offer special thanks to the following individuals:

Intelligence Analyst (IA) Heather Gordon, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Analyst Holly Hargreaves, Section Chief Michael T. Harpster, Crime Analyst (CA) Anita S. Hayne, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Barbara A. Martinez, Research Coordinator Yvonne Muirhead, Unit Chief (UC) Alan Nanavaty, UC Michael A. Osborn, Rebecca G. Ross, CA Joy Lynn Shelton, Kimberly Stamatopolous, and Michael Yates.

Table of Contents

Introduction	.1
Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking	.5
First Responder Checklist	19
General Investigative Considerations	25
Victims	39
Offenders	45
Exploitation Process.	51
Specific Investigations	57
Undercover Operations	63
Interviewing	73
Prosecutorial Considerations.	85
Resources	91
Appendices	.101
Victim Questionnaire	.103
Term List	.109
Record Search Checklist	.113
Templates	.117
General Assessment Questionnaire (GAQ)	.119
Free Narrative	.137

Introduction

The investigation of the sex trafficking of juveniles requires a robust multijurisdictional response, with multiple agencies playing a critical role in ensuring the protection of victims and effective prosecution of offenders. Unique behavioral dynamics in these cases often include uncooperative victims and criminally experienced offenders. These dynamics can take a toll on the enthusiasm of the investigator, leading to high turnover and burn-out among some of the most experienced members of the team. Recognizing those challenges, the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) conducted research examining behavioral considerations in juvenile sex trafficking investigations and formed a working group composed of law enforcement personnel to create this guide. The working group was organized by the BAU and the FBI's Violent Crimes Against Children (VCAC) Section. It was chaired by the BAU and tasked with developing the content of the guide based on each member's subject matter expertise. Participants included members of federal, state, and local law enforcement from across the country.

Purpose of the Guide

This guide was written for law enforcement and carries a law enforcement sensitive (LES) designation.¹ While there are many juvenile sex trafficking-related resources targeting multidisciplinary audiences, there is a void in the availability of investigative guidance written for law enforcement by law enforcement. This guide was created by the BAU in an effort to fill that gap. As many officers, detectives, deputies, and agents have experienced, the vulnerability of the juvenile sex trafficking victim often manifests in hostility toward law enforcement, placing investigators in an unusually challenging position. Sometimes equally difficult is the multi-faceted nature of these investigations involving multiple units such as Missing Persons, Child Crimes, Vice, Narcotics, Organized Crime, and Major Offenders.

¹ **LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE:** The information in this document is the property of the FBI and may be distributed within the Federal Government (and its contractors), US intelligence, law enforcement, public safety or protection officials, and individuals with a need to know. Distribution beyond these entities without FBI authorization is prohibited. Precautions should be taken to ensure this information is stored and/or destroyed in a manner that precludes unauthorized access. Information bearing the LES caveat may not be used in legal proceedings without first receiving authorization from the originating agency. Recipients are prohibited from subsequently posting the information marked LES on a website or unclassified network.

Introduction

It is advantageous to leverage local, state, and federal resources, adding to the size, specialization, and coordination demands of the team.

Because of the unique dynamics inherent in most juvenile sex trafficking cases, the BAU found it important to explore these considerations through empirical research conducted in an applied, investigative environment. Through a careful review of adjudicated juvenile sex trafficking investigations, the BAU identified the topics to be addressed in this guide. The purpose of the guide is to inform law enforcement officers about the dynamics of juvenile sex trafficking and provide recommendations to enhance the response to these cases. It is intended to assist the individual officer in the context of his or her area of responsibility, with an understanding that great diversity exists between law enforcement entities in terms of resources and policing priorities.

This guide is not intended to opine on various policies related to the problem of juvenile sex trafficking. Many entities, both government and non-government, are appropriately engaging in an ongoing debate regarding the best manner to prevent juvenile sex trafficking and protect victims from future harm. While this guide touches on those issues, it is not intended to make public policy related statements or recommendations. It is also not intended to provide legal guidance or replace the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) established by individual law enforcement agencies. Investigators should always ensure familiarity with the laws within their jurisdictions, and any applicable agency policies.

Terms & Definitions

The terms used to describe juvenile sex trafficking vary greatly. It is not uncommon to hear it described as commercial sexual exploitation of children, juvenile prostitution, or simply sexual exploitation. Similarly, offenders may be referred to as pimps, perpetrators or traffickers. Victims are sometimes described as trafficked minors or juveniles, survivors or prostituted children. For the purposes of this guide, the crime is referred to as juvenile sex trafficking, the individual committing the crime as the offender, and the victim of the crime as the victim or the minor. The BAU recognizes law enforcement's use of various terms to describe aspects of this crime. The terms used for this guide were chosen based on legal definitions, universally understood by the law enforcement community, in order to avoid confusion.

The victim of juvenile sex trafficking is defined as any child who has not attained the age of 18 years who is recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, or maintained for the purpose of engaging in a commercial sex act. The offender is defined as an individual who causes the victim to be recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, or maintained for the purpose of commercial sex. In this guide, the offender is limited to the individual(s) who causes the commercial sexual exploitation of the child rather than the consumer of such acts. The BAU recognizes the significance of the consumer in juvenile sex trafficking cases, but has limited this guide to the offenders who cause the trafficking to remain consistent with the underlying research on which the guide is founded. Additionally, both juvenile sex trafficking victims and offenders can be male or female; however, for the purposes of this guide, victims will be referred to as female and offenders will be referred to as male.

Organization of the Guide

Given the unique nature of each juvenile sex trafficking case, it is impossible to provide a step-by-step guide to every investigation. However, this guide strives to provide comprehensive information relevant to the majority of juvenile sex trafficking cases, organized by sections based on the chronology of an unfolding juvenile sex trafficking investigation.

The section following this introduction covers the important topic of identifying juvenile sex trafficking. It discusses a variety of locations and scenarios in which victims may be identified. Following the identification of juvenile sex trafficking, a thorough first responder “checklist” is provided for officers. This checklist is intended to provide officers with suggested investigative actions to be undertaken immediately upon encountering a juvenile sex trafficking case. General investigative considerations are provided next, offering law enforcement personnel guidelines to conduct a juvenile sex trafficking investigation. The risk factors and vulnerabilities of minor victims are discussed next, followed by general offender characteristics. An offender typology based on empirical data and BAU experience is introduced in this section. The discussion of victim risk factors and offender characteristics is important to these investigations because juvenile sex trafficking is a violent crime born out of the predatory exploitation of victim vulnerability. Following this discussion is a detailed description of the exploitation process. The interaction between offender and victim, from recruitment to the establishment of control through physical and psychological means, is described. The manner in which offenders are able to confine victims and prevent disclosure of the abuse is also discussed. Described next are unique considerations specific to gangs, special events, and Indian Country.

The section following the discussion of specific investigations presents guidance for conducting juvenile sex trafficking undercover operations. These efforts are critical to a successful law enforcement response to juvenile sex trafficking and are embraced by law enforcement and prosecutors alike. A successful undercover operation gives law enforcement control of the investigation, offers the opportunity to prevent further abuse of the victim, and allows for the collection of valuable evidence.

One of the most challenging aspects of juvenile sex trafficking investigations is the interview. The interviewing section in this guide is organized in two parts: victim interview and offender interview and interrogation. There are many resources available to law enforcement in the area of interview and interrogation. This guide does not purport to be a comprehensive handbook on the topic, but rather, offers specific information describing how dynamics unique to these cases may affect the interview and/or interrogation process. The guide also provides specific examples of valuable corroborating evidence that will enhance a juvenile sex trafficking case and avoid unnecessary challenges at trial. Importantly, the guide discusses prosecutorial considerations. Investigators are encouraged to collaborate early and often with prosecutors to ensure the exploration of all appropriate options when charging or indicting a juvenile sex trafficking case. Lastly, the guide includes several resources of potential value to juvenile sex trafficking cases. These include a general resources list, a juvenile victim questionnaire,

Introduction

a juvenile sex trafficking common term list, a records search checklist, a preservation letter template, a consent to assume online identity template, the General Assessment Questionnaire (GAQ), and the Free Narrative Form.

Terri D. Patterson
Unit Chief
FBI - Behavioral Analysis Unit III

Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking

Juvenile sex trafficking cases can be extremely challenging to identify given the hidden nature of the crime and the low likelihood that the victim will report the abuse. While no single behavior confirms the existence of juvenile sex trafficking, several indicators increase the likelihood this crime is occurring. Investigators should remain aware of and consider investigating further the following general scenarios often associated with juvenile sex trafficking:

- Minors involved in trading sex for money, food, shelter, drugs, or other items of value
- Minors in the presence of unrelated adult males—especially when the adult appears to be controlling the minor, and the minor avoids speaking and/or maintaining eye contact with others
- Multiple minors with a single adult male
- Minors with bruises, black eyes, cuts, or other visible signs of abuse
- Minors demonstrating fear, anxiety, depression, submission, or paranoia
- Minors paying particularly close attention to their phones and/or receiving repeated calls or texts from someone entered into the phone as “Boyfriend” or “Daddy”
- Minors using prostitution-related terms, such as “Daddy,” “Wifey,” “The Life,” “The Game,” “Escorting,” “In-call/Out-call,” or “The Track”
- Girls with purses containing only condoms, lubricant, lingerie, or cell phones
- Minors who are not in control of their own identification cards/documents
- Minors who are not in control of their own money, or who don’t have any money with them

Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking

Tracking Pre-Paid Credit Cards

Pre-paid credit cards—such as Vanilla Visa, Green Dot, or Walmart cards—are often able to be tracked back to a customer. Many stores, such as Walmart, have robust surveillance footage that can be utilized to identify the purchaser. Additionally, investigators should inquire about rewards accounts used, as cases exist wherein offenders have used a fake ID or payment method but their true name on reward accounts. Most pre-paid credit cards have online account access, which can be reviewed using the card number and security code. Some cards allow a quick online search for the account balance and purchases.

- Minors dressed in provocative attire; especially those appearing to be in unexplained expensive clothing, shoes, or other accessories ²
- Minors in violation of curfew/who come into contact with law enforcement late at night
- Minors with a name or symbol tattooed, or branded, onto their bodies, particularly when coupled with reluctance to explain the tattoo
- Minors lying about their name/age
- Runaways
- Minors at hotels, street tracks, truck stops, or strip clubs, particularly those who appear out of place ³
- Minors with hotel room keys on their person, with no reasonable explanation
- Minors with slips of paper/notebooks containing: phone numbers, dollar amounts, male names, hotel names, addresses (e.g. Joe - \$250 – 1234 Main St.)
- Minors with pre-paid credit cards on their person
- Minors with multiple cell phones
- Minors who do not know the identity of traveling companions
- Minors who do not know their current location
- Minors possessing/under the influence of drugs, and exhibiting one or more of the above listed indicators
- Minors possessing social networking site content focused on “getting money” and displaying photos of currency

In addition to these general indicators, specific locations and services can be used to facilitate juvenile sex trafficking activities. They may be used as venues for recruitment, as a transportation or medical service, or as the physical location where sexual services are provided. These locations and services include the following:

² While juvenile sex trafficking victims often dress in provocative attire, minors dressed normally for their age and setting should not be overlooked as potential victims.

³ As used in the publication, the “track” describes an open-air prostitution location such as a street or an intersection in a given area.

Hotels/Motels

Hotels, motels, and other rented establishments are frequently used to facilitate juvenile sex trafficking client encounters. Establishments vary by consumer and area, and can range from low-cost motels to luxury hotels. Some indicators of juvenile sex trafficking in this environment include:

- Girls loitering in or around the hotel and using public access computers/wifi ⁴
- Girls in the company of unrelated adults
- Girls with fresh injuries or tattoos
- Girls dressed in provocative clothing
- Girls traveling with little or no luggage
- Repetitive stays in the same hotel
- Multiple rooms rented by the same person on the same floor
- Rooms with an unexpected amount of foot traffic—particularly adult male foot traffic, often entering/exiting rooms in consistent time increments
- Patrons refusing housekeeping service
- Rooms with excessive towel usage

To determine which hotels have a high incidence of prostitution activity, agency analysts may be able to create crime maps of a targeted area, including law enforcement calls for service, historic recoveries of juvenile victims, and tips from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Several investigative steps should be undertaken when law enforcement suspects that a hotel has been used in the commission of juvenile sex trafficking. These include:

- Determining who rented the room(s) associated with the incident
- Obtaining the hotel's trespass list and documentation related to other disturbances
- Checking the hotel's security video footage
- Obtaining copies of the IDs left at the front desk
- Obtaining parking logs
- Determining method of payment (cash, credit card, or pre-paid card), type of reservation (advance vs. walk-in), and whether a rewards account was used. Reservations can be further tracked by law enforcement through the use of travel technology companies.

⁴ While juvenile sex trafficking victims can be both male and female, victims will be referred to as female for the purpose of this guide.

Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking

- Investigating any domestic violence (or other complaint calls) made from the location, and re-interviewing the caller with the appropriate follow-up questions to determine if the incident involved juvenile sex trafficking activity
- Interviewing occupants of neighboring rooms (remaining mindful not to interview persons related to the investigation)
- Calling escorts believed to be associated with the hotel and identifying room numbers
- Conducting a knock and talk or consensual contact with occupants of the hotel room in question

It is recommended that law enforcement take a proactive approach with cooperating establishments; this can include liaising in advance with hotel security, attending hotel security groups and meetings, and developing sources within local hotels and motels (e.g., front desk clerk, cleaning staff, managers). Hotel managers, in particular, can be a valuable resource during and after these investigations; managers can assist law enforcement in quickly and discreetly navigating the hotel and can provide additional pertinent information relevant to the operation. When engaging in these efforts, however, investigators should always remain cognizant of the potential for complicit staff members within these establishments. Additionally, even cooperative establishments may require a subpoena prior to providing any information to law enforcement.

Street/Track

One of the most prominent and sustained locations facilitating juvenile sex trafficking is the street, commonly referred to as the “track.” Frequented locations on the track include, but are not limited to: gas stations, convenience stores, motels, bus stops, and fast food restaurants. Additionally, juvenile sex trafficking victims may flag down consumers from parked cars or provide sexual services within a car. Common behaviors and activities can be observed amongst juvenile sex trafficking victims working on the street. Investigators should look for girls exhibiting the following potential indicators:

- Loitering or pacing in a specific area/walking without purpose
- Walking in the direction of oncoming traffic and making eye contact with motorists
- Handing out phone numbers
- Looking into and/or communicating with men through vehicle windows
- Loitering at bus stops for a lengthy amount of time
- Getting in/out of vehicles near the track
- Being away from the track for consistent periods of time
- Being monitored by an adult(s)

- Making hand-to-hand exchanges with adults
- Dressed in provocative clothing or clothing inappropriate for the weather conditions
- Consistently checking or monitoring their cell phones
- “Shift changes” amongst potential victims
- Avoiding law enforcement or running/hiding when police vehicles enter the area
- Immediately turning over money to an adult

Prior to conducting track enforcement actions, investigators should familiarize themselves with reports and pictures of missing juveniles in their area who are believed to be involved with prostitution.

Common methods employed to combat juvenile sex trafficking occurring on the streets include:

- Stopping suspicious persons and requesting ID
- Conducting prostitution enforcement operations
- Conducting fixed and mobile surveillance
- Closely monitoring the activities of suspected victims
- Looking for unusual items in a girl’s purse or vehicle (e.g., condoms, cards, notebooks with hotel and/or consumer information, multiple cell phones)
- Using license plate readers to identify men (i.e. possible offenders) waiting nearby the girls ⁵

When cause exists, victims should be separated and interviewed right away; investigators should always ensure the victim cannot be seen or heard by the offender whilst talking with law enforcement. Following an interview, or in instances where an interview is not possible, investigators should consider providing potential victims with contact information for NGOs, probation, applicable law enforcement officers, victim advocates, and other relevant personnel. Consider providing this information to the victim on a blank piece of paper rather than an identifiable business card as the latter may endanger the victim if found by the offender.

Casinos, Bars & Strip Clubs

Casinos, bars, and strip clubs are often used to recruit juvenile sex trafficking victims, market services, and actively target consumers. Strip clubs or dance clubs appear to be particularly prominent venues for juvenile victims marketing services. Victims may frequent, or loiter outside these venues attempting to solicit consumers. Law enforcement should consider establishing surveillance in these locations to identify possible victims and offenders. When attempting to identify victims within these venues, investigators should look for:

⁵ The offender is defined as an individual who causes the victim to be recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained or maintained for the purpose of commercial sex. In this guide, the offender is limited to the individual(s) who causes the commercial sexual exploitation of the child rather than the consumer of such acts. Additionally, while juvenile sex trafficking offenders can be both male and female, offenders will be referred to as male for the purposes of this guide.

Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking

- Girls behaving differently from other club-goers, or who appear to be loitering, particularly outside at closing time
- Girls who appear to be under the control of a particular patron. Similar to other locations, victims may have to turn over their proceeds to the offender multiple times while working in this setting
- Girls leaving with adult males for brief, consistent periods of time to restrooms, dance rooms, alleyways or other areas out of public view
- House party flyers in club parking lots; these flyers will often be professional looking, and the parties will have security outside of them

In casinos, investigators should be particularly mindful of young women who are loitering just off the gaming floor. In addition, other female victims may work the casino bars or lounges; they can often be observed sitting alone for long periods of time and interacting with men at the bar. When attempting to identify offenders who frequent casinos, it can be advantageous to look through the “Players Cards” or other frequent use club/hotel cards. Additionally, juvenile sex trafficking offenders and victims often appear in the casino security reports of other complaints/charges (e.g., trespassing, assault, loitering). When conducting enforcement in these venues, investigators should remain cognizant of the potential for complicit employees at the bar or lounge who may warn the victim of the presence of law enforcement.

Establishing liaison with local alcoholic beverage control employees as well as club, bar and casino security and management personnel is recommended. Routine license checks and liquor raids can be useful tools in combating juvenile sex trafficking occurring in these venues.

Residential Brothels

Residential dwellings used in the commercial sex trade, also known as residential brothels, can be used to facilitate juvenile sex trafficking activities. These dwellings can be found in rural communities, subsidized housing, above bars, and/or areas with a high volume of runaway children. Residential brothels are typically advertised via word of mouth, or through an online advertisement directing clients to an unassociated location; there, they are met by an individual who escorts them to the brothel. Additionally, offenders sometimes use business cards advertising legal merchandise when referring to their victims (e.g., “flowers” or “sombreros”).

Residential brothels are typically identified due to the high volume of visitors to the location. In particular, law enforcement should consider further investigation of residential areas with an unexplained high volume of foot and vehicular traffic—especially adult males who may be entering/exiting the residence in consistent time increments. Additionally, the following residential brothel indicators can be observed:

- Neighborhood complaints
- Minors in the company of unrelated adults

- Minors with fresh injuries or tattoos
- Minors who appear out of place
- The presence of cameras and/or lookouts
- ATMs (or other items that are unexpected in residential areas)
- Blacked out windows in homes
- High turnover with rental tenants

When assessing potential victims in these areas, investigators should avoid exclusively focusing on girls dressed in stereotypical attire; victims in residential brothels are often dressed normally for their age and the setting. Investigators should attempt to establish liaison with social workers, human services, and property managers/caretakers responsible for these areas. Consider sending social services personnel into the brothel looking for a “missing child”—as this approach can be less threatening and more successful in yielding information. However, when utilizing this method, law enforcement should always be cognizant of the dangers presented when employing or directing others in these types of endeavors; extreme caution and pre-planning are critical.

Additionally, investigators should consider conducting surveillance of suspected locations and watching for departing consumers. Officers can make consensual contacts with suspected consumers to obtain more information about the activities transpiring (to include the presence of juveniles, the process followed to locate the brothel, the language associated with the deal, etc.). Furthermore, given that brothels are often associated with the drug trade, existing drug informants may be useful in providing information on potential juvenile sex trafficking activities.

Truck Stops & Rest Areas

Juvenile sex trafficking frequently occurs at truck stops or rest areas. The activity varies by location but will often take place at night when truck drivers park their vehicles for the evening. The sex acts often occur within the truck cabs but can also occur at adjacent hotel/motels where offenders have secured a room for this purpose. These locations can be very lucrative, as victims are often exploited repeatedly each time they are brought to a truck stop or rest area. In addition to long-term victims, offenders will take newly recruited victims to these areas to “break them in” and evaluate their performance. Often times the offender will have a more seasoned victim accompany juveniles to these locations to ensure prostitution activity is carried out as dictated by the offender. The offender will typically drop the victims off and return once they have exhausted all money making options, further insulating the offender from the sex trafficking activity.

Investigators should look for minors and other females who appear out of place, either in the lot or the surrounding facilities. Citizens Band (CB) radio traffic should be monitored for indications of sex trafficking activity as CB radios are often used by those engaging in these activities to advertise their services and identify interested clientele. Juvenile victims will often go from truck cab to truck cab and attempt to stay out of sight. Truck drivers will sometimes direct victims to their location by flashing

Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking

their lights once a deal is brokered via CB radio. Truck drivers who are inclined to engage in prostitution activity, as well as other illegal activity, will sometimes park in a specific area of a truck stop known as “party row.”

Juvenile sex trafficking activity in highway rest areas is conducted in a similar manner, especially in areas that have separate truck parking. In addition, juvenile victims may loiter in the rest room area of these highway rest stops to solicit clientele.

Patrons of truck stops and highway rest areas possess varying opinions on commercial sex. To some, victims are looked upon as “lot lizards” and deemed a nuisance as they will frequently knock on truck cab doors soliciting drivers. Others, specifically those individuals who engage in prostitution activities, will assist the victims as they work these locations, offering refuge in their vehicles and allowing the victims to use their CB radios to advertise their services. These individuals will hinder law enforcement efforts targeting the sex trafficking activity, making these venues very difficult to effectively conduct enforcement operations.

Law enforcement should work closely with management at truck stops and rest areas to increase awareness and cooperation. These venues will sometimes keep lists of individuals barred from their property, including those engaging in prostitution activity. Truck stops and highway rest areas are an excellent place to implement public service announcements providing information about the crime problem, and requesting truck drivers contact law enforcement to report suspicious activity. Several local and national non-profit organizations target sex trafficking at truck stops.

Migrant Camps

Migrant camps can be rife with juvenile sex trafficking potential, as the cross-racial demand is high and the practice is more culturally acceptable within the community. Furthermore, migrant workers are often in the U.S. illegally, creating significant challenges when attempting to secure cooperation within these camps. Seasonal workers often stay in a particular house together, allowing for a high volume of consumer access quickly. Investigators should remain aware of the fact that juvenile sex trafficking activity within migrant camps typically corresponds with pay days. The identification of juvenile sex trafficking in migrant camps/communities is typically dependent upon proactive measures and effective intelligence gathering. The following activities should be considered to identify juvenile sex trafficking in migrant communities:

- Review offense and suspicious activity reports to find indicators of possible trafficking, such as:
 - Neighborhood complaints about domestic violence, noise, large number of residents in apartments or houses
 - Emergency medical service calls involving teens having been battered or pregnant, but with no offender named
 - Traffic stops with unusual circumstances (e.g., false or no documentation/identification, one male with multiple females in the car, out of state license plates)

- Utilize community-based groups to identify possible victims
 - Non-Governmental Organizations
 - Interfaith coalitions
 - Red Cross
 - United Way
 - Planned Parenthood
 - Legal aid services and clinics
 - Domestic violence shelters
 - Walk-in clinics
 - Salvation Army
 - Ethnic communities
 - Underground newspapers
 - Television and radio outlets
 - Social organizations
 - Businesses
 - Rental and housing associations
 - Ethnic grocery stores
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Local government agencies
 - Code enforcement
 - Building inspectors
 - Fire/rescue
 - Health Department
 - Agricultural extension office
 - Neighborhood watch groups

These groups should be taught how to identify sex trafficking and provided with proper reporting procedures. Investigators should establish the importance of confidentiality with points of contact within each group. It is also helpful to provide a confidential reporting venue, such as Crime Stoppers, as some individuals will be uncomfortable maintaining specific law enforcement business cards or contact information.

Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking

Transportation Venues

Methods of transportation and the associated locations (e.g., airports, bus stops, train stations) may be used to facilitate juvenile sex trafficking recruitment and travel operations. Investigators should look for:

- Unaccompanied minors
- Minors with unrelated adults
- Adults who cannot provide identifying information about the minor in their presence
- Minors who cannot answer specific questions about their travel plans or whereabouts
- Minors who are not in control of their own identification
- Minors refusing to provide parental contact information
- Minors with fresh injuries or tattoos
- Minors traveling with little or no luggage

Furthermore, juvenile sex trafficking offenders may accompany victims whilst traveling through these venues. Given the prominent usage of the transportation system and accompanying locations to facilitate juvenile sex trafficking, investigators should consider recruiting sources within these transportation hubs and training them to identify and report suspicious activity.

Taxis & Car Services

Taxis and/or car services can be used to transport juvenile sex trafficking victims to consumer meetings or other locations. Offenders sometimes accompany the victim to the meeting place and watch from the taxi or associated vehicle. Often, the driver (offender or otherwise) will wait at or near the location until the call is completed. Some offenders find a reliable driver and use this individual regularly; therefore, he or she may have information identifying victims, consumers, and locations. In other cases, the offender uses a single codefendant to transport the victims. Serving as the offender's driver is sometimes a training tool or scenario for younger offenders learning about sex trafficking for the first time. Further, this also allows the offender to avoid law enforcement by distancing himself from the operation. In some instances, the consumer paying for the taxi instead of the occupants can be an indicator of juvenile sex trafficking.

To help identify drivers, surveillance should be established outside of all out-call prostitution enforcement operations.⁶ Additionally, law enforcement should contact all drivers of known/confirmed juvenile victims or adult prostituted women. Given that serving as a driver may be an entry point into sex trafficking, developing intelligence on known associates is critical to future investigations and the identification of offenders. Investigators should interview victims regarding transportation to and from consumer locations. In situations where a professional car service driver or taxi driver is suspected, in-

⁶ An "out-call" enforcement operation is one in which the undercover employee requests the victim meet him at a location controlled by law enforcement.

investigators may consider posing as a consumer and inquiring about the local sex trade—specifically for minors and young adults. Developing sources within local taxi companies and car services is another method of gaining intelligence. Investigators should establish strong liaisons within the taxi community and provide training and guidance to such personnel.

Medical Facilities

Locations providing both emergency and non-emergency medical attention are sometimes visited by juvenile sex trafficking victims in need of healthcare. These can include emergency rooms (used for both urgent and non-urgent care), fire departments, urgent care clinics, or regular clinics and doctor's offices. Indicators of juvenile sex trafficking activity within these locations include:

- Unaccompanied minors at the medical facility
- Minors who are unwilling or unable to answer questions from the medical staff
- Minors with bruises or other inflicted physical abrasions (especially those with explanations that do not match the nature of the injury)
- Domestic violence indicators
- Minors without identification
- Minors using the ER as their primary care provider
- Minors with sexually transmitted diseases, pelvic inflammatory disease, or toxic shock syndrome
- Minors suffering from a drug overdose (particularly those dropped off at the ER or those found alone by emergency medical staff)
- Miscarriages caused by assault
- Minors being seen for sexual assaults and/or receiving a Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE)

Employees at these facilities should pay special attention to the individual who picks up these potential juvenile victims as they may be involved in the exploitation process. Investigators should consider training medical personnel on how to identify—and subsequently manage—potential victims of juvenile sex trafficking. Mandatory reporting and confidentiality laws vary by state, and therefore investigators and medical personnel should be aware of the particular requirements within their area. Medical personnel often feel constrained by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and confidentiality requirements, and may be inclined to err on the side of caution. Where possible, investigators should convey and explain mandatory law enforcement reporting responsibilities, in order to encourage aggressive reporting within the confines of confidentiality laws.

Identifying Juvenile Sex Trafficking

Schools

Schools can be targets for juvenile sex trafficking recruitment, as offenders—particularly younger or juvenile offenders—often identify vulnerable peers within their community or school environment for recruitment. Additionally, victims may be tasked to recruit other victims, often with the promise of earning money and traveling. Alternative schools, in particular, appear to be especially high risk for juvenile sex trafficking recruitment. Furthermore, offenders—especially those associated with gangs—sometimes orchestrate “skip” parties where they hand out flyers encouraging students to skip school and attend a house party focused on recruitment. Indicators of juvenile sex trafficking in a school environment include:

- Students withdrawing from family activities and/or previous school activities (e.g., sports, clubs)
- Students with unexplained injuries
- Students possessing unexplained money and/or expensive items
- Students who run away from home and/or are truant
- Students who develop a negative attitude towards family, school, and/or authorities
- Students who develop substance abuse and/or mental health challenges
- Students carrying weapons

Investigators should establish strong liaisons within the school community, and educate counselors, school resource officers, teachers, students, and any other applicable school personnel on the risk factors associated with juvenile sex trafficking, and how to address these circumstances when identified.

Juvenile Detention

Juvenile detention facilities can serve as peer-to-peer recruitment grounds for juvenile sex trafficking. Additionally, offenders have been known to obtain information on when prostitution court cases are being heard and attempt to recruit juveniles outside the courthouse or intimidate the juveniles in the courtroom (with their presence or the presence of other girls). Establishing liaison with Department of Juvenile Justice staff including intake personnel, judges, probation officers, Guardians Ad Litem, and any other applicable individuals is recommended. When speaking with juvenile victims in detention centers, investigators should take care to avoid jeopardizing the victims’ safety with the perception that they are meeting with law enforcement.

Internet

Juvenile sex trafficking offenders commonly use social networking, dating, and escort websites to facilitate operations. These sites are used to recruit victims, advertise victims, and communicate with other offenders for the purpose of avoiding law enforcement or facilitating operations. Due to the fluidity of the internet, investigators should familiarize themselves with the current websites used for prostitution and monitor activity as time permits.

Child Protective Services (CPS) Facilities

Child Protective Services (CPS) and temporary placement facilities can house current or potential victims, and offenders have been known to recruit out of these locations. Temporary placement facilities often house children who possess many of the risk factors associated with juvenile sex trafficking victimization. Establishing strong liaison with CPS personnel, providing training on how to identify juvenile sex trafficking victims, and following up on children missing out of care are important considerations for the identification of victims. If trained, social services/human services workers are excellent resources in identifying high risk children and/or exploitation.

Residential Treatment Facilities

Residential treatment facilities can foster peer-to-peer recruitment into juvenile sex trafficking. In addition to juvenile victims recruiting other victims inside the facilities, offenders sometimes position themselves outside these centers and wait for girls to exit. Additionally, in locations treating both genders, offenders often recruit victims from inside the facility. While investigators should remain cognizant of the potential for complicit staff within these facilities, and should exercise caution accordingly, cooperative staff may be an excellent source of intelligence, providing information on missing children or recently recovered children and the associated offenders.

Shopping Malls, Movie Theaters & Other Recreational Venues

Shopping malls, movie theaters, and other recreational venues can be used in the recruitment of juvenile sex trafficking victims. Offenders may target victims in these locations and lure them with seemingly legitimate business cards and offers (e.g., modeling, music industry). Additionally, once victims have been recruited, offenders will often take girls shopping for new cell phones, clothes, or other applicable merchandise—and in some instances, offenders will reward victims by taking them for hair and nail appointments. Investigators should be cognizant of areas where teens congregate within their community. Further, areas known for drug sales, gang activity and other delinquent behavior should increase recruitment concerns. Additionally, it is important to note that these activities are not confined to certain geographic areas; juvenile sex trafficking recruitment, and other activities, can take place in even the most affluent communities. Investigators should consider educating employees within these venues (e.g., mall or venue security personnel) about juvenile sex trafficking indicators.

Some offenders will encourage juvenile victims to get arrested for a small offense, such as shoplifting, while carrying an adult identification card; when the juvenile is processed for booking, her fingerprints and photograph may be entered in connection with the adult ID in her possession. Therefore, any subsequent prostitution-related arrests will likely result in her identification as an adult.

First Responder Checklist

When law enforcement officers encounter—or suspect they have encountered—juvenile sex trafficking, several key investigative steps should be undertaken as soon as possible. While some cases may afford law enforcement the ability to collect additional information at a later time, in some instances the first responder(s) may have the only opportunity to collect key evidence in a potential juvenile sex trafficking investigation.

It is recommended that the following investigative steps take place immediately after recovering a potential victim:

- If not already in custody, canvass the surrounding area for the offender and/or the “bottom.” One or both of them is likely nearby.⁷
- Treat the recovery location as though it is a crime scene.
- Photograph the surroundings where the contact occurred to include:
 - Hotel or residence, interior and exterior
 - Location on the street, including street signs and other points of reference (e.g. businesses)
 - Personal effects in the room/area
 - Any associated vehicles

Legal Caveat

Prior to undertaking any of the described investigative efforts, law enforcement personnel should ensure familiarity with the laws governing their jurisdiction as well as any applicable agency policies. These suggestions are provided to assist investigators in conjunction with, and when allowed by, appropriate legal authority and department policy.

⁷ The term “bottom” refers to the most trusted or highest level girl operated by a juvenile sex trafficking offender.

First Responder Checklist

— Photograph all individuals associated with the incident:

- Victim(s)
- Offender(s)
- Consumer(s)
- Other individuals associated with the incident

Note any tattoos, scars, marks and other identifiers when photographing

— Log and photograph all items found at the location and seize any items with evidentiary value, including:

- Computers, tablets, cell phones, or other personal electronic devices (along with the associated equipment, such as chargers or thumb drives)
- Ledgers/logs, handwritten notes, miscellaneous documents
- Credit cards (pre-paid, debit, credit)
- IDs (driver's license, passports, other forms of ID)
- Condoms, sex toys, lubricant, lingerie, etc.
- Cameras and video-recorders
- GPS devices
- Weapons (guns, knives, wooden sticks, knuckle rings) and ammunition
- Drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Money or other assets (jewelry, expensive clothing/shoes)
- Relevant items in the trash can(s), toilet(s), or other areas of the room that may contain DNA evidence (e.g., condoms, tissues, baby wipes, undergarments, bedding)
- Travel documents including bus/plane tickets or ticket stubs, and hotel, gas, or food receipts
- Financial records and statements
- Receipts and documentation demonstrating whereabouts of the victim and/or offender
- Clothing and personal effects, especially those indicative of sex trafficking (e.g., wigs, provocative clothing, high heeled shoes)

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement

- Items consistent with offending (e.g. “pimp sticks,” “pimp cups,” canes, clothing, jewelry)
- Parking and/or traffic citations
- Receipts for any of the physical items/devices listed above

— If consent is given, or a lawful search is otherwise authorized, search the victim and log any items found in her possession.

— Upon seizing the victim’s cell phone, immediately place the device in a faraday box or bag designed to prevent cellular transmission. In the event that a faraday box or bag is not available, it is recommended that the investigator change the settings on the device to “airplane mode.” Both of these actions will minimize the possibility that the data contained on the cell phone will be erased through remote access. (Note: Document changes made to the settings on the device as well as any review of data conducted, and provide this documentation to the forensic examiner.)

— If seizing the cell phone pursuant to consent, obtain any necessary passwords for the device and verify that the passwords will unlock the device. This should include the photographing/video recording of any pattern password, if necessary. Even in cases where consent is not granted, officers should request passwords for later search warrant execution.

— If consent is given, create a forensic copy of the data on the victim’s cell phone.

— If the offender is present and arrested, search him and log any items found in his possession (e.g. money, victim’s ID, credit cards, notes, addresses, directions to addresses, hotel room keys). If the offender is present but not arrested, and a search is not otherwise authorized, officers should request consent to search the offender’s person.

— If consent is given, search the offender’s cell phone, camera, GPS, bags, etc; otherwise, seize these items for a search warrant.

— If consent is given, collect a DNA sample from:

- Victim(s)
- Offender(s)
- Consumer(s)
- Witnesses

First Responder Checklist

— Separate individuals for interviews, and try to obtain statements from:

- Victim(s)
- Offender(s)
- Consumer(s)
- Witnesses

Detailed guidance on interviewing victims and offenders can be found under the "Interviewing" section of this guide.

— Attempt to obtain telephone numbers, addresses, social networking information and email addresses from all witnesses and associated individuals.

— Contact agency victim advocate/specialist who can refer the victim for appropriate services. When working with a victim advocate/specialist, it is advantageous to introduce this individual early on in the process, to allow for maximum rapport building and trust to develop.

— Offer medical attention to victims; in particular, refer the victim for a sexual assault examination by a trained medical professional.

— Attempt to verify the identity and age of the victim through as many means as possible. Suggested means include:

- Disclosure of identity
- Identification card
- Fingerprints
- Parent/Guardian contact
- Interview with other victims/associates
- Review of collected evidence (e.g. paperwork, receipts, notebooks)
- Contacting Department of Human Services personnel, school resource officers, or other individuals who may have access to minor record information
- Missing Child leads/posters, including those on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website (www.missingkids.com)
- Social Networking profiles
- Open source research/reporting (e.g., news articles, school awards, sporting events)

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement

- Obtain as much biographical information as possible about the victim(s); this includes name, telephone numbers, email address, physical address, online account information, social media information (to include passwords), and any other identifying information.
- Search telephone numbers and email addresses through online search engines to potentially identify advertisements or social media accounts.
- Print copies of any social media account profiles or advertisements located on the internet—as these accounts/advertisements can be easily and quickly deleted by the offender(s).
- Send preservation requests to internet/telephone service providers requesting retention of all pertinent data, to include cell tower information. (A sample preservation request template can be found as an appendix to this guide.)

As soon as practicable, it is recommended that the following investigative steps be conducted:

- Obtain a warrant(s) to search all seized cell phones for the following information:
 - Call history (e.g., incoming, outgoing, received and missed call logs)
 - GPS information
 - Images, video files, audio recordings, and/or multi-media messages or content
 - Text messages
 - Contact lists
 - Internet history, bookmarks, favorites, instant messaging
 - Communication using installed applications
 - Electronic mail
 - All user created electronic documents or files, note entries, to do-list entries, memorandums and any user installed software
 - Phone book/contacts, including addresses
 - Appointment calendar information
 - Any encryption information, passwords or personal unblocking codes (PUC)/PIN unlock keys (PUK)
 - Accompanying Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards or media storage devices

First Responder Checklist

- Any subscriber and equipment identifiers
 - The existence of all applications and associated account information
 - WiFi hotspot logs, cached map searches, and geolocation information for photographs
- ___ Obtain a warrant to search the hotel room or residence.
- ___ Obtain consent or a subpoena for the hotel register or lease/rent/ownership records for the residence.
- ___ Obtain a search warrant or consent to search all associated vehicles, including those located on the property during any residential search warrants.
- ___ Where possible, obtain registration information for all associated vehicles.
- ___ When appropriate, obtain a subpoena for involved bank records (e.g., if advertisements were paid for by a bank-affiliated credit card).
- ___ Obtain a warrant or subpoena to obtain any travel records (to include frequent traveler accounts), internet advertisements, email addresses, and social networking sites.
- ___ Obtain a warrant or subpoena to obtain any telephone records associated with cell phones used by the offender(s) and victim(s), and those telephone numbers used in advertisements.

Comprehensive guidance addressing the types of information that should be obtained from telephone record, internet advertising, social networking, and email record searches can be found as an appendix to this guide.

- ___ If the victim recalls significant detail, ask her to describe, sketch, or point out vehicles, specific sites, houses, hotels, stores, or any other relevant landmarks. Investigators are encouraged to photograph any identified locations as soon as practicable as they may change over time.
- ___ If circumstances permit (e.g., offender has not been located, victim is cooperative), consider having the victim send the offender a text message or place a consensually-recorded telephone call to the offender. (For further information, refer to the “General Investigative Considerations” section of this guide.)

General Investigative Considerations

Identifying Offenders

Positively identifying juvenile sex trafficking offenders can be challenging, particularly given the number of offenders who maintain multiple aliases. Suggested methods to determine or confirm offender identity vary based on whether or not he is in law enforcement custody. When the offender is not in custody the following methods of acquiring information may be considered:

- Interviews with victims/associates/witnesses
- Review of collected evidence (e.g. paperwork, receipts, notebooks)
- Review of police databases regarding monikers, tattoos, phone numbers, addresses, vehicles, etc.
- Review of police databases regarding linkage between related persons
- Review of related social networking sites
- Review of hotel registration information
- Review of cell phones, computers and personal computing devices (via appropriate legal authority)
- Contacting law enforcement agencies with units specializing in trafficking, prostitution, gangs, narcotics or other associated fields

General Identification

Establishing an intelligence baseline of offenders and activity in a given area can be extremely beneficial to general identification efforts. Investigators are encouraged to review police reports detailing offenders and victims in their area, canvass local sources, and consider speaking with adults involved with the local commercial sex trade.

General Investigative Considerations

If the offender is in custody, but has not been positively identified, the following methods of determining or confirming identity may be considered:

- Disclosure of identity
- Identification card
- Fingerprints
- Contacting known relatives
- Interview with victims/associates/witnesses
- Review of collected evidence (e.g., paperwork, receipts, notebooks)
- Review of police databases regarding monikers, tattoos, phone numbers, addresses, vehicles, linkage between related persons, etc.
- Review of related social networking sites

Victim Interview

As soon as practicable following recovery, investigators should arrange for an interview of the victim. Investigators are encouraged to discuss the results of victim interviews with their prosecuting attorney to determine if placing the victim before a Grand Jury would be a fruitful investigative technique under the circumstances. Considerations for this decision may include:

- The safety of the victim
- The victim's medical/physical condition
- Whether the victim is cooperative
- The possibility of the victim fleeing/returning to the offender
- How many victims are involved and whether she will tell other victims/the offender about her testimony
- The potential for evidence destruction if the offender learns of her testimony
- The possibility of gathering additional evidence to support the case
- Determining the logical next step of the investigation

Detailed guidance on interviewing victims can be found under the "Interviewing" section of this guide.

Investigators should be aware of laws in their jurisdiction regarding interviewing minors—especially minors in custody. Investigators should review policies and procedures for interviewing minors in the care of human services and/or under probation, and those represented by defense counsel or court appointed guardians.

Physical Searches

The search of residences, vehicles, and other physical locations utilized by juvenile sex trafficking offenders and victims is a critical part of any investigation. Searches can yield useful evidence that can assist in proving various elements of the crime and corroborating victim statements. When probable cause permits, investigators are encouraged to look for and seize the following items:

- Computers, tablets, cell phones, or other personal electronic devices (along with the associated equipment, such as chargers or thumb drives)
- Credit cards (pre-paid, debit, credit)
- Financial records and statements
- IDs (driver's license, passports, other forms of ID)
- Communications with victims and/or consumers and co-conspirators
- Cameras and video-recorders
- Clothing, personal effects, wigs, etc.
- Travel documents including bus/plane tickets or ticket stubs, hotel receipts, receipts for gas, food, etc.
- Receipts and documentation demonstrating whereabouts of the minor and/or offender
- Ledgers/logs, handwritten notes, miscellaneous documents
- Weapons (guns, knives, wooden sticks, knuckle rings)
- Drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Money or other assets (jewelry, expensive clothing/shoes)
- Condoms, sex toys, lubricant, lingerie, other forms of birth control, etc.
- Relevant items in the trash can(s) or toilet(s) (including DNA evidence)
- Hotel-affiliated items, including key cards, toiletries, and notepads
- Rental agreements for properties and/or vehicles
- Vehicle registration information

Rental Cars

Rental cars are often used to facilitate juvenile sex trafficking activities. Often, these cars will have logged a very high number of miles in a short time span, which may reflect the extent of their travel. It is recommended that these vehicles are searched in the same manner as owned vehicles and that any GPS or factory-installed car assistance devices are seized. Furthermore, rental company employees can be an excellent source of information, as they may be able to identify potential offenders based on rental patterns and/or common sex trafficking behaviors.

General Investigative Considerations

- E-ZPass transponders
- GPS devices/Factory-installed car assistance devices
- Citizens Band (CB) radios
- Items consistent with offending behavior (e.g. “pimp sticks,” “pimp cups,” canes, clothing, jewelry)

Additionally, investigators should determine if the vehicle has GPS capability and inquire with the manufacturer and/or rental company on the process required to obtain the data from the internal device.

Cell Phones

Cell phones belonging to both juvenile victims and offenders almost always provide valuable information and/or evidence. As such, investigators should search these devices as soon as practicable pursuant to the appropriate legal authority. Additionally, law enforcement is encouraged to pursue child pornography charges when sexually explicit photos of underage victims are found on the offender’s phone. The following suggestions are made to ensure the integrity of evidence on the device and its availability to the investigator:

- Upon seizing the device, immediately place it in a faraday box or bag designed to prevent cellular transmission. In the event that a faraday box or bag is not available, it is recommended that the investigator change the settings on the device to “airplane mode.” These actions will minimize the possibility that data contained on the phone will be altered or erased through remote access. (Note: Document changes made to the settings on the device as well as any review of data conducted, and provide this documentation to the forensic examiner.)
- If seizing the phone pursuant to consent, obtain any necessary passwords for the device and verify that the passwords will unlock the device before leaving the presence of the consenting party. Even in cases where consent is not granted, officers should request passwords for future search warrant execution.

Cellular Service

Investigators are encouraged to educate themselves on the most popular cellular services used by offenders in the exploitation process.

Advanced knowledge of law enforcement points of contact, data available to law enforcement (with appropriate legal process), and retention policies can make the acquisition process much more efficient.

Preservation Letters

Investigators should remain cognizant of the fact that cellular data can be lost quickly. As such, it is imperative that law enforcement send preservation requests to telephone service providers requesting retention of all pertinent data, to include cell tower information.

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement

- To prevent difficulties resulting from loss of power to the device, seize charging cables and charge the device pending data extraction/forensic analysis.
- Consider using a cell phone extraction tool to obtain data from the device; these tools are known for their portability and efficiency. Ensure the extraction tool selected is designed to extract all data needed for the investigation (e.g., web history, photographs, text messages); if it does not have such capabilities, consider using a different tool or forensic software, or physically documenting the relevant evidence by taking photographs of the information.
- When searching/extracting data from a cell phone, do not forget to look for the following data:
 - Call history (e.g. incoming, outgoing, received and missed call logs)
 - Images, video files, audio recordings and/or multi-media messages or content
 - Text messages
 - Contact lists
 - Internet history, bookmarks, favorites, instant messaging
 - Communication using installed applications
 - Electronic mail
 - All user created electronic documents or files, noted entries, to do lists entries, memorandums and any user installed software
 - Phone book and address information
 - Appointment calendar information
 - Any encryption information, passwords, or personal unblocking codes (PUC)/PIN unlock keys (PUK)
 - Accompanying Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards or media storage devices
 - Subscriber and equipment identifiers
 - All applications and associated account information
 - WiFi hotspot logs, cached map searches, and metadata/geolocation information for photographs

Call History Analysis

Call logs can be used by agency analysts to establish most frequent contacts, daily patterns of behavior, and locations visited.

A comprehensive list of information to obtain during telephone record searches can be found as an appendix to this guide.

General Investigative Considerations

Social Media, Websites, Online Services & Applications

Offenders may advertise or recruit victims online through the use of advertisement-based websites or social media accounts. Upon discovery of an online account used by the offender or victims, and/or advertisements for victim services, investigators should consider the following:

- Print, screen capture, or photograph the content available for viewing.
- Document any usernames associated with the account or advertisement, advertisement numbers, telephone numbers, or email accounts listed.
- Send a preservation request to the service provider or webhost. (A sample preservation request template can be found as an appendix to this guide.) Pursuant to the United States Code, preservation requests only require the provider to retain the information for a period of 90 days, which can be extended for an additional 90 day period at the request of the law enforcement agency. Additionally, if consent is given, some social networking sites afford users the ability to archive a copy of the current profile.
- Upon obtaining screen names, telephone numbers, email accounts, etc., conduct internet searches using various search engines to determine if any other online profiles or advertisements exist using the same information.
- If possible, obtain consent to search/takeover the social media accounts to obtain information more efficiently. (A sample "Consent to Assume Online Identity" template can be found as an appendix to this guide.) While consent affords the investigator immediate access to the available data, investigators are encouraged to pursue a search warrant for the account information and content as it will provide further information such as IP addresses used to access the account and upload information (e.g., photographs), which may be useful in proving travel by the offender(s) and victim(s).
- For online advertisements, investigators are encouraged to serve necessary legal process to the webhost to obtain all information regarding the account used to post the advertisement and payment method (if applicable). Additionally, obtaining information regarding all other advertisements posted by the same user may reveal previously unknown victims or accomplices, and may be used by investigators to corroborate travel patterns and duration of exploitation.

"Hobbyist" Websites

Investigators should look for "hobbyist" sites devoted to discussing the commercial sex trade, as valuable information can sometimes be obtained from these venues. Specific victims can be discussed on these sites, and consumers may even note the presence of an offender during the encounter.

A comprehensive list of information to be obtained from internet service providers regarding advertisements can be found as an appendix to this guide.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to educate themselves on the popular social media websites, applications, and communication services (to include Voice over Internet Protocol [VoIP]) being used by offenders and their victims as part of the exploitation process. Advanced knowledge of the capabilities of these platforms and the information available from service providers/webhosts will save time and resources during a fast-paced, reactive investigation.

Digital Evidence

The use of digital media by offenders and victims is not limited to cell phones/smart phones. Case experience indicates that offenders also may use laptop computers, tablets, and external storage media to facilitate the exploitation process. Investigators are encouraged to seize any digital storage devices located during the course of the investigation for forensic analysis. At a minimum, the forensic analysis should include a search for the following data (active and deleted):

- Owner information/User Accounts, equipment identifiers to establish ownership, possession or control of the computer
- Electronic documents or files, photographs, videos, audio files, note entries, to-do list entries, memorandums
- Metadata/geolocation information from images
- Internet browsing history, favorites, bookmarks, temporary internet files
- Any user installed software, programs or applications
- Communication in any form (e.g., instant message logs, text messages, emails, multi-media messages)
- Contact lists
- Maps and/or saved addresses
- Appointment calendar information
- Any encryption information, passwords, or personal unblocking codes (PUC)/PIN unlock keys (PUK)
- Accompanying Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards or media storage devices
- Saved usernames and passwords

A comprehensive list of information to be obtained from service providers regarding email accounts can be found as an appendix to this guide.

General Investigative Considerations**NCIC Offline Searches**

Juvenile sex trafficking offenders and victims often have contact with law enforcement during periods of travel (e.g., traffic stops, accidents, etc.) or other incidents (e.g., domestic disturbances) and are not arrested. For this reason, investigators are encouraged to conduct NCIC offline searches for all vehicles identified and persons associated with the investigation (including all known aliases). Upon identification of previous law enforcement incidents, investigators should contact the agency to obtain the relevant report. Additionally, investigators should talk to the reporting officer who may recall details or circumstances related to the incident that were initially deemed irrelevant. Such details may be instrumental evidence for the trafficking investigation.

In addition, should law enforcement suspect an offender is trafficking victims in one particular area, investigators could request a multi-hit notification through CJIS. For example, if a jurisdiction is trying to identify an offender or vehicle observed in an area, a request should be made to conduct a query for a specific ORI of any persons or license plates that have been run multiple times (amount of times selected by the investigator) during a specific date range or time period. Every person or license plate run the designated amount of times during the date range and time frame would be provided.

Corroboration of Victim Statements

Due to the amount of trauma endured by juvenile sex trafficking victims, their statements to law enforcement may be inconsistent or incomplete. As such, the corroboration of these statements is instrumental in building a strong case against the offender. Failing to corroborate the victim's statements can lead to a misdirection of the investigation, and other negative results. While it may seem fruitless to corroborate small details of a victim's statement, this evidence may serve to reinforce the veracity of a victim's statement when presented to a judge/jury. Further, corroboration of these details may help establish a timeline of events, a venue for prosecution and identification of suspects, victims and witnesses. Full and complete corroboration of victim statements can also be used in offender interrogations to demonstrate deception by offenders as well as acknowledgement of facts. Although the type of corroborative evidence will vary depending on the victim's statement, examples of this type of evidence may include:

- Receipts for meal purchases, clothing purchases, travel, hotel lodging
- Statements from witnesses (e.g. relatives, store clerks, hotel staff, taxi companies, nail technicians, hair stylists, photographers)
- Statements from consumers who can identify the offender as the facilitator of the exploitation
- Documentation of medical treatment received by the victim
- Recovered photographs of trips to amusement parks or other tourist locations
- Journals or other writings authored by the victim that document events/activities
- Sketches provided by the victim detailing relevant information (e.g., the offender's residence, consumer descriptions)
- Photographs of other victims, witnesses, children, and possible offenders

- Video from known locations
- Social media activity, timelines and postings
- GPS info from devices, cell tower data, ISP locations, ankle monitors, etc.
- Youth placements (e.g., documentation from CPS, schools, DYC, probation)
- Escort advertisements that may validate dates and locations of travel
- Postings made to social networking sites regarding daily activities
- Details of cities visited
- Details of hotels rented

Legal Considerations

Many of the above-referenced investigative techniques may require legal process, the form and acquisition of which will depend on the jurisdiction investigating the crime (i.e., state or federal). Certain types of information (e.g., medical or educational information) may require Grand Jury subpoenas or alternative forms of legal process. Investigators are encouraged to communicate with their agency's legal counsel and the prosecuting attorney to ensure the use of appropriate legal service to obtain information.

Customer Disclosure

Service providers and banking institutions may notify their customers if they receive legal service regarding their account. Investigators are encouraged to ask law enforcement liaisons at these companies about policies regarding such and any additional documentation they may need to provide to avoid this disclosure.

In instances where investigators are concerned about the immediate safety of a victim, a wire or electronic communications provider may be compelled to provide subscriber and other information (e.g., IP addresses, location of a particular device) to law enforcement without legal process. Investigators should contact service providers to obtain information about their protocols for acquiring data under exigent circumstances. In these cases, it is imperative that investigators serve the provider with appropriate legal process as soon as practicable.

Investigators should use caution when drafting search warrant affidavits and court orders to avoid divulging information (e.g., identifying information about the victim) that could put the victim or witnesses in danger. Consideration should be given to sealing the order to minimize the amount of information that is immediately accessible by the general public and the offender.

General Investigative Considerations**Jail/Prison Telephone Calls, Mail, Approved Contact Lists & Visitor Logs**

BAU research indicates that offenders may continue to engage in illegal activity while incarcerated, including witness tampering. For this reason, investigators are strongly encouraged to request copies of all telephone calls made by the offender from the local jail or correctional facility where he is incarcerated. Similarly, it is recommended that investigators request copies of all mail sent to and from the offender, as well as copies of visitor logs. A review of the telephone calls, mail, approved contact lists and visitor logs may reveal previously unknown associates or those who the offender has co-opted to intimidate victims and/or witnesses on his behalf and provide further evidence of the crime charged. Incarcerated offenders will often place calls to an individual who connects him to the third party and intended recipient of the call. This practice increases the difficulty of determining the identity of the intended recipient, as law enforcement usually has to obtain telephone records of the intermediary in order to determine the final number called. Additionally, inmates will often switch calling cards/PINs in order to create further challenges for law enforcement attempting to identify associates; this practice can sometimes be identified through jail/prison surveillance footage, or through the identification of incarcerated associates of the offender. Witness tampering often occurs immediately following apprehension, and may intensify during prosecutorial milestones (e.g., indictment, receipt of discovery).

Surveillance

Depending on the nature of the investigation, it is recommended that investigators consider using surveillance capabilities. These include stationary surveillance techniques, moving surveillance teams, and fixed video surveillance to observe and document (through photography and videography) the activity of the offender and his victims. License plate readers can also be a valuable tool in establishing the whereabouts and travel patterns of the offender and his victims.

Surveillance can aid in documenting routes of travel, determining the number of victims and offenders, and identifying involved persons. Additionally, surveillance can help law enforcement personnel establish timelines, patterns (e.g., number of consumers/calls per day, time spent on calls), routines (e.g., hotels and other businesses frequented, drivers, offender's activities while the victim is working) and a variety of other corroborative items. When conducting surveillance in juvenile sex trafficking cases, investigators should remain cognizant of the fact that offenders often teach victims how to identify law enforcement surveillance.

Pen Register & Trap and Trace

Investigators should consider the use of a pen register and trap and trace to obtain valuable information about real-time telephone and internet usage by offenders and victims. A pen register will capture the telephone number dialed from a specific subscriber's telephone whereas a trap and trace captures the telephone numbers that place a call to a specific subscriber's telephone number. Pen registers and trap and trace capabilities can also be used to capture internet traffic. A pen register and trap and trace placed on an internet subscriber account will capture email header information from emails sent from or received by a subscriber, IP addresses used for these communications, and web addresses visited by the subscriber. Depending on the nature of your pen register, it may be advantageous to request cell tower information. Pen register and trap and trace devices do not capture content (i.e., the actual voice conversation, text message or email body); real-time content can only be acquired through a wiretap.

Pen register and trap and trace capabilities require a court order. In order to obtain the order in most jurisdictions, an investigator must establish that the account being monitored will provide information relevant in an ongoing investigation. As minimum standards may vary, investigators are encouraged to communicate with their prosecutor regarding the use of this technique.

Wiretaps

Wiretapping is a form of electronic eavesdropping accomplished by seizing or overhearing communications by means of a concealed recording and/or listening device connected to a communications line/circuit. In order to obtain authorization to conduct a wiretap, investigators must establish that the criminal activity being conducted using the subscriber's telephone/internet account is part of a "predicate offense," as defined by the state or federal statute. Further, the investigator must establish that the telephone/internet account is being used in the commission of the "predicate offense" and that the monitoring of such will capture evidence related to the criminal conduct. Finally, the investigator must establish that attempts to obtain the information through other investigative techniques have failed to produce results.

The ability to capture real-time communication content makes a wiretap an incredibly valuable investigative tool in juvenile sex trafficking investigations. However, the acquisition and monitoring of such make it resource intensive. As a result, it is often reserved for use in conjunction with traditional investigative techniques in larger, long-term investigations.

Many service providers can now furnish GPS data as part of pen register and wiretap orders. Investigators are encouraged to discuss this capability with their prosecutor and the specific service provider.

Consensually Monitored Communications

Consensually monitored telephone calls and/or text message communication can elicit valuable evidence for use in a juvenile sex trafficking investigation and prosecution. If circumstances permit, investigators should consider having cooperative victims place a consensually monitored and recorded telephone call (or text message) to the offender. Prior to placing a call or text message to the offender, investigators should:

- Consult with agency legal counsel and/or prosecutors regarding the legality of this technique considering one or two-party consent laws.
- Ensure the victim is cooperative.
- Provide the victim with the goal of the call (e.g., incriminating statements by the offender, determining the offender's location) and discuss how this may be achieved.
- Provide the victim with specific instructions regarding what she should and should not say to the offender.

General Investigative Considerations

- ____ Ensure the equipment utilized allows law enforcement to listen to both sides of the conversation while conducting the recording.
- ____ Make arrangements for the investigator to remain in control of the phone in the event that the call needs to be abruptly terminated.

Cooperating Informants

Informants for juvenile sex trafficking cases can be identified and recruited from a variety of arenas. Individuals who have previously been arrested for offenses related to prostitution or drug trafficking may be able to provide useful information. Additionally, those who work in the service industry, such as store clerks, beauty technicians, taxi drivers, or hotel staff may be amenable to working with law enforcement. Finally, routine citizens seeking additional income, or those who have association with the criminal element but who are not actively involved in such, may make valuable informants.

Law enforcement personnel should follow their agency's protocols and procedures related to informants and should determine the informant's motivation prior to enlisting his or her services (e.g., monetary gain, mitigate charges/sentence associated with a pending case). Additionally, investigators should establish firm control of the source's activities and maintain credibility by documenting all actions, both positive and negative.

De-confliction

Offenders involved in juvenile sex trafficking may be simultaneously engaged in other illegal activities (e.g., drug trafficking, gang-related crime). For this reason, it is imperative that investigators de-conflict within their own agency, particularly with drug and gang investigators, and outside law enforcement agencies to avoid compromising an ongoing investigation. Through the process of de-confliction, investigators may learn information beneficial to their investigation and develop additional sources of information that may be able to assist in the instant investigation and future investigations (e.g., child protection staff, juvenile/adult probation staff).

Task Forces

Juvenile sex trafficking is a complex crime problem that necessitates a response involving multiple jurisdictions across several disciplines. Establishing a task force provides a means to effectively and efficiently produce a positive, far-reaching impact on the community.

Investigators should consider the following factors when creating a juvenile sex trafficking task force:

- Task force personnel should determine the focus and mission of the task force.
- The mission and goals of the task force should be clear and agreed upon by all participants.
- Personnel should consider a formal Memorandum of Understanding documenting the roles and responsibilities for participating agencies. It can be advantageous for individual agencies to have an established Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prior to this undertaking, as this allows for increased understanding of individual and collaborative roles.
- Funding sources for the task force activities and operations must be established.

Task force management should consider involving the following agencies or groups for inclusion in the task force:

- Members from all law enforcement agencies in a designated area (federal, state, and local)
- Prosecuting attorneys
- Victim advocacy groups/NGOs
- Child protective services
- Department of Corrections
- Juvenile Court/Probation
- Housing authority (where appropriate)

Victims

Victim Risk Factors

While juvenile sex trafficking victims can come from a variety of backgrounds, commonalities exist among their experiences and behaviors. BAU research and case experience indicate three primary risk factors increase a juvenile's risk of becoming a victim of sex trafficking:

- **Community Environment:** Children or adolescents residing in geographic areas rife with poverty, significant street level crime, and a prominent commercial sex trade are at an increased risk of becoming victims of juvenile sex trafficking.
- **Family Dynamics:** Challenging family circumstances—to include family dysfunction, instability, abuse (sexual and non-sexual), or low socioeconomic status—significantly increase the likelihood that a child will be recruited into juvenile sex trafficking. Furthermore, children who run away for an extended period of time, or become homeless for another reason, are increasingly vulnerable to sex trafficking involvement.
- **Internal Disposition:** Internal disposition can be a critical factor in fostering or protecting against juvenile sex trafficking risk; in particular, children or adolescents who lack resiliency and/or struggle with anxiety, depression, or other mental illnesses are at an increased risk for victimization.

While less prevalent, adolescents from stable families and higher socioeconomic statuses are also vulnerable to juvenile sex trafficking recruitment. Although these victims may not be lacking financial or emotional support, they too can be lured by the appeal of the prostitution lifestyle, outside socialization and/or attention, as well as the freedom associated with living independently from their families. Additionally, despite a stable family environment, they also may suffer an emotional void that can increase their vulnerability to victimization.

Victim Age

While victim age varies, BAU research indicates the average age of recruitment into juvenile sex trafficking is 15 years old.

Recruitment Violence

BAU research suggests violence is rarely used as a recruitment tactic; however, once a victim has been recruited, violence and threats of violence are extremely prevalent during the subsequent exploitation.

Victims

Transgender Victims

Transgender youth may be vulnerable to juvenile sex trafficking due to societal marginalization. These minors often report having experienced harassment and assault at school, contributing to a failure to graduate and increasing the likelihood of running away. This enhanced vulnerability can lead these youth to engage in survival sex as a means of obtaining food and shelter and sets the stage for third party facilitated sex trafficking. Some jurisdictions are seeing an increase in transgender juvenile sex trafficking victims. In some instances, these victims are exploited by an adult transgender offender; in other cases, transgender victims are exploited alongside female victims by a "traditional" juvenile sex trafficking offender. Transgender youth may be reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement out of fear they will not be understood or believed.

Recruitment

Juvenile sex trafficking offenders target vulnerable populations, and the recruitment process is heavily geared towards exploiting a victim's needs and insecurities. Loneliness creates a strong vulnerability for victims to engage with the offender, as these juveniles often possess deep emotional voids and a need to connect with others. Additionally, victims often desire or require someone to take care of them both financially and emotionally. Based on the victim's risk factors, and initial reaction to his approach, the offender will often inject himself into the victim's life and seek to fill the most desired or vacant relationship role (e.g., boyfriend, brother, father). Offenders frequently use affection towards the victim as a way to gain and keep compliance and to perpetuate the façade that this is a romantic relationship and not an exploitative relationship. Sometimes referred to as "boy-friending," this technique is commonly seen within juvenile sex trafficking investigations. The use of a courtship process fosters trust of the offender by the victim and encourages relationship development, love, affection, and caring. Because the victim is often vulnerable, lacking in self-esteem and frequently seeking love and affection and/or a "protector" figure, these non-violent methods can be highly effective.

Once this intimate relationship has been established, the offender can slowly transition into imposing prostitution as a condition of continuing both the emotional connection and the financial support the victim is dependent upon. When the offender provides for the victim's needs, it creates a bond between the two of them whereby the victim becomes increasingly dependent upon the offender. Further, this provision of basic needs makes the victim beholden to the offender and creates a basis for his claims that she is indebted to him and should "work off" the debt by engaging in prostitution.

Given this false framework of a consensual romantic relationship, the offender sometimes uses relational terms such as "boyfriend and girlfriend" as both a method of subtle coercion and a scheme to avoid detection by law enforcement. For instance, the victim may be trained to say, or may believe, that the offender is her boyfriend. Likewise, the offender may consciously refer to the victim as his girlfriend in order to keep the sham relationship going and provide an explanation as to why he is continuously present and receives money and other benefits from her acts of prostitution.

BAU research indicates recruitment is still frequently conducted in person, however online recruitment appears to be increasing rapidly and often allows offenders to reach a wider array of potential victims. By utilizing social networking sites, dating sites, and other online venues, offenders have access to unlimited potential victims and can conduct recruitment activities at any time. Furthermore, when using social media or other online sites, offenders can

maximize potential recruitment and minimize time investment by sending the same “pitch” message to hundreds of girls simultaneously. Additionally, the internet allows offenders to more easily contact victims who are less likely to be accessible on the streets; these include, but are not limited to, victims from intact families and particularly young victims. Some offenders will use the internet to facilitate the initial contact (e.g., through a dating or social networking site), and develop a relationship with the victim prior to suggesting or demanding her involvement with prostitution.

Consider educating and establishing liaison with personnel working in schools and venues where juveniles might congregate. These include, but are not limited to, parks, swimming pools, movie theatres, restaurants, malls, or other retail establishments.

Obtaining Victim Cooperation

Securing cooperation and accurate, comprehensive information from victims is one of the most challenging aspects of juvenile sex trafficking investigations; however, it is instrumental to the investigative process and the subsequent prosecution of the offender. Victims are heavily conditioned to remain loyal to the offender and are immersed in the abusive lifestyle associated with prostitution. Sex trafficking victims frequently develop a trauma bond with the offender. Trauma bonding occurs as the result of ongoing cycles of abuse in which the intermittent reinforcement of reward and punishment creates powerful emotional bonds that are resistant to change. The following suggestions are provided to maximize the potential for successful interaction with juvenile sex trafficking victims:

- **Maintain realistic expectations, and exercise patience during the rapport building phase.** This process is often lengthy, and investigators should not expect to obtain cooperation right away. BAU research demonstrates that nearly half of successfully prosecuted juvenile sex trafficking cases required three or more interviews to obtain full cooperation, and some required up to twelve separate interviews with the victim in order to obtain all of the information necessary for prosecution.
- **Address a victim's basic needs and concerns immediately.** If possible, pre-assemble bags for on-scene investigators to immediately provide the victim upon recovery. These bags should include a change of clothes, food, and personal hygiene products. In many cases, a victim is minimally dressed and hasn't eaten for a significant amount of time; immediately addressing her comfort will demonstrate concern for her well being, and meet the minor's basic physiological needs. In turn, this will increase the likelihood of both initial and long-term cooperation.
- **Consider involving a victim specialist early in the process.** When doing so, ensure the role of the victim specialist and the role of the investigator are clearly defined and communicated ahead of time. Additionally, ensure information obtained by one party is communicated to the other. Victim specialists should not conduct investigative interviews of the victim, nor should they be involved with the investigation; it is important for the victim to see the victim specialist as an individual who is exclusively focused on her well being, not as an extension of the investigative efforts.

Victims

- **Ensure all personnel interacting with the victim are respectful, non-judgmental and empathetic.** Juvenile sex trafficking victims often feel a great deal of shame and discomfort discussing their sexual activities, and any perceived judgment from the investigator (or other involved personnel) can significantly hinder rapport building efforts and decrease the likelihood of an open discussion. Investigators should not react verbally or physically in a way that communicates disgust or disdain.
- **Remain cognizant of personality preferences, and attempt to be flexible and adjust accordingly.** The primary investigator may or may not be the ideal personality fit to maximize victim cooperation. Where possible, consider assessing which available personnel are most suited to interact with any given victim.
- **Do not treat the victim as a subject, regardless of behavior or lack of cooperation.** The abuse dynamic in these cases can foster aggression towards law enforcement and reinforce loyalty to the offender. Victims may initially be extremely uncooperative with, or antagonistic toward, investigators; despite these challenges, investigators should continue to treat the victim with respect and avoid engaging in arguments or disagreements with the victim.
- **Convey the investigative process honestly.** Investigators should avoid making false promises, and should make every effort to follow through on any promises made. Juvenile sex trafficking offenders often recruit and maintain juveniles with false promises; therefore, victims can be especially sensitive and attuned to this element of their relationship with the investigator.
- **Remain cognizant of the victim's limitations in terms of planning, initiating and assuming control over her life.** Juvenile sex trafficking victims often suffer from complex psychological issues, and the lengthy trauma endured may prevent victims from assuming an active role in their own lives post-exploitation; it is not uncommon for victims to exhibit challenging behaviors such as missing or arriving late for prescheduled meetings with investigators, skipping appointments with treatment providers, engaging in high-risk activities or returning to the sex trafficking lifestyle. Further, do not expect a victim to always recognize their situation as exploitative, or to present themselves as a victim in need of immediate intervention or rescuing.
- **Limit the number of investigators who are in contact with the victim(s).** Many juvenile sex trafficking victims have experienced significant instability in their childhood, making it difficult for them to develop trusting relationships with others—a situation further exacerbated by the manipulation used by the offender. An effort to limit the number of investigators who are in contact with the victim allows for consistency and stability, and fosters trust while also facilitating the rapport building process. This practice will also serve to minimize the miscommunication that can often occur when multiple people are delivering information.

Detailed guidance on interviewing victims can be found under the "Interviewing" section of this guide.

Victim Safety Plan

As soon as practicable following the recovery of a juvenile victim, investigators should educate her on the precautions required to ensure her safety and avoid contact with the offender. These include limiting social media, changing her phone number, avoiding areas where the offender hangs out, and refraining from talking to the offender's family or friends. Additionally, victims should be instructed to avoid talking about the investigation with any individual outside of law enforcement, or those working in conjunction with law enforcement. Should the offender attempt to communicate with the victim, electronically or in person, investigators should instruct the victim as to the best way to handle these situations. Furthermore, if applicable, investigators should discuss these precautions with the victim's family—as the offender or other individuals may attempt to solicit information from them as well. In cases where increased safety concerns exist, investigators may consider moving the victim to another area. While conveying and demonstrating genuine concern for the victim's safety and well-being is encouraged, investigators should not make any false promises.

Post-Recovery Victim Placement

Given the challenges associated with finding appropriate placement for recently recovered juvenile sex trafficking victims, investigators should attempt to plan for a victim's placement prior to the recovery efforts. Several options exist when determining where to place juvenile victims subsequent to their recovery: victims can be returned to their families or foster care, placed in secure or non-secure treatment centers, or placed in juvenile detention facilities. For those suffering from drug or alcohol addictions, residential substance abuse facilities are available. Significant differences exist among treatment facilities; it is important for investigators to be aware of both the capabilities and the focus of a particular venue before placing the victim. Additionally, investigators should remain cognizant of the fact that recruitment and victimization can occur at treatment centers and detention facilities; this highlights the necessity of prior research into the quality and reputation of the facility. Knowing details about the treatment programming provided in a facility will also help investigators prioritize investigative steps to avoid interfering with the victim's treatment process and/or periods in which the victim may be unavailable to investigators.

Law enforcement personnel should establish liaison with local facilities prior to recovery, as this increases the likelihood of timely and appropriate victim placement. In the event this is not possible, investigators should always know the 24-hour contact numbers for the venues in the surrounding area. Law enforcement should strive to avoid a delay in placement, as this can increase the likelihood of evidence challenges and impede the rapport building and information gathering process. Investigators should understand that post-recovery place-

Out of State Placement/ Recovery

Out of state placement can be advantageous, especially for minors who have been victims of sex trafficking for a particularly long time. However, investigators should remember that when a victim is recovered outside of her home state, the process to return the victim to legal guardians may be swift and occur before investigators have an opportunity to thoroughly interview her or gather evidence.

Victims

ment should be a decision made across different disciplines. Law enforcement, child protective services, the child's guardians, victim advocates and NGOs should all have a role in determining the most appropriate placement for a juvenile sex trafficking victim. Investigators should consider working with agency victim specialists in determining placement and collaborating with personnel across the applicable disciplines.

States often vary on their approach to recovered child victims, with some focusing on reunification with family members over treatment or other placement options. It is important for investigators to be aware of their state's focus, as well as other pragmatic considerations

such as who will be funding the placement option, and whether or not a court order is required for the placement to occur. Returning a victim to her family can be rife with challenges, as the child's home life may have fostered her recruitment into juvenile sex trafficking. However, when mandated to do so or when this appears to be the best option, NGOs can assist victims with this transition and any subsequent problems. In cases where the victim is a ward of the state, investigators should coordinate with CPS or the entity considered the juvenile's legal guardian. Additionally, investigators should remain aware of the additional time considerations associated with coordinating and obtaining approvals with another agency.

Child Protective Services (CPS) and Juvenile Court Personnel

CPS and juvenile court/detention personnel are well-positioned to identify signs of juvenile sex trafficking and report potential cases to investigators. Law enforcement should establish liaison with these entities in advance and incorporate appropriate personnel during an investigation.

In determining placement, investigators must assess whether the victim is likely to remain voluntarily in a facility; many times, victims will immediately leave a non-secure facility and return to the offender or to sex trafficking. This requires law enforcement to make the determination as to whether a secure facility is necessary for certain victims. While placing juveniles in secure facilities can present challenges, in some instances custodial intervention is the only way to prevent a victim from returning to the offender or other dangerous circumstances. In cases where detention centers are the best option, investigators should ensure familiarity with state laws and potential charging options. Some detention centers may have contracts with county courts or law enforcement agencies that specify a designated number of beds reserved for children in need of secure detention under special circumstances. Most states have legal processes specifically designed for persons in need of supervision, or children in need of services. Additionally, in some areas parents can petition to place the victim in a secure facility. Often times, previously uncooperative juveniles can become far more amenable to interacting with investigators and remaining voluntarily in a non-secure facility after first spending time in juvenile detention.

Regardless of where a victim is placed, investigators should always strive to maintain contact with victims; this allows law enforcement to ensure appropriate treatment is occurring in any venue and aids in the continuance of the rapport building necessary throughout the investigation and the trial. Furthermore, these victims have spent a considerable amount of time being abused by an offender; investigators should make every effort to avoid causing the victim additional emotional challenges.

Offenders

Offender Characteristics

Juvenile sex trafficking offenders present a unique challenge to law enforcement due to a variety of factors. Their ability to establish and maintain control of their victims, both physically and emotionally, often enables these offenders to go undetected by law enforcement for long periods of time. The method by which most juvenile sex trafficking offenders identify, recruit, market, and maintain their victims results in a unique combination of sustained violent criminal behavior with reluctant victims and/or witnesses. Offenders view their victims as a resource to be exploited both financially and sexually, and often repeatedly exploit multiple victims for months or years. While the commercial sexual exploitation of child victims is the hallmark of juvenile sex trafficking investigations, BAU research suggests the majority of offenders also engage in the direct sexual abuse and assault of the victim. This aspect of the juvenile sex trafficking offender-victim dynamic is often not the focus of the investigation, but it remains a critical component of the manipulation and emotional exploitation of the child victim—a process that directly impacts law enforcement's ability to obtain victim cooperation.

Offender Age

BAU research indicates the average age of juvenile sex trafficking offenders at the time of victim recruitment is 25 years old, and the average age at the time of arrest is 30 years old.

Characteristics of juvenile sex trafficking offenders include:

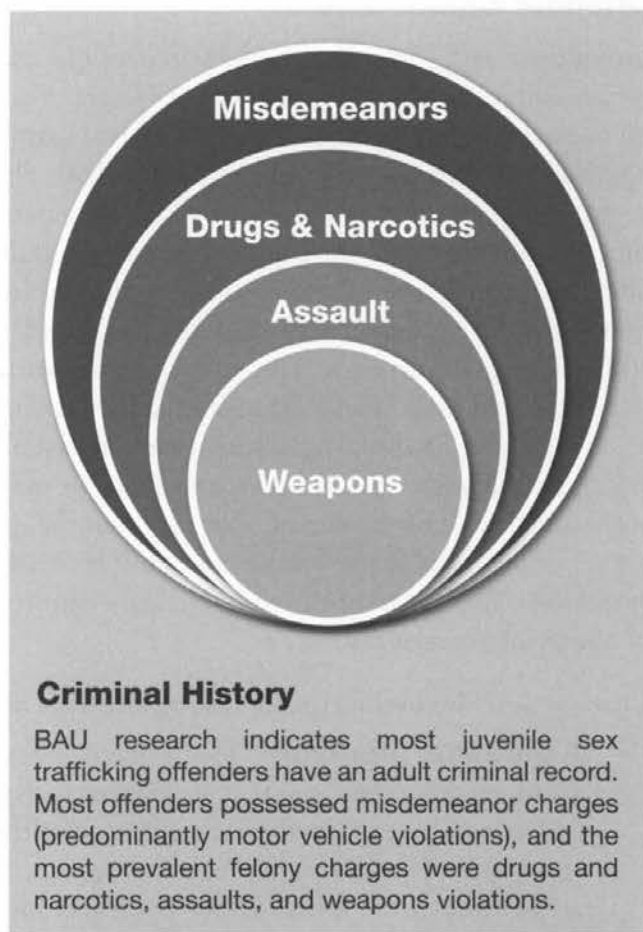
- **A parasitic lifestyle:** Many offenders have a sporadic employment history that includes multiple, short-term jobs that are marked with performance issues related to lack of reliability and inconsistency. Less than one quarter of offenders in BAU's research were legally employed at the time of their arrest for juvenile sex trafficking. Most offenders resided at a hotel or motel at the time of the arrest. Other residences included rented apartments and residences that were owned by the offender or his family. Individuals residing with the offender included (in descending order of frequency) victims (both adult and juvenile), the bottom, the offender's parents, other offenders, and the offender's spouse or significant other.

Offenders

- **A history of substance abuse:** Many offenders possessed a history of alcohol and drug abuse. Offenders not only had a history of abusing substances, such as marijuana, but also had a history of arrest for drug and narcotic related offenses. Of those offenders with a juvenile criminal history, drug and narcotic related offenses were the most common.
- **A criminal history:** Unlike some child sex offenders, juvenile sex trafficking offenders are criminally diverse, evidenced by an adult criminal history that includes a variety of offenses. It is not uncommon for these offenders to be on probation or parole at the time they are engaging in juvenile sex trafficking offenses. For that reason, it is recommended that law enforcement officers engage in frequent liaison with their probation and parole points of contact. Very few offenders examined by the BAU had a history of detected sexual offenses and hardly any were Registered Sex Offenders at the time of the juvenile sex trafficking investigation.

Psychopathy

Psychopathy can be described as a cluster of personality traits that include lack of empathy, conscience, guilt and loyalty. A hallmark of psychopathy is the predatory targeting of vulnerable victims. Many traffickers possess characteristics associated with psychopathy, distinguishing them from other criminals who commit acts of violence based on emotion or random opportunity. The psychopath trafficker is calculated rather than opportunistic in his recruitment of victims. Wherever he travels, he looks for vulnerable minors to deceive, exploit and manipulate. He typically acts as though his initial interaction with the new victim is unplanned; however, it is typically part of a carefully crafted plan to identify the vulnerabilities of the victim. The psychopath trafficker is also deliberate in the infliction of punishment on his victims. Punishment is delivered in order to establish and maintain the offender's control over his victim. At times the punishment is in response to a perceived rule violation, such as speaking without getting permission, looking at another male or failing to make enough money. Other times, punishment is delivered for reasons unknown to the victim and often in front of other victims. While these acts of violence may appear to be random, they are often strategically delivered in order to bolster his power and authority over all of his victims. Many offenders describe their trafficking behavior in terms of a business model rather than a violent crime and rarely express feelings of remorse or guilt.

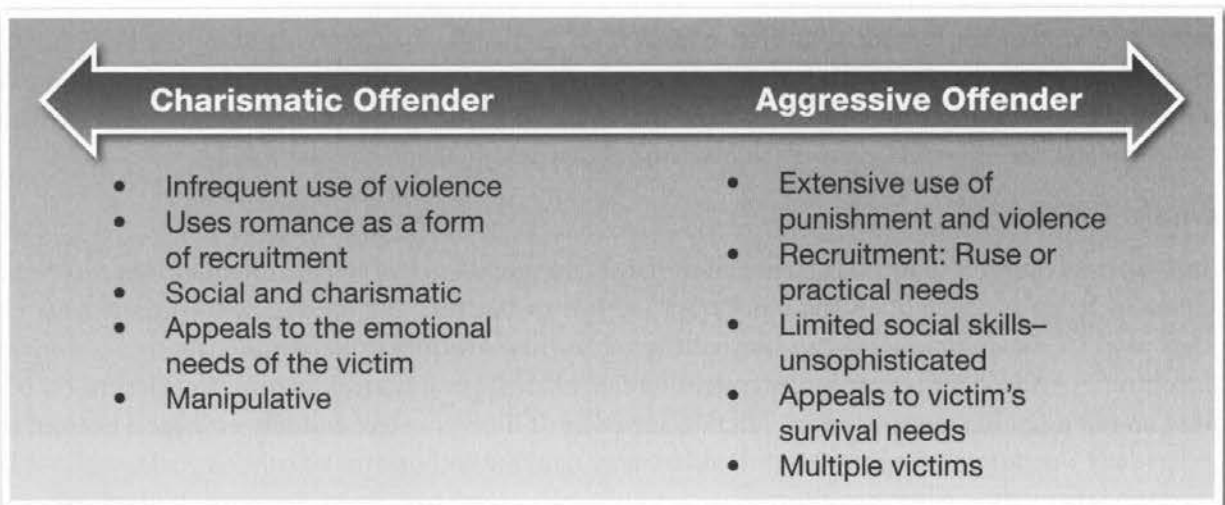


Offender Aggression

Aggressive offender behavior can be categorized as affective or predatory in nature. Affective violence typically involves a reactive and immediate violent response to psychobiological arousal (such as fear or anger). Predatory violence, on the other hand, is not precipitated by a psychobiological arousal and is typically devoid of excess emotion. That is, predatory violence is intentional and planned, with a specific purpose or goal. In BAU's analysis of juvenile sex trafficking investigations, offenders overwhelmingly displayed predatory violence toward their victims. This is important for investigators to note as it indicates a strategic approach by offenders in the use of rules and punishment to maintain control of their victims. Investigators should be vigilant in looking for evidence of continued attempts by the offender to control or influence juvenile victims post-arrest and during incarceration. Furthermore, BAU research found nearly a third of offenders engaged in criminal behavior while incarcerated for the current sex trafficking offense. Usually, this behavior was related to sex trafficking and often involved witness tampering.

Offender Typology

BAU research and case experience indicate the emergence of an offender typology that may assist law enforcement in their investigations. Two types of juvenile sex trafficking offenders exist along a continuum: aggressive offenders and charismatic offenders.⁸ Aggressive offenders are characterized by their tendency to exert overt power and control of their victims through extreme, torture-like violence. These offenders often have significant violence indicators in their criminal history, and are more likely to come to the attention of law enforcement. Furthermore, victims of aggressive offenders are more likely to cooperate with law enforcement, particularly when they do not have the ability to escape the offender. Charismatic offenders are characterized by their ability to manipulate and charm their victims. These offenders rely more on emotional exploitation, relationship development, and threats of violence to control their victims. They frequently purport themselves as "boyfriends" to the victim, and often argue they are not offenders because they do not engage in extreme violence toward their victims. Victims of charismatic offenders are often drawn to their false promises of love and affection, sometimes resulting in the victim's reluctance to participate in a criminal investigation against the



⁸ Aggressive offenders are often referred to as "gorilla" or "guerilla" offenders; charismatic offenders are often referred to as "finesse" or "Romeo" offenders.

Offenders

offender. Additionally, many offenders routinely display superficial charm, a grandiose sense of self worth, deceit, manipulation, lack of empathy, lack of remorse/guilt and inability to accept responsibility for their actions.

In reality, most offenders fall somewhere along the continuum of aggressive and charismatic and display a combination of behaviors and tactics. An offender may engage in behaviors more indicative of a charismatic offender and adopt more aggressive behaviors over time. While less prevalent, cases exist wherein offenders are exclusively focused on the business aspect of juvenile sex trafficking, and demonstrate few aggressive or manipulative characteristics outside of the commercial exploitation itself. Therefore, law enforcement should exercise caution in placing too much emphasis on cases in which offenders tend to exhibit extreme behaviors; these cases are rare, and overemphasis can lead to unrealistic expectations and the potential to overlook cases that do not fit the extreme paradigm.

Mentoring

BAU research revealed nearly half of juvenile sex trafficking offenders received some form of training (either formal or informal) from a mentor in order to learn how to engage in prostitution-related offenses. Mentoring included a variety of areas, from teaching offenders how to successfully identify and recruit victims, to maintaining control of victims to avoid detection.

BAU research indicates that violence or threats of violence are present in nearly all juvenile sex trafficking investigations. It is important to note that, regardless of where an offender lies on the continuum, BAU analysis indicates he likely engages in some level of predatory aggression toward his victims.

Trauma Bonding

Trauma Bonding is a term used to describe the dysfunctional attachment that a victim sometimes has to the offender. Trauma bonding is counterintuitive because it causes the victim to defend her abuser while rejecting those who try to help her. Trauma bonding occurs when a victim is under the coercive control of an offender. Under these circumstances, the offender becomes the central figure in the victim's life, often controlling every aspect of her life, including when she is allowed to eat, sleep, bathe, and communicate. This coercive control, combined with periodic displays of affection and rewards, creates an environment in which the victim must look to the offender to satisfy all of her basic needs. She must try to have her basic needs met in an extremely stressful environment, limiting her cognitive ability to plan and initiate action. Over time, with few emotional resources and limited contact with anyone outside the offender's control, the victim's ability to self-identify is hampered.

Female Offenders

While far less common than their male counterparts, the prevalence of female offenders appears to be increasing. Some of these offenders are former victims or bottoms themselves, while others have no background in sex trafficking. It can be challenging for investigators to determine whether a woman controlling juvenile victims is an independent female offender or a bottom controlling victims on behalf of an offender. In some instances, offenders reside in a different state and rely on a local bottom to oversee daily operations. Additionally, offenders may delegate to bottoms or other associates as a way to distance themselves from prostitution operations and attempt to avoid detection by law enforce-

ment. Female offenders and bottoms often use their gender to their advantage, particularly in the recruitment process. Female offenders may appear less threatening to potential victims, and can more easily access juveniles in certain venues, such as shopping malls, hair salons, shelters, etc. However, female offenders may also use extreme violence or threats of violence to control victims during the exploitation process. Female offenders may utilize co-offenders to assist in maintaining control of juvenile victims, making it more difficult for law enforcement to identify, locate, and investigate them.

Familial Offenders

Cases exist wherein parents or guardians facilitate the commercial sexual exploitation of their children. In some instances, the abuse may have begun with a previous generation (i.e. the mother who is exploiting her daughter was trafficked herself, or the father's father was an offender also). Investigators should remain cognizant of the possibility for familial juvenile sex trafficking offenders, and the additional challenges associated with this type of victimization.

General Offender Characteristics Summary

- Typically between the ages of 25 – 30 (at entry into sex trafficking)
- Criminally versatile
- Early onset of criminal behavior
- History of alcohol and substance abuse
- Sporadic employment history
- No permanent residence (although will often provide address belonging to a family member)
- History of probation or parole violations
- Collaborates with other offenders to maximize profit and minimize detection
- Manipulative in interactions with others
- Often charismatic and displays superficial charm
- Grandiose sense of self-worth
- Materialistic, possessing items beyond his means
- History of violence, either impulsive or controlled
- Lack of remorse
- Appetite for stimulation, thrill-seeking behavior
- Failure to accept responsibility for behavior

Offenders

Demand Reduction

Reducing the demand for commercial sex with minors is a goal of law enforcement across the country. While this guide focuses on the investigation of the “pimp” as the offender in juvenile sex trafficking cases, the role of the consumer or “john” is central to the victimization of minors. Some common approaches to demand reduction include public awareness campaigns, “john” schools, reverse sting operations and shaming through letters mailed to the consumer’s home. A common challenge to demand reduction is the allocation of scarce resources across the spectrum of this crime problem, from the consumer to facilitator of juvenile sex trafficking.

Comprehensive information addressing the interview/interrogation of a possible offender can be found in the “Interviewing” section of this guide. Additionally, BAU is available to provide more detailed assistance tailored to a specific investigation or offender.

Exploitation Process

Exploitation Tactics

Juvenile sex trafficking offenders engage in a variety of manipulative and psychologically destructive behaviors intended to simultaneously groom, train, and control their victims. These behaviors are often designed to serve practical purposes in addition to increasing the victim's physical and psychological isolation, and dependence on the offender. BAU research and case experience indicate that the following methods are widely used by offenders in the juvenile sex trafficking exploitation process:

- **Change of identification:** More than half of the offenders studied by the BAU directed their juvenile victims to use an adult alias. Offenders frequently force or encourage their victims to create a fake identity, or adopt the identity of someone else in the victim's life (e.g., an older sibling). In addition to masking her age and creating identification challenges for law enforcement, this increases the victim's psychological isolation and further distances her from self-identity. Some offenders direct their juvenile victims to intentionally get arrested for a small offense while carrying an adult identification card; when the juvenile is processed for booking, her photograph and fingerprints may be entered in connection with the adult ID in her possession. Subsequent prostitution-related arrests will result in her identification as an adult and thereby allow the offender to post bail for her release from custody. Accurate victim identification can be challenging for law enforcement, as it can be difficult to find individuals who can verify a victim's identity. In addition to changing the minor's identification, offenders can control the victim by seizing her identification and essential documents (e.g., driver's licenses, passports or other official documentation) and/or by seizing her personal belongings (which may have little monetary value but which may render the minor dependent on the offender, either for practical reasons or due to the sentimental value of the items seized).

Firearms

In nearly three quarters of the cases studied by the BAU, the offender used a firearm to control, intimidate, or punish victims. In some cases, offenders do not actually possess a firearm but convince their victims they do. Where possible, investigators should attempt to corroborate victim statements regarding weapons. However, regardless of whether firearm possession can be confirmed, the threat of a firearm can still be used to demonstrate coercion.

Exploitation Process

- Rules of the game:** Offenders often require victims to follow a set of specific rules as part of the exploitation process. BAU research indicates that both offenders and bottoms are equally involved in teaching victims these rules. While the rules can vary depending on the offender, they may include behaviors governing the victim's interaction with the offender and his bottom (e.g., always deferring to the offender's control, always looking her best when out with the offender, always respecting the bottom), as well as her dealings with consumers and other individuals (e.g., always demanding money prior to services, never looking another man in the eye). The rules may also encompass behavior when conducting sexual acts (e.g., what to charge, the use of condoms), the process and frequency of turning over proceeds, and appropriate responses to law enforcement inquiry. The degree of training a victim undergoes will depend on her existing knowledge about the sex trade, the level of control the offender chooses to exert over the process, and the needs of the group for a particular task.
- ### Child Pornography
- Some offenders may use an inaccurate age for the victim in the advertisement, yet use the real photograph of the juvenile victim. For those photographs that are sexually explicit, investigators are encouraged to pursue child pornography charges. Due to the significant penalties these charges involve, as well as the relative ease with which an investigator can prove the elements of the crime, child pornography charges can be a valuable tool in plea negotiations.
- Frequent moves:** In many cases, offenders will subject their victims to multiple relocations. In addition to providing increased access to clientele in destination cities, this further isolates and disorients the juvenile. Removing victims from their geographic comfort zone both increases their dependency on the offender and decreases the likelihood they will re-connect with, or be influenced by, friends and family in the area. Additionally, these moves can appear enticing to the juvenile—as the offender may present it as her opportunity to be a “world traveler.” More than two-thirds of the offenders studied by the BAU moved their victims out of the state, and nearly half moved their victims across a circuit—that is, travelled to multiple cities within one geographic area before returning to the point of origin. These cities are often selected to provide access to clientele and efficiency of travel (e.g., Oakland, Los Angeles, Las Vegas) while simultaneously decreasing the chances for detection by law enforcement.
 - Violence:** Offenders frequently use arbitrary acts of violence as a means of instilling fear in their victims and further controlling their behavior. The unpredictable nature of these attacks heightens victim anxiety and forces them into a constant state of fear and compliance. In some instances, offenders use victims to inflict violence on one another. Offender violence ranged from slapping and punching to choking, whipping, stabbing, and shooting.
 - Threats/Punishment:** Offenders frequently utilize threats and punishment to assert additional control over their victims. In the cases studied by the BAU, the majority of offenders punished their victims with force or assault. In approximately one third of the cases, victims were sexually assaulted as a form of punishment. Furthermore, nearly one fifth

of the cases that included punishment involved threats to the juvenile's original/birth family or child. In addition to physical punishment, offenders routinely capitalize on the victim's needs by withholding tangible items such as food, clothing, alcohol or drugs. Additionally, withholding intangible items—such as affection, time with the offender, or access to the victim's child—serves as a very powerful punishment in some cases. Other punishments utilized by juvenile sex trafficking offenders include sleep deprivation, exposure to extreme temperatures, sextortion, sexual assault with objects, increased work hours/quotas, degradation and humiliation, enforcing trivial demands, physical isolation and not allowing the victim contact with family and friends.

- **Drug usage:** Juvenile sex trafficking offenders vary in their approach to drugs. Some offenders intentionally facilitate or feed a victim's drug dependence; some use drugs as a reward for good behavior; others prefer to keep their victims away from drugs altogether. In some cases, victims are struggling with addiction prior to their involvement with sex trafficking, and offenders can capitalize on this during the recruitment process. BAU research indicates the most frequently used drugs in juvenile sex trafficking cases are marijuana and ecstasy.
- **Rewards:** In some cases, offenders use rewards as a means of demonstrating appreciation to victims and fostering loyalty. Rewards can range from shopping trips to amusement park vacations. Large rewards, in particular, can have a strong emotional impact on victims from impoverished and/or neglectful homes who have never had such items or experiences provided by their families. These occasional indulgences strengthen trauma bonding between the victim and offender.
- **No turning back:** After isolating and solidifying control over their victims, offenders convince the juveniles they are beyond the "point of no return" because of the nature of their victimization. In many instances, the juvenile is dependent on the offender emotionally or financially: in the majority of the cases studied by the BAU, victims were not allowed to keep any of their proceeds. Additionally, offenders frequently take all of the victim's personal property – to include cell phones, clothes, diaries, and other items – to further isolate the victim and distance her from her past life. In addition to isolating victims, this creates a scenario whereby the victim is completely reliant on the offender for basic survival needs. Offenders convince the juvenile there is no turning back in a variety of different ways, to include demeaning her as "damaged" or convincing her that she is a criminal now and cannot revert back to her former life. For those victims with close family relationships, a threat to expose their victimization can be a strong motivator for the victim to comply with the offender's demands.
- **Perceived omnipotence:** To further control victims and prevent them from attempting to leave, offenders often create the perception that they are "all powerful" and/or "all knowing." Because of this, victims may feel as though attempting to escape is a fruitless endeavor. For instance, to discourage a victim from reaching out to the police or others who would help her, an offender may convince a victim that he is aware of all her communication. This method of control can serve as a deterrent against many other behaviors to include,

Exploitation Process

but not limited to, hiding money from the offender, disobeying the offender, and refusing to work. The use of this tactic, in addition to others, explains how juvenile sex trafficking offenders are often able to maintain control of the victim(s) even when the offender is not physically present (e.g., when he is in jail).

Marketing

Juvenile sex trafficking offenders utilize multiple methods to market their victims. The internet, in particular, has provided offenders with an efficient and readily accessible marketing platform 24 hours a day. Online marketing venues, such as social networking and dating sites, can solicit and field continuous requests with minimal effort. In addition to online marketing, offenders use the entertainment section of local newspapers, flyers outside of clubs, business cards, and word of mouth to solicit consumers. Advertisements sometimes refer to juvenile sex trafficking victims as “young” or “18.” Investigators should remain aware of the fact that, at times, the posted age and/or photo may be inaccurate. Common juvenile sex trafficking marketing practices include having multiple girls posted to the same advertisement, different advertisements using the same phone number, and captions such as “new to town” or “two for one special.” Additionally, advertisements listing out of state phone numbers can be a potential juvenile sex trafficking indicator. However, it should be noted that some applications (e.g., Google Voice) have increased the ease with which users can change or mask their phone numbers.

Money

Most juvenile sex trafficking offenders favor cash as their primary means of monetary transaction. Although offenders may use traditional credit cards to facilitate this violation, the availability of pre-paid credit cards has increased the offenders’ ability to conduct necessary transactions with an increased level of anonymity. Juvenile sex trafficking victims are rarely allowed to keep, or even hold, any of their proceeds; therefore, law enforcement should remain aware of the fact that victims may not be holding any money when recovered.

Overt Expression of Wealth

Offenders are often known to post pictures of money, cars, hotels, jewelry, and other depictions of their lifestyle on their social media accounts. However, not all offenders spend extravagantly and express their wealth through flashy purchases and online bragging; some offenders have found the value of avoiding the public eye, to include law enforcement. Dressing in inexpensive clothing and appearing to lack obvious material wealth allows offenders to assert they are not involved in illicit activity. Likewise, avoiding well-known terminology regarding the sex trade and other stereotypical offending behaviors can be a very effective method of avoiding law enforcement detection and providing the offender with plausible deniability. Investigators should always check social media sites and other avenues for potential overt expression of wealth, but should remain cognizant of the fact that a seemingly modest life or appearance does not mean an individual is unlikely to be involved with sex trafficking.

Technology

Offenders appear to be capitalizing on technology to facilitate business in nearly all juvenile sex trafficking cases. In addition to marketing, offenders use technology to communicate with their victims, maintain contact lists, and schedule services. Technology allows offenders to respond to advertisements and send victims to consumers 24 hours a day. Additionally, applications on smart phones or smart phone locator programs allow offenders to constantly track a victim's whereabouts. In addition to smart phones and computers, investigators should also remain aware of non-traditional devices facilitating internet access, such as online gaming devices.

Smart Phones

Offenders often use smart phones instead of computers to facilitate the majority of their communication and technology. Therefore, investigators should search recovered phones as though they are computers; this includes, but is not limited to, browsing history, pictures (to include any child pornography), applications, text messages, text messaging applications, email, contact lists, and deleted materials. Notwithstanding, investigators should still always look for and seize laptops and other computers that may be involved with facilitating the criminal activity.

The "Bottom"

A "Bottom" is a person, usually a woman, who sits atop the hierarchy of victims working for a particular offender; the bottom is appointed by the offender to supervise the others, report rule violations, and sometimes even help inflict punishment. Additionally, she may be prostituted by the offender and have a romantic relationship with him. Whether the bottom is being prostituted is often based upon the level of income being generated by the group. The bottom may also be prostituted as a punitive measure by the offender and/or as a method of control and dominance by the offender.

The bottom also serves to further insulate the offender from the victims and detection by law enforcement. Insulation occurs when the bottom collects earnings from the victim, sets up dates via the internet and/or telephone, rents hotel rooms, provides transportation to or from calls, escorts the victim to her calls and/or provides training to newly-recruited victims. Often, the more of these tasks completed by the bottom, the further insulated the trafficker becomes from arrest and prosecution.

Some of the criteria that an offender uses to designate a bottom are: trustworthiness, length of time in the sex trafficking business, intelligence, ability and willingness to follow directions, loyalty to the offender, ability to multi-task, ability to handle increased responsibility, ability to serve as a disciplinarian to others, history with the offender and knowledge of the sex trafficking business.

The role of the bottom is somewhat fluid depending on the condition of the relationship between the offender and the current woman in this role. In some instances, a victim can be solely working for the offender, and in other instances that same victim may serve as the bottom. For instance, where the offender has lost confidence or trust in the "management" abilities of the bottom, he might remove her from her role. Or, where the offender has developed a stronger relationship with a different victim, he may "promote" her to the status and duties of a bottom. Furthermore, the departure of the bottom from the group may create an opportunity for the "promotion" of another person into the role.

Specific Investigations

Gang Investigations

Gang involvement with juvenile sex trafficking has become an increasingly prominent challenge for investigators as criminals endeavor to expand their earning power, seek greater control over their criminal enterprises, and subvert law enforcement by participating in crimes hidden from public view. A multitude of local, national, and transnational gangs exist within the US; in some regions, local gangs in particular are actively recruiting juveniles within their communities to engage in prostitution. While gang prostitution operations vary based on region, environment, and gang composition, commonalities in these investigations exist and can be used to aid law enforcement personnel working in this field.

Gang sex trafficking investigations can be broken down into two general categories: gang-related and gang-motivated cases. Gang-motivated cases are those in which the enterprise itself controls the victims, and the entire gang benefits from the proceeds. In gang-related cases, an individual gang member draws on the reputation of the gang but individually recruits and controls the victims for personal gain. Gang offenders differ from traditional offenders in that their primary function is their role in the gang. In gang-motivated cases, both the preexisting hierarchy of the gang and each member's traditional role are implemented in the sex trafficking operation. Typically, a clear leader can be observed functioning in the "pimp" role, with other gang members serving as drivers, bodyguards/security, proceeds collectors, and lookouts. In gang-related cases, the instigating individual will mostly facilitate the operation himself but may utilize another gang member in a minor role.

Sex trafficking can be extremely lucrative for gang members, and is considered to be relatively low risk and high reward compared to other criminal activities (e.g., drug trafficking). Victims are considered to be a renewable resource with minimal initial investment, and the enterprise itself relies on fewer people—therefore reducing both the cost and the risk. Furthermore, gang members often do not realize that juvenile sex trafficking is a federal crime with significant penalties attached; they frequently view it as a local misdemeanor, and assume the financial benefits greatly outweigh the potential risk.

In addition to the profitable nature of the violation, the frequency of gang sex trafficking investigations can likely be attributed to the relative ease with which gang members can recruit victims. In contrast

Specific Investigations

to traditional offenders, gang members are often closer in age to the juvenile victims and live or attend schools within the community. This allows them access to a broader recruitment base, and contributes to the fact that gang victims often come from a wider range of socioeconomic backgrounds. Additionally, many young victims are intrigued by the gang members, enamored with their lifestyle, and drawn to the family atmosphere of the gang. Gang victims, much like traditional victims, frequently struggle with low-self esteem, depression, and other mental health concerns, and are often vulnerable to recruitment given their strong desire for a romantic or replacement familial figure. Unlike traditional investigations, gang affiliation or membership provides victims with an entire replacement family. Furthermore, social media has increased an offender's ability to recruit victims by providing a communication platform with constant access to victims, and a place where gang members can promote and glamorize their lifestyle. Female gang members and the girlfriends of gang members are also sometimes used as victims and/or bottoms.

The following recommendations are offered for juvenile sex trafficking investigations involving gangs:

- Remain cognizant of the rapport building challenges associated with gang victimization and gang loyalty. Focus on showing the victim how her new “family” is detrimental to her.
- Ensure that the interviewing agent/officer is well-versed in and comfortable understanding “gang language” during the interview.
- Don't automatically assume that girls found in the presence of gang members are gang members themselves—they may be sex trafficking victims (or both).
- Remain cognizant of the fact that it may take longer than expected to build rapport with these victims.
 - Refrain from dismissing victims based on initial lack of cooperation. Information can be gathered prior to obtaining their full cooperation.
 - Refrain from starting off the interview with a heavy-handed, aggressive interrogation style.
 - Refrain from wearing a uniform or displaying badges or weapons.
 - Avoid diving into gang-related discussions too quickly—it is generally more effective to start with other topics.
- Consider facilitating tattoo removals for victims who are truly leaving the gang lifestyle. These procedures can be extremely beneficial to victims as it provides them with mental and physical “freedom” from the gang.
- Consider reaching out for and utilizing gang squads and task forces in your office during the investigation.
- Maintain the rapport and relationship with victims through the investigation and after. In addition to the potential need for their continued assistance in identifying additional targets, investigations, and intelligence, this assists in victim recovery by demonstrating that not everyone is interested in simply using her and discarding her.

- Gang members will sometimes post photos of their victims, as well as the income derived from their prostitution operations, on their social media accounts. Ensure thorough searches of social media accounts associated with all subjects and victims.
- Given their exposure to gang violence, gang victims often struggle with heightened safety concerns post-recovery. Demonstrate sensitivity to these concerns, and consider taking steps to assuage her fears as much as possible. These can include:
 - Educating the victim on the realistic chances of gang retaliation occurring. Most gang members simply “boast” about retribution, but are unlikely to carry it out. If applicable, investigators can use past gang or trafficking investigations in which no retaliation has occurred as examples.
 - Create a safety plan with the victim. In particular, a gang victim safety plan should focus on avoiding the areas influenced or controlled by the particular gang—as they often have a significant physical and cultural impact on those regions. (More comprehensive information addressing victim safety plans can be found in the “Victims” section of this guide.)
 - Inform the victim that gang members often cooperate with law enforcement to avoid or reduce their sentences. This can help diminish the perception that gang members would never “turn on” one another.
 - Convince the victim that her “gang family” does not truly care about her, and has likely moved on to another victim/source of income. If applicable, investigators can use past cases as an example of this occurring.
 - Utilize traditional victim recovery services, with particular consideration given to the potential to move victims out of the area or state for treatment/placement.

Special Event Operations

Special event operations are proactive investigations targeting juvenile sex trafficking occurring at special events. Juvenile sex trafficking operations should be considered at both national (e.g., the Superbowl) and local (e.g., local conventions) special events. In addition to the potential for victim recovery and offender prosecution, the media coverage associated with special event operations can be helpful in communicating law enforcement’s intense efforts to prevent juvenile sex trafficking. Furthermore, given that offenders often travel from all around the country to bring victims to these events, tremendous potential for post-recovery intelligence gathering exists.

In order to be successful, special event operations require a significant amount of planning prior to the event. While the length of time required for planning varies based on the location and size of the event, preparation for juvenile sex trafficking operations generally begins approximately three to four months before the event. This period allows law enforcement personnel adequate time to obtain thorough background information on both the event and specific factors affecting juvenile sex trafficking activities during the event. Additionally, multiple agencies are often involved with special events, and successful operations generally require significant coordination. The following recommendations are offered for juvenile sex trafficking special event operations:

Specific Investigations

- **Attempt to develop thorough background information and intelligence prior to the event.** A proactive, intelligence driven approach to special event operations is recommended. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring a thorough understanding of the local threat environment (i.e., how and where does juvenile sex trafficking typically occur in this area?) and attempting to develop leads on potential juvenile victims prior to the event.
- **Ensure coordination and de-confliction with other agencies participating in the operation.** Law enforcement should communicate with federal, state, and local partners to maximize resources and increase the chances of a successful operation. Within each agency, juvenile sex trafficking personnel should consider involving human trafficking and civil rights investigators, as they can often provide additional insight and assistance with any adult trafficking or prostitution issues that arise during the event. Furthermore, victim specialists should be involved with and prepared for the potential recoveries.
- **Thoroughly plan media strategies ahead of the event, but ensure that all media announcements are held until the conclusion of the operation.** To ensure that all entities are unified in their media strategy, it is critical to thoroughly discuss and finalize all media plans prior to the event. In addition to acting as a potential deterrent for future consumers, media interactions can be an excellent platform for increasing public awareness and fostering community outreach. However, to ensure confidentiality and success of planned operations, law enforcement should exercise caution in releasing any statements prior to the conclusion of the event.
- **Schedule pre-operations 30, 60, and 90 days prior to the event.** When implementing a major special event operation, it is advantageous to schedule several dry runs prior to the event itself. These practice operations should include the law enforcement agencies participating during the actual event, and should be geared towards identifying intelligence, resolving any challenges, and identifying best practices.
- **Vary operational plans across days and venues.** This ensures maximum potential for success, as locations may become compromised or exposed during previous operations. In addition to varying operation dates, times, and locations, the types of operations should be varied as well (e.g. alternating between in-call, out-call, street track).
- **Ensure any recovered victims are interviewed and provided assistance services.** Much like a regular recovery, victims should always be thoroughly interviewed for investigative and intelligence purposes and given access to the appropriate victim services and placement.
- **After the conclusion of the event, conduct a debrief with involved personnel.** It can be advantageous for individuals and agencies involved with a major special event operation to participate in an after-action meeting addressing any challenges encountered or best practices developed. This information can be used for future planning and implementation of special event operations.

Indian Country Investigations

Indian Country investigations differ greatly from traditional juvenile sex trafficking cases. In many Indian Country cases, the offender is the victim's parent or other close relative. In some cases, the parent sells his or her child's services to other individuals within the community in exchange for drugs or money. These exchanges are conducted quietly and selectively, in order to avoid detection. Other cases exist wherein offenders capitalize on outside workers who temporarily live on, or very near to, the reservation. These workers are typically male, living alone for several months, and making a large amount of money for the geographic location. Offenders will often facilitate "parties" for these men, luring victims into participating based on the promise of alcohol and other rewards. This type of exploitation tends to be more overt than cases involving consumers within the community. Additionally, Indian Country cases differ from traditional cases in that technology is rarely used to market or facilitate the child's exploitation. Furthermore, these cases tend to involve a wider age range of victims, with FBI cases involving victims as young as five years of age.

Given that Indian Country offenders are often the child's parents or close relatives, securing cooperation with the victim can be even more challenging than in traditional juvenile sex trafficking cases. Investigators should prepare to exercise additional patience with these juveniles, as they may need to be interviewed more frequently than other victims. Law enforcement should consider involving a Victim Specialist or Forensic Interviewer, particularly in cases involving especially young victims.

Undercover Operations

When conducting undercover operations, investigators should be thoroughly informed of the applicable policies and procedures within their agency, as well as the laws within their jurisdiction. This includes, but is not limited to, understanding what needs to be obtained in order to meet prosecution requirements. Undercover operations can be geared towards recovering victims, arresting offenders, gathering information, and/or conducting general enforcement for community impact. Prior to undertaking an undercover operation, investigators should ensure the focus of the operation is clear and communicated to all involved parties.

Law enforcement officers acting in an undercover capacity should be knowledgeable about the local juvenile sex trafficking environment. Furthermore, investigators should be aware of, and prepared for, vetting techniques used by offenders and victims. These include, but are not limited to:

- Requesting the undercover employee's name and address
- Requesting an identification card
- Checking references
- Checking with the hotel by calling and asking for the undercover employee's room (therefore law enforcement must ensure the room is in the undercover name)
- Researching online profiles
- Requesting that consumers expose their genitalia (in person or via photo)
- Requesting to see money before talking to the undercover employee
- Requesting the undercover employee disrobe and/or touch the victim
- Using Radio Frequency (RF) detectors or other equipment to search for body wires and transmitting devices

Undercover Operations

Two general categories of undercover escort operations exist: in-calls and out-calls. Investigators should be aware of the common practices in their jurisdiction, as some areas tend to primarily involve one type of operation or the other.

In-Call Operations	Out-Call Operations
Undercover employee(s) goes to a location requested and controlled by the offender or victim	Undercover employee requests the victim meet him at a location controlled by law enforcement
Advantage: increased potential for evidence gathering, as both the victim and the offender are more likely to have evidence in their possession or nearby	Advantages: avoiding an unknown location and operating in a more controlled environment; increased likelihood of encountering the offender or another associated individual transporting the victim

In-Call Considerations

Officer Safety

The single most important consideration during any undercover operation is officer safety.

The following recommendations are provided to decrease the danger to officers and increase the chances of a successful undercover operation. Safety, not the arrest of the suspect(s) or seizure of evidence, is the most important factor to be considered in conducting undercover operations.

The following suggestions are provided for in-call operations:

- Establish the goal of the operation ahead of time, and communicate it to all involved personnel (e.g., victim recovery, information gathering).
- Prepare a pre-operational package containing information on the offender and victim(s), and any information revealed after conducting internet searches of the phone number(s) listed in the advertisement. Additionally, if possible, obtain diagrams and photographs of the hotel and hotel rooms.
- Ensure the undercover employee has a well-rehearsed back story, particularly as it relates to the geographic location (e.g., if claiming to have grown up in the area, he should be able to answer where he went to high school).
- When talking on the phone with the offender or victim, ensure the undercover employee is well-versed in local prostitution terminology and customs. This includes, but is not limited to, whether or not money is discussed over the phone. If possible, consider using text message communication or record phone conversations to document exchanges. Note that victims and offenders will rarely take calls from a blocked cell phone number.

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement

— Ensure the undercover employee has enough cash to conduct the transaction.

— Ensure visual and audio surveillance equipment is adequate and tested prior to the operation. When available, use technically trained personnel to assist with the implementation and maintenance of equipment during the operation. Establish signals ahead of time, and verify back-up visual and auditory coverage of the undercover employee(s).

Hotel Rooms

Prior to conducting undercover operations, law enforcement should consider establishing a database of photographs and diagrams of all hotels in the area. At least four photographs should be taken: the entrance, the room/anything on the wall, the bedspread, and the bathroom.

— De-conflict with other law enforcement agencies in the area. For federal operations, ensure local police have been notified and are, at a minimum, aware of the date, time, and location of the operation.

— If possible, identify and conduct surveillance of the location and surrounding area ahead of time. Investigators should note any officer safety concerns (counter-surveillance, armed individuals, heavy foot traffic, etc.).

Investigators should always consider officer safety when allowing officers to enter locations unknown to personnel. Employing uniformed officers for arrest, utilizing personnel familiar with breaching techniques, and even discontinuing or delaying the operation to develop more intelligence should be considered prior to allowing an undercover employee into an unknown environment.

— Establish all roles ahead of time, and try to limit the number of personnel involved to approximately 10-12 individuals. This can potentially include two undercover employees, a technically trained staff member, a victim specialist, a supervisor, cover officers, surveillance units, and a takeaway team to transport victims out of the area.

— Cover teams can be utilized to provide cover in hallways, surrounding properties and other avenues where persons could present a safety risk to the undercover employee and/or first responders. Secondary cover teams may be utilized to obtain hotel key cards or master keys in the event of an officer safety emergency, carry breaching tools, and gather additional intelligence on the persons associated with the location (hotel registration, neighbor/witness interviews, etc.)

Undercover Operations

- Investigators should be aware of the potential for counter-surveillance and the possibility that victims may be directed to employ additional precautions. These can include using a multiple call system (e.g., the first call directs the undercover employee to a general location, the second provides the hotel name), meeting the undercover employee in the parking lot instead of providing him with a room number ahead of time, or meeting him at one hotel and subsequently taking him to another one. Investigators should ensure contingency plans are enacted accordingly.
- Establish an interviewer to attempt to determine the victim's age and identify potential offenders in the area (e.g., driver, boyfriend).
- Consider using a female law enforcement officer to make the initial contact with the victim and ensure she is fully clothed prior to additional personnel entering the room.
- Ensure the takeaway team personnel are standing by and ready to move the victim out of the surrounding situation as quickly as possible. This increases the expediency of rapport building efforts and prevents the victim from observing or being involved with any subsequent law enforcement interaction with the offender.
- Establish a plan for victim placement and services prior to the operation. Ensure that investigators have a change of clothes, hygiene products, and some food on hand for recovered victim(s).
- Limit the number of people in the undercover room, as it is important to remain as discreet as possible in case the offender returns to the area.
- Search the room for money or other items of evidentiary value (see First Responder Checklist). Additionally, consider checking the front desk and lobby area for additional victims, witnesses, or codefendants. Offenders may have another victim or bottom nearby to immediately collect proceeds and "watch" the juvenile.
- Remain cognizant of the potential for complicit hotel employees.
- Ensure contingency plans exist for unforeseen circumstances that may arise.
- Consider interviewing witnesses in adjacent rooms (or properties), hotel staff (or other service industry staff) while on scene for accurate and timely reporting.

Disposable Phones

Ensure the phone(s) being used to communicate with the victim and/or the offender are disposable phones that have not been used in prior undercover operations to contact the victim. This often overlooked aspect is critical to the success of the undercover operation.

Out-Call Considerations

The following suggestions are provided for out-call operations:

- Ensure the undercover employee has a well-rehearsed cover story. Additionally, the undercover employee should be aware of the name used to register the room, as he may be questioned about it.
- Ensure the undercover employee has enough cash to conduct the transaction.
- When possible, consider booking multiple rooms for the operation. This allows law enforcement to have an undercover room (where the operation will occur), a cover room, and an interview room (or multiple rooms, if necessary).
- Ensure the undercover employee has appropriate luggage, and that the room looks generally lived in as many victims are trained to look around the room, including the bathroom, before initiating contact. Small details, such as an unfolded toilet paper roll, the presence of fast food wrappers, etc., can help authenticate the operation.
- Establish surveillance both inside and outside of the hotel room. Additionally, officers should be aware of counter-surveillance, as the offender may be watching the room and/or planning to show up at the room. Investigators should note any other officer safety concerns (armed parties, heavy foot traffic, etc.). Additionally, if another individual drives the victim to the meeting, officers should be positioned to take him or her into custody after the victim is no longer in sight.
- If a physical description of the potential victim (to include clothing worn) is obtained from the advertisement, photographs, or phone discussion, ensure this information is communicated to surveillance and cover teams.
- Ensure the outside of the hotel room is secure prior to sending officers into the room.

Minor Children

Cases exist wherein juvenile sex trafficking victims bring minor children to an out-call and leave them unattended in a vehicle outside the hotel/motel. After law enforcement interdiction, the victim may fail to disclose the child's presence or whereabouts out of fear. Additionally, a baby or small child may not be easily visible. Investigators should clear vehicles as soon as possible after the recovery.

Undercover Operations

In addition to in-calls and out-calls, other categories of undercover operations may include street/track operations, truck stop operations, massage parlor/brothel operations, strip club/bar/casino operations, “pimp reversal” operations, and operations conducted in and tailored to any venue where juvenile sex trafficking occurs.

During both in-call and out-call operations, the undercover employee or an assigned scribe should track all advertisements (escorts called, times called, appointment times, cost, agreed upon sexual acts, etc.) for future use in prosecution.

Street/Track Operations

Street/track operations typically do not target specific offenders or victims, but are geared towards general enforcement and intelligence gathering. Prior to conducting street/track enforcement operations, investigators should familiarize themselves with reports and pictures of missing juveniles in their area who are believed to be involved with sex trafficking. Street/track operations can be dangerous, and require significant pre-planning and resources. Investigators participating in these operations should ensure sufficient surveillance/cover teams and technical support and equipment are available. Additionally, in the event that surveillance is lost, it can be advantageous to place a GPS tracking device on the undercover officer's vehicle to ensure his location is known at all times.

Officers should always remain cognizant of counter-surveillance and the potential for offenders and associates to be nearby. A key method of control used by offenders is proximity. Close proximity by an offender or associate ensures victims do not run away, attempt to hide money, use illicit drugs, get recruited by other offenders and/or simply not work. Further, offenders prefer to keep in close proximity and/or regular contact with their victims to “break” them regularly for their earnings.

Street/track operations can vary depending upon the locale (e.g., urban vs. rural, secluded vs. busy, day activity vs. night activity), the number of law enforcement personnel available, the policies and procedures of the law enforcement agency, the type of prostitution occurring (e.g., female, male, juvenile), and the methodology of victims in a given area (e.g., location of sex acts, lingo, requirements for consumers to disrobe or touch, pricing). Officers should familiarize themselves with all of the factors in their jurisdiction prior to engaging in enforcement action.

Enforcement of street prostitution can occur in a variety of ways. For agencies with sufficient trained undercover personnel, officers can conduct traditional operations where an undercover officer poses as a consumer and responds to a street track to solicit sex from suspected victims. Specific methods and techniques vary across the country, but generally an undercover officer will drive the street track and engage in conversations with potential victims. The undercover will then negotiate the sex act and upon mutual agreement, the victim will be recovered.

Another way to conduct street track enforcement is via surveillance. If an agency lacks sufficient personnel, and/or trained undercover personnel, officers can simply monitor a street track for potential sex trafficking activity. This can be done in an undercover capacity (via mobile or fixed surveillance) or even via surveillance cameras. Officers can note specific activity patterns of individuals engaged in

suspected prostitution and then contact individuals either actively engaged in a sex act (via the element of surprise), or by making consensual contacts of individuals following suspected sex acts. It should be noted, if an officer suspects a woman is underage, contact should be made immediately to prevent exploitation of any kind.

Truck Stop Operations

Undercover operations at a truck stop can be particularly challenging as any law enforcement activity in the lot or adjacent facilities may cause juvenile victims to hide amongst complicit truck drivers or leave the location completely.

A CB radio is a necessity for law enforcement combating sex trafficking activity at this type of venue. Language varies by location but it is usually readily apparent when CB radio traffic is related to sex trafficking as victims will generally ask over the air if anyone wants “commercial companionship,” or something similar. Sometimes individuals not involved in sex trafficking will discuss over CB radio related individuals or activity they observe at the location.

The following suggestions are provided to assist investigators during the preparation of a truck stop undercover operation:

- Prior to any operation, investigators should monitor CB radio traffic at various days/times during the week to determine which days/times are the most active.
- Successful undercover operations almost always involve the use of a truck, and prior coordination is critical to secure a vehicle and ensure someone with a commercial driver's license is available to drive it.
- Law enforcement should be familiar with the truck stop to include the layout of the facility and ingress/egress points.
- Potential locations for traffic stops of vehicles and trucks of interest should be designated and far enough away from the location to avoid alerting others to the ongoing operation.
- Investigators should consider placing surveillance teams inside of facilities at the location, or periodically walking through the location, as juvenile victims will sometimes loiter around restroom/shower facilities and/or in the restaurant area.

During truck stop operations, undercover officers can pose as both consumers and victims. The following scenarios can be considered by investigators conducting undercover operations at truck stops:

- The undercover officer can actively seek to engage with potential victims as they call out over the CB radio. Eventually, the undercover officer will direct the victim to his truck cab where the deal is brokered. Cover teams should be in a position to make the recovery as discretely and efficiently as possible. Investigators should remain cognizant of the fact that individuals involved with sex trafficking at truck stops may be in possession of a knife, razor blade, or other weapon for protection.

Undercover Operations

- Another way to use the undercover officer in the truck driver capacity is to have him serve as an observation post. The undercover officer can then direct personnel to potential victims as well as trucks where it appears sex trafficking activity is occurring.
- In another type of truck stop operation, an undercover officer can pose as a victim and walk the lot with the goal of identifying potential consumers and victims. Truck stops can be fairly large, and it can be difficult to maintain surveillance of the undercover officer for the duration of the operation. Given the increased safety risk this poses, it is recommended at least two undercover officers walk the lot together when employing this technique. Once a potential juvenile is located, cover team personnel can recover her as discreetly as possible.
- Reversals can also be conducted using an undercover officer posing as a victim and targeting those purchasing the sex acts. Undercover officers can also loiter in areas in/around the facilities and wait to be solicited. Cover teams should be in a position to make the arrest discreetly and efficiently.

Massage Parlor/Brothel Operations

Undercover operations conducted in massage parlors or brothels can be particularly challenging, as the environment is controlled by the offender(s) and surveillance is typically prominent in these settings. Many parlors have concealed video and audio surveillance in the massage rooms, and undercover officers should always remain cognizant of the potential they are being recorded. (Note: this equipment should be identified and seized during future search warrants.) Additionally, some venues have a “panic button” that can be used to signal other employees if it is believed law enforcement is on the premises. When conducting operations in these venues, breach teams should be standing by in the event that officers cannot easily access the premises. Once the undercover officer is inside the establishment, he should be aware that most illicit massage parlors expect clients to fully disrobe. Officers should have a contingency plan regarding the audio microphone (e.g., placement in clothing, ensuring adequate range). Given the challenges associated with these venues, officers attempting massage parlor or brothel operations should be experienced undercover employees.

Condoms, money, and other potential evidence may be hidden in routine places (e.g., cans and canisters with false bottoms) or more unique places (e.g., the agitator in a washing machine, a hollowed leg of a massage table).

Strip Club, Bar & Casino Operations

Undercover operations can be conducted within strip clubs, bars, and casinos. The most significant consideration for law enforcement targeting these venues is the prevalence of complicit employees. Investigators should exercise caution and remain aware of the possibility for exposure. Operations conducted within these venues can include reverse stings (a female undercover posing as a victim), a male undercover posing as a consumer, or general surveillance operations. For all undercover operations conducted in these locations, investigators should ensure transmitters used are strong enough to detect conversation over loud music and patron activity. Additionally, cover personnel should maintain

relatively close proximity, or at least have visual contact with the undercover employee(s). Prior to an operation in this type of venue, investigators should ensure familiarity with their agency policy regarding the consumption or simulated consumption of alcohol during an undercover operation.

“Pimp Reversal” Operations

The objective of “pimp reversal” operations is to assume the role of a victim, or to use an actual victim, in order to target and arrest an offender. These operations can be done by stationing a female undercover employee where offenders are known to recruit locally, allowing a female undercover employee to be recruited by an offender online, or by using an actual victim to communicate with an offender and draw him to a location where law enforcement can make an arrest. For officers engaging in controlled phone calls with an offender, ensure familiarity with the state laws prior to recording these exchanges.

Arrests & Interviews

Interviews and arrests associated with undercover operations should never be conducted by the undercover employee(s). Victims are less likely to cooperate with an individual whom she perceives to have “tricked” her, and to whom she previously exposed herself. Additionally, undercover employees should avoid conducting arrests, especially during general undercover scenarios on the track, as this could inadvertently expose law enforcement methods.

Interviewing

Part I – Interviewing Victims

Interviewing juvenile sex trafficking victims can be particularly challenging for investigators given the trauma endured by the victim, the relationship between the victim and the offender, and the victim's vulnerability to continued exploitation. While each juvenile victim is unique and should be assessed individually, commonalities exist in their experiences, behaviors, and propensity to interact positively or negatively with law enforcement.

Interviewing Laws & Policies

Prior to interviewing a juvenile sex trafficking victim, law enforcement should ensure familiarity with the laws governing their jurisdiction to determine whether parental consent or any other considerations are required. Additionally, investigators should consult with a prosecutor(s) and/or applicable agency policy regarding preferred methods of interviewing and documenting all contact with the victim(s).

Interview Timing

Directly after recovering a juvenile victim, law enforcement personnel must assess whether an interview should be conducted immediately. Regardless of when the interview takes place, contact should be made and individuals interacting with the victim should begin building rapport in a way that maximizes the potential for future cooperation. If circumstances permit, it may be advantageous to interview the victim immediately following recovery for the following reasons:

- If the victim runs away from a subsequent residential placement facility, an immediate interview may be the only interview law enforcement has the opportunity to conduct.
- Immediate cooperation and information from the victim significantly increases the likelihood that the offender will be arrested expeditiously.
- Immediately interviewing the victim allows law enforcement to begin collecting evidence without delay, decreasing the potential for evidence destruction.

Interviewing

- Conducting an interview upon recovery increases the potential for immediately identifying other witnesses and victims.
- An immediate interview begins the rapport building process earlier; this sets the stage for shifting a victim's mentality towards escaping her victimization.
- Conducting an immediate interview increases the likelihood of accurate recollections.
- Interviewing the victim upon recovery decreases the potential for witness tampering.
- Conducting an immediate interview capitalizes on the fact that the victim may be angry at the offender and more willing to talk about him/cooperate with investigators.
- Investigators can immediately prepare the victim for the upcoming parts of the process, including safety planning, and attempt to address any concerns she may have.

When circumstances prevent an immediate interview, or in cases where investigators assess that an immediate interview would be detrimental, several advantages to a delayed interview also exist:

- The victim can have the opportunity to sleep prior to the interview. In some cases, victims are sleep deprived and both their demeanor and mental acuity can benefit from rest.
- Some victims are especially hostile immediately after the recovery and the chance of cooperation or reasonable discussion is low. A delayed interview can give the victim the time needed to realize cooperation is in her best interest.
- For victims who are substance impaired at the time of recovery, a delayed interview can be beneficial.
- The offender may be in law enforcement custody and less of a threat to the victim. Additionally, the time and distance away from the offender can be advantageous.
- Victim services will have already started, so the victim will be receiving support and assistance.
- Delayed interviews allow investigators to conduct additional investigation that may be beneficial in the interview process.
- The victim may be in a secure facility where she feels safe from the offender and thus more likely to engage in a conversation with law enforcement.

Interviewer Considerations

When determining who should interview the victim, multiple factors should be assessed. It can be advantageous to use investigators who have received specific child/adolescent interview training. The interviewer should be comfortable interviewing children/adolescents, and should be extremely familiar with the juvenile sex trafficking exploitation process. Furthermore, any investigator conducting an interview of a juvenile victim should be patient, empathetic, non-judgmental, and attentive. Additionally, he or she should possess strong listening skills and should be comfortable conducting a non-

structured, flexible interview. Gender should not be a determining factor in identifying an interviewer; any investigator possessing the ideal qualities and personality traits should be considered.

Given the sensitive nature of the discussion, and to avoid overwhelming the victim, it is recommended that no more than two interviewers are present. Successful interviews often consist of one investigator talking with the victim while the other takes notes; these roles can be determined prior to the interview, or they can be established during the interview if and when the victim appears to have an interviewer preference. For interviews conducted by one interviewer, it is recommended that a second investigator be tasked with observing the interview through a two-way mirror, or closed-circuit capabilities, where possible. Investigators should consider recording the interview if agency policy and local laws permit. To avoid distractions and interruptions, and to maintain the integrity of the interview process, investigators should avoid allowing parents and/or other non-law enforcement individuals to be present in, or observe, the victim's interview unless mandated by agency policy or law.

Interview Location & Setting

After determining the appropriate timing and interviewer(s), investigators must assess the best location in which to conduct the interview. This is sometimes determined by the situation and locations that are feasible at the time. Investigators should remain flexible, as it may be necessary to conduct an interview (or parts of an interview) whenever or wherever the victim is willing to provide information during the recovery process. However, when choosing a location, multiple options exist: victims can be interviewed at the recovery location, the local police station or FBI office, or at a Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Regardless of which option is chosen, the environment should be free of distractions. When interviewing victims at a CAC, investigators should ensure the environment is age appropriate (i.e., avoid interviewing an adolescent juvenile sex trafficking victim in a room decorated/equipped for young children).

Investigators working juvenile sex trafficking cases should consider the use of a forensic interviewer. Employed by many law enforcement agencies, forensic interviewers are an excellent resource for juvenile sex trafficking investigations.

Interview Content & Structure

The following suggestions are offered for interviewing juvenile sex trafficking victims:

- **Ensure all questions are phrased sensitively and respectfully throughout the interview.** This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding questions or wording that could be perceived as accusatory or judgmental (e.g., "Why did you do that?"). Remind the victim that she does not have to discuss topics that make her uncomfortable, but ask that she tell you she does not want to discuss something rather than lie about it. Furthermore, investigators should prepare for and be accepting of pauses and silence during the interview. Additionally, avoid talking to her like a child or labeling her as a "victim" (unless she refers to herself this way).

Interviewing

Establishing Common Ground

As an initial rapport building technique and icebreaker, it can be beneficial to discuss common ground (e.g., music, sports, food). However, investigators should avoid fabricating common ground; if exposed as untrue, this can be significantly detrimental to establishing trust and rapport.

- **Consider minimizing the victim's activity, providing her with an appropriate environment conducive to discussing her exploitation, and saving discussions of sexual activity for the end of the interview.** Given the stigma attached to having engaged in commercial sex acts, victims often feel a strong sense of embarrassment and shame discussing their sexual activity. Additionally, juveniles often experience guilt associated with their activity, and struggle with feelings of disloyalty to the offender when discussing it with law enforcement. Investigators generally have more success eliciting this type of information after the maximum amount of comfort and rapport has been established. It is recommended that investigators start by addressing foundational and corroboratory questions before transitioning into emotionally challenging areas. After rapport has been established, general questions about the victim's involvement with the commercial sex trade can be an effective way to transition into the more sensitive details associated with her exploitation.
- **Refrain from challenging her ideas of "normal."** Victims have often spent a considerable amount of time immersed in an abusive lifestyle, and it may be counterproductive to confront their concepts of reality too soon. In many instances, after moving from the more traditional and healthy mental questioning (e.g., "How can I improve my life?") to a resigned acceptance of their situation (e.g., "This is my life. How can I improve this situation?"), victims are proactively engaging in maladaptive behavior. Given this, they may not be immediately ready or willing to accept the investigator's explanation of reality. Furthermore, investigators should avoid expressing confusion as to why the victim didn't "just leave" the offender or the situation. Additionally, in describing the offender, allow the victim to label his identity and/or her relationship with him—and adopt her word choice for the subsequent discussion (e.g., if she refers to him as, or indicates that he is, her "boyfriend," investigators should also refer to him as such).
- **Consider focusing on tangible ways in which the offender has failed to meet the victim's needs or expectations.** Successful interview strategies often include the investigator identifying exactly what the offender originally promised the victim, and ways in which he has failed to live up to those promises. Consider highlighting the inequity of the work-benefit distribution within the relationship (i.e., "He has x, y, and z [tangible goods], and you are the one doing all the work"). This type of practical approach

tends to be more effective with these victims than abstract statements (i.e., “You deserve better”). However, investigators should remember that some victims may have had previous experiences in which law enforcement was also perceived to have not followed through on their promises. These experiences may adversely impact the current investigator’s ability to build trust or highlight the offender’s inadequacies in this area. Consider allowing the victim to discuss any negative experiences she has had with law enforcement.

Family

Investigators should exercise caution when asking juvenile sex trafficking victims about their families. Sensitive handling of this topic is critical, as it can be an intensely challenging subject for victims to discuss. Additionally, investigators should remain cognizant of the fact that a victim’s family may be involved with or knowledgeable about her exploitation. Consider asking very basic questions about the victim’s family, and letting her behavior and level of comfort dictate further questioning.

- **Given the intensity of the victim-offender relationship, consider slowly deteriorating the victim’s perception of the offender.** Juvenile sex trafficking victims often lack self confidence and rely heavily on others. This vulnerability, in conjunction with the offender’s need for control and fluency in manipulation, creates a scenario whereby the victim views the offender as “all powerful.” This is an extremely tough dynamic for law enforcement to break. Exposing the offender’s weaknesses, and slowly diminishing the victim’s perception of the offender, tends to be the most successful approach to obtaining cooperation. When appropriate, consider asking the victim what she believes should happen to the offender, and foster a team approach by following up with asking her how “we” should make that happen. Additionally, investigators should maintain cognizance of the fact that—once the offender-victim relationship has been fractured or eliminated—victims will often seek out a new “person” to fill this role. In some instances, the victim may attempt to transfer this need to the primary investigator or interviewer.
- **If the victim is struggling or refusing to talk about the current offender, consider asking about previous offenders.** It can be advantageous to discuss previous offenders and particularly egregious consumers with the victim. Discussing individuals with whom the victim feels less emotionally attached can be beneficial both in terms of increasing her comfort level with the interviewers and potentially developing leads on additional offenders. Consider asking about the first offender, or the “worst” offender, for whom the victim has worked.
- **Consider discussing other juveniles who have been victimized.** It can be advantageous to discuss other juveniles working for the offender, in an attempt to highlight the breadth of his exploitation and lack of specific interest in the victim. Additionally, investigators can consider explaining to the victim that by discussing other girls, she can assist in preventing future victimization. This tactic can empower the victim to take on the role of a protector. Many victims may not understand or accept their own victimization, but they recognize the victimization of others—particularly victims younger than themselves.

Interviewing

- **Consider discussing the victim's hopes for the future.** It can be beneficial to help the victim begin thinking about her future, and what she envisions or desires within it. Consider asking her what she would do if she could start fresh. If her vision is feasible, consider helping her to see that these goals are still possible for her.
- **Consider utilizing Cognitive Interview techniques in order to obtain optimal memory and statement accuracy.** Inconsistencies in the victim's statement may be due to memory issues as opposed to deception. For those enduring this type of repeated victimization, days can lack traditional distinguishing characteristics. In particular, memory for episodic events can be more challenging for victims to retrieve. A free narrative interview approach tends to be more successful in retrieving accurate memories and obtaining comprehensive information. More direct questions can be helpful to follow up, clarify or further develop details, or in instances where the topic is especially uncomfortable for the victim. Inconsistencies in a victim's statement can be explained—and should not cause investigators undue concern, even if the inaccurate statements are recorded.
- **If the victim is denying being trafficked, be prepared to gently confront her—but refrain from an interrogative tone.** If the victim is unwilling to admit to being trafficked, it can be advantageous to softly present her with physical evidence (i.e., text messages, photos, advertisements, etc). However, investigators should refrain from transitioning into an interrogative interview style.
- **If the victim is cooperating with the interviewer(s), it can be advantageous to look through maps, locations, social media accounts, advertisements, and any other relevant information with her during the interview process.** This can help to clarify and verify the information, as well as to provide additional evidence supporting her statement.
- **Prepare the victim for follow up interviews.** At the conclusion of any interview with a juvenile sex trafficking victim, investigators should consider explaining (or updating) what she can expect moving forward, and attempt to garner her willingness to participate in subsequent interviews. Additionally, consider encouraging her to reach out to law enforcement with any additional information or concerns she may have.

A comprehensive list of potential topics to address with juvenile sex trafficking victims can be found as an appendix to this guide.

Part II – Interviewing & Interrogating Offenders

Preparation

It is recommended that interviewers take adequate time to prepare for the interview and interrogation of the offender in juvenile sex trafficking investigations. The planning phase is intended to gather the necessary information to build an effective strategy for the interview and interrogation. Investigators should strive to learn as much as possible about the offender before attempting an interview. This includes information about his family, friends, neighborhood, education, work history, fears and strengths. Not only is this information helpful to the interviewer who must build a relationship with the offender in the pre-interrogation interview, it is also critical to the development of effective themes. Proper planning and research should tell the interviewer what is important to the offender. A well-planned interview based on specific facts of the investigation and the characteristics of the offender is always more effective than one based on generalities.

Investigators should consider these possible sources of information to be used in planning the interview and interrogation:

- Personal items recovered from searches
- Surveillance logs
- Offender communications
- Journals maintained by the offender or victim(s)
- Letters to or from the offender
- Victim interview
- Collateral interviews with family and/or friends who may be willing to share information about the offender, such as his hobbies, music interests, and personal strengths. (See General Assessment Questionnaire in Appendices)
- Physical evidence
- Computer evidence
- Public data sources

The following areas should be considered before attempting to interview the offender:

- **Offender background and personality:** Having an understanding of the offender's personality can be critical to a successful interview and interrogation. While juvenile sex trafficking cases may appear to be similar across offenders, BAU research and experience have shown that the manner in which offenders recruit and maintain control over their juvenile victims can vary greatly. These differences are driven by individual offender characteristics as well as offender-victim dynamics. Careful integration of these dynamics in the interview and interrogation of the offender will increase the likelihood of success. The use of the

Interviewing

BAU's General Assessment Questionnaire (GAQ) can guide investigators as they gather the information related to the offender's background and personality.

- **Physical Evidence:** Physical evidence obtained during the investigation should be discussed prior to the interview and interrogation. Specifically, investigators should carefully consider whether it is strategically advantageous to disclose specific items of evidence during the interview and interrogation of the offender. Regardless of whether it is determined that certain items of evidence can be disclosed during the interview/interrogation process, it is always best to obtain admissions prior to the disclosure of evidence, when possible.
- **Witness statements against the offender:** The disclosure of information obtained from the victim and/or witness during the interview and interrogation process should be carefully considered. While the victim is best positioned to provide investigators with details related to the offender's criminal activity, investigators must consider her safety as well as the overall disclosure process when deciding whether to confront the offender with information provided during the victim interview. According to BAU research, victim disclosure is a process that requires multiple interviews and often includes some inconsistencies across statements. Interviewers must take care to avoid early disclosure of uncorroborated victim statements as they may damage the credibility of the interviewer.

Theme Development

Themes can be used to either advance the relationship and rapport with the offender or to provide a reason for the offender to make a statement. Themes describe the offender and what is important to him. What does he want people to know about him? What are his fears? How does he perceive different situations? Themes vary from person to person and are the key to a successful interview and interrogation. Investigators should establish a preliminary list of topics or themes based on knowledge about the offender, the victim and the manner in which the offense was committed. This list will likely grow or change during the interview and interrogation, assuming the offender is cooperative. However, having a preliminary list of possible themes will provide an initial template from which to work.

The following topics are provided for possible theme development in juvenile sex trafficking interview and interrogations:

- Family
- Victim(s)
- Religion
- Government
- Work ethic
- Personal interests (cars, music, etc.)
- Fears

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: *An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement*

- Children
- Offender's trauma (from childhood abuse, neglect, abandonment)

NOTE: These offenders do not typically respond to themes of guilt or remorse.

Interview Timing

BAU research indicates juvenile prostitution offenders are criminally diverse, with most having a record of misdemeanor criminal violations and/or prior felony arrests (more comprehensive information can be found in the "Offenders" section of this guide). Because many of these offenders may have prior experience with law enforcement, the timing of the interview will often be dictated by investigative factors and may be out of the control of investigators (for example, after the recovery of a child victim). However, when law enforcement has the opportunity to control the timing of the offender interview and interrogation, the following factors should be considered:

- The safety of child victims
- The preservation of evidence
- Law enforcement's ongoing ability to maintain contact with the offender

Interview Location & Setting

Often, the location of the offender interview is dictated by operational considerations. When investigators can control the location and setting of the interview, it should take place in a location that is not representative of the offender's "comfort zone." That is, not in an area where the offender is most at ease or perceives as his domain.

Interviewer Considerations

Effective interviews are strategically planned conversations with the offender. This means the interviewer must be able to establish a relationship with the offender. This relationship is often referred to as rapport-building. It is not simply talking to the offender; it involves establishing a connection of some sort. This connection can revolve around geography, hobbies, interests or family. Regardless of how the connection is made, it is critical to a successful interview and interrogation. For this reason, it is important to select the right investigator to serve in this important role. When identifying the person most suited to conduct the interview and interrogation of the offender, consider the following:

- Some investigators have a natural talent for connecting with people and are able to carry on a conversation in the unlikeliest of circumstances and settings. Consider using an investigator with these qualities to conduct the interview.
- Ensure the interviewer is confident, persistent and emotionally disciplined.
- Juvenile sex traffickers tend to hold sexualized views of women in general, so interviewers should expect to hear offensive opinions by the offender in this area. Only interviewers who can manage their response to such statements should be considered.

Interviewing

- The interviewer must have patience.
- An interviewer who is knowledgeable about violent crime investigations, particularly juvenile sex trafficking, is preferred.

Interview Content & Structure

Juvenile sex trafficking offenders differ significantly from other child sex offenders and they can be particularly challenging for law enforcement to interview. The following considerations are provided for the interview and interrogation of these offenders:

- Always go into the interview with the attitude that the offender will provide a statement. Be prepared to spend the time necessary for success.
- One investigator should be designated the lead interviewer. The second investigator should be silent unless the lead investigator asks or invites him or her to ask questions.
- Establish the credibility of the interviewer. A critical factor in any interview and interrogation is the offender's impression of the interviewer(s). Interviewer credibility may be the central factor in determining whether the offender will find it strategically advantageous to make a statement, so the interviewer(s) must demonstrate his or her credibility, while setting a calm tone for the interview. The interviewer should be able to engage the offender and slow the pace of the interview down if necessary, while giving the offender a perceived sense of control. It can be advantageous to remind the offender that the interviewer has learned through experience that it is always important to hear both sides of the story.
- If the offender's co-defendants are being interviewed at the same time, let him know. Most juvenile sex trafficking offenders have a criminal history and are strategic in their decision to engage in the interview.
- Establish rapport with the offender. Juvenile sex trafficking offenders are often talkative with investigators, sometimes discussing peripheral details but failing to provide any substantive admissions. Often, these offenders enjoy talking about their life, and – in particular – bragging about their material possessions and “legitimate” successes (e.g., as a rapper). Investigators can use this willingness to discuss these topics as a way to not only build rapport, but to elicit additional information about the crime. Effective topics of discussion include, but are not limited to: money, cars, clothing, tattoos, and the offender's “talents.” Investigators should avoid confronting the offender about inaccuracies during this phase of the interview, but instead use the information for additional theme development and rapport building. When possible, the interviewer should consider inserting information he/she knows about the offender during the rapport building phase of the interview as a means of increasing the credibility of the interviewer.
- Early in the interview, encourage the offender to talk, regardless of the accuracy of his statements. Avoid confronting the offender too early as it may interrupt the elicitation of information germane to the investigation or that can be utilized later in the interview.

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: *An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement*

- The sex trafficking offender generally seeks to control every situation, so let him believe he is in control while maintaining focus in the interview.
- Focus on some of the offender's redeeming qualities, whether it is his work ethic, his ability to manage a business venture, or his protection of the victim(s) from other individuals who would have done her harm.
- While it is recommended that the interviewer convey his or her knowledge of sex trafficking investigations, to include the language that is used in the trafficking arena, caution must be exercised to avoid the overuse of such terminology by investigators who may appear to be trying to manipulate the offender. The interviewer must establish credibility while maintaining his or her sincerity.
- Always treat the offender with dignity and respect. The interviewer must build a relationship with him. If the lead investigator cannot do this effectively, use someone else for the interview and interrogation.
- Do not confront every lie; rather, seek "cumulative lies."
- When transitioning to confrontation, do so in a calm, non-emotional manner.
- Demonstrate knowledge of case facts as well as knowledge about the crime problem at this time.
- Avoid ruses with these offenders as they are rarely effective.
- Consider the use of evidence to confront inaccuracies in his story. Know the evidence prior to the interrogation.
- Offenders who are willing to talk with investigators may utilize rationalization, projection, and minimization when describing their involvement in the crime. Interviewers should avoid challenging the use of these defenses too early in the interview process as their use represents the offender's desire to provide some excuse for the crime, which is advantageous to the interview process. Examples of such defenses are provided below.
 - Rationalization – "I'm actually trying to help these girls because they have no place to go." "If she weren't with me, she would be with someone worse."
 - Projection – "She volunteered to go out and work for me – I never asked her to." "She lied about her age."
 - Minimization – "I'm not one of those violent guys who beat the girls." "What she does with her body is her business – no big deal."
- Recognize that while society generally views juvenile sex trafficking with disdain, the offender's experience may be very different. He may have been exposed to sex trafficking from an early age by people he respects and admires, such as parents, family members and friends. Be prepared to use this experience in a manner that is advantageous to the interview process. It could also be used to verbalize an empathic approach to the offender.

- Be patient. It is generally counterproductive to be confrontational too early in the interview process. A productive offender interview is often time consuming and frustrating for the interviewer, but can greatly enhance the quality of a juvenile sex trafficking investigation. Patience on the part of the interviewer is critical.
- Consider the use of a polygraph examiner to support the interview and interrogation process. A polygraph examiner who is experienced in violent crimes is preferred.
- In addition to the interviewers, identify an interview and interrogation team who can provide support to the interviewers by validating details provided by the offender and providing alternative strategies and themes to interviewers as needed.

The BAU is available to provide more detailed interview and interrogation strategies and theme development tailored to a specific offender and investigation.

Prosecutorial Considerations

The Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was enacted in October 2000, and made human trafficking a federal crime with severe penalties. A mandatory minimum of 15 years in prison is imposed if the defendant engaged in sex trafficking effected by force, fraud, or coercion OR the person induced to engage in sex trafficking is under the age of 14. A mandatory minimum of 10 years is imposed if the defendant engaged in sex trafficking of a minor between the ages of 14 and 17.

Sex trafficking (18 U.S.C. 1591)

Knowingly, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining or maintaining by any means a person, knowing, or *in reckless disregard of the fact*, that means of force, threats of force, fraud, or coercion will be used to cause the person to engage in a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of 18 years and will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act.

Trafficking cases rarely involve victims who were under strict physical restraint, constant surveillance, or incessant physical abuse. More frequently, offenders deceive, isolate, and intimidate their victims, and use subtle forms of coercion to deprive them of access to alternatives, increase their dependence on the offender, and place them in fear of what will happen if they attempt to leave with nowhere else to go.

The TVPA is clear that subtle forms of coercion, including psychological coercion, and schemes to instill fear of serious harm including financial and reputational harm, are violations of criminal anti-trafficking laws. Many cases involve only non-violent coercion. Even in instances involving actual or threatened physical violence, offenders tend to use psychological coercion to prevent victims from leaving.

In sex trafficking cases, an offender may be prosecuted for using fraud to cause a victim to engage in a commercial sex act even without proving coercion or force. A sex trafficking case based solely on fraud may not be as compelling. Nonetheless, fraud to commit trafficking is a viable theory of prosecution that should be considered and not overlooked by investigators and prosecutors.

Note: When the person induced to perform such an act is under 18 years of age, no force, fraud, or coercion is necessary.

Prosecutorial Considerations

Corroboration of Victim Statements

The corroboration of a victim's statement is crucial to the prosecution of a juvenile sex trafficking offender. In addition to earning and maintaining the victim's trust, it is critical to develop corroboration for the victim's account. This is especially important when you have single victim cases. In most cases, it is impossible to corroborate every aspect of the victim's statements. Nonetheless, a good prosecutable case may exist. Evidence that corroborates even only certain aspects of a victim's statement can strengthen the credibility of the victim testimony more generally, allowing a jury to credit the uncorroborated parts of her statement as well as the corroborated parts.

Experience has shown that juries are capable of crediting victim testimony and convicting offenders, even when her testimony about threats, assaults, and other forms of coercion is largely uncorroborated, when her statement is corroborated in other respects by seemingly small pieces of evidence. Corroboration should therefore be sought from all angles.

Interstate Nexus

Establishing an interstate nexus can be helpful to the prosecution of juvenile sex trafficking. In addition to interstate travel, an interstate nexus can be established through lodging (e.g., national hotel chains) and purchases (e.g., type of condoms).

To corroborate the victim's statement, investigators should obtain the following:

- Receipts for meal purchases, clothing purchases, travel, hotel lodging
- Statements from witnesses (e.g., relatives, store clerks, hotel staff, taxi companies, nail technicians, hair stylists, photographers)
- Documentation of medical treatment received by the victim
- Recovered photographs of trips to amusement parks or other tourist locations
- Journals or other writings authored by the victim that document events/activities
- Photographs of other victims, witnesses, children, and possible offenders
- Video from known locations
- Social media activity, timelines and postings
- GPS info from devices, cell tower data, ISP locations, ankle monitors, etc.
- Youth placements (e.g., CPS, schools, DYC, probation)
- Escort advertisements that may validate dates and locations of travel
- Postings made to social networking sites regarding daily activities
- Details about cities visited (e.g., street names, intersections, landmarks)
- Details about hotels rented and room registration information

To corroborate the offender's knowledge of the victim's age, investigators should consider the following:

- Recruitment location (e.g., middle school, residential placement)
- Fake adult identification provided by the offender to the victim
- Witnessed conversations wherein the victim told the offender her age
- Phone calls from a juvenile detention center to the offender
- Contact with victim's family
- Inability to buy age prohibitive items (e.g., cigarettes), or get into venues with a minimum age required for entry
- Victim's association with peers of the same age (in person or online)
- Victim's participation in age-specific activities indicative of school (e.g., homework, extra-curricular activities)

To corroborate travel, investigators should consider the following:

- Hotel records
- Toll records
- Rental cars
- Cell sites
- Photographs/videos
- GPS
- Journals
- Social media postings
- Receipts
- Parking tickets
- NCIC off-line searches
- License plate readers
- IP addresses
- Escort advertisements
- Credit card records
- Internet activity
- Matching phone chargers/condoms/etc
- Airlines Reporting Corporation (ARC)
- Transportation Services (e.g., trains, buses, taxis)
- Electronic Benefit Transfer cards (e.g., public assistance)

Prosecutorial Considerations

To corroborate commercial sex acts, investigators should consider the following:

- Statements by, or arrest of, consumers
- Sources of income for offender
- Prepaid credit cards
- Enforcement operations
- Escort review sites
- Previous arrests (criminal history)
- Online advertisements
- Medical records (STDs, pregnancies, abortions)
- Hotel records
- Surveillance
- Consensually monitored telephone calls by the victim
- “Pimp Reversals”

To corroborate force, fraud, or coercion, investigators should consider the following:

- Medical records
- 911 recordings
- Gang affiliation
- Weapons possession or implication of such
- Physical/psychological abuse
- Financial dependence (not carrying any money)
- Witnessing physical abuse
- Control/threats to family/kids
- Physical and social isolation
- Sextortion
- Malnourishment (withholding food)
- Branding/tattoos
- Images/videos
- Pregnancy and/or forced abortions
- CPS records
- Drug and/or alcohol dependency
- Method of recruitment (i.e., false promises)
- Constant phone monitoring
- Kidnapping
- Rape/sexual abuse
- Special/intimate relationships (i.e., “boyfriend,” surrogate family)

Consider the use of an expert witness to explain to a jury the detrimental effects the above-mentioned tactics can have on a juvenile sex trafficking victim.

Other Potential Charges

Trafficking evidence may emerge gradually as a victim begins to confide the full scope of their experience. It is sometimes advisable to charge other offenses by complaint or indictment when possible while the trafficking investigation continues or where there is insufficient evidence to charge sex trafficking. Moreover, often it is appropriate to include other charges in addition to trafficking in an indictment. Other related potential charges to consider in addition to or in lieu of trafficking include:

- Coercion and Enticement/Mann Act
- Money Laundering
- Extortion
- Kidnapping
- Hostage-Taking
- False Documents
- Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO)
- Child Pornography
- Interstate and Foreign Travel or Transportation in Aid of Racketeering
- Drugs & Weapons
- Witness Tampering
- Conspiracy
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Interference with Custody

* The majority of the prosecutorial considerations section was taken from the South Florida Task Force Operations Manual for Human Trafficking (2013), written by Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Barbara A. Martinez, Chief, Special Prosecutions Section in Miami.

Resources

FBI Resources

The FBI maintains 56 field offices centrally located in major metropolitan areas across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, and approximately 380 resident agencies located in smaller cities and towns. Additionally, there are currently 64 legal attaché offices located in U.S. Embassies around the world. To find an FBI office near you, visit www.fbi.gov. FBI offices can coordinate the deployment of personnel to work in conjunction with local, state, tribal, federal, or international law enforcement in a juvenile sex trafficking investigation.

Each FBI field office in the U.S. and Puerto Rico maintains the following resources, which are available to investigating agencies:

Crimes Against Children (CAC) Coordinator: CAC coordinators are FBI special agents who assist and coordinate their respective division's efforts in Crimes Against Children matters. These agents act as the FBI's point of contact for law enforcement agencies in their respective territories.

Victim Specialist (VS): An FBI VS is available to assist a victim and/or their family in obtaining counseling and other available services. The VS also ensures that victims are afforded an opportunity to receive services and notifications as required by federal law.

National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC) Coordinator: The NCAVC houses the four BAUs, as well as the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) and the Behavioral Research and Instruction Unit (BRIU). NCAVC Coordinators are specially trained FBI special agents who can facilitate requests and/or act as a liaison for obtaining BAU resources in investigations of child crimes.

Evidence Response Team (ERT): ERTs can offer on-site assistance in a variety of crime scene processing scenarios, including large, complex, and complicated scenes, multi-jurisdictional cases and those involving multiple crime scenes. They can also provide assistance in human remains recovery, underwater evidence recovery, and access to forensic canine capabilities. FBI ERTs utilize standardized, consistent, and systemic methods, equipment, and documentation making their techniques legally defensible in a court of law.

Resources

Polygraph Examiner: Each FBI field office has at least one certified polygraph examiner who is available to assist in crimes against children investigations. These examiners are also a resource for assistance in developing interview themes for investigators, developing pertinent questions for the polygraph examination, for quality control in the interpretation of polygraph charts, and the identification of FBI polygraph examiners fluent in a variety of foreign languages.

In addition to the local FBI resources noted above, FBI field office personnel can coordinate the assistance of the following national resources:

Violent Crimes Against Children Section: The mission of the Violent Crimes Against Children Section is to provide a rapid, proactive, and comprehensive capability to counter all threats of abuse and exploitation to children which may be investigated under the jurisdiction of the FBI; to identify and rescue child victims; to reduce the vulnerability of children to in-person and online sexual exploitation and abuse; to reduce the negative impact of domestic and international parental rights disputes; and to strengthen the capabilities of the FBI and federal, state, local, tribal, and international partners through training, intelligence-sharing, technical support, and investigative assistance. The Violent Crimes Against Children Section maintains program management responsibilities for the Child Exploitation Task Forces, and provides support for special events and large-scale operations targeting juvenile sex trafficking. Additionally, the Violent Crimes Against Children Section manages the FBI's Innocence Lost National Initiative (ILNI), which targets domestic juvenile sex trafficking.

Behavioral Analysis Unit-3 (BAU-3): BAU-3, one of the NCAVC's five specialized units, routinely assist law enforcement in a wide variety of cases involving crimes committed against child victims, including investigations of missing and abducted children, child homicides, and the sexual exploitation of children. Through their experience investigating, researching, and consulting on these matters, BAU-3 Supervisory Special Agents and Crime Analysts have developed subject matter expertise in these cases. BAU-3 can provide case-specific recommendations and support in child crime investigations through on-site deployment or telephonic consultation. BAU-3 services include:

- Crime analysis
- Unknown offender characteristics
- Interview strategy
- Major case review
- Media strategy
- Personality assessment
- Investigative strategy
- Prosecutorial strategy
- Expert testimony
- Search warrant affidavit assistance
- Communication analysis
- Risk assessment

BAU-3 assistance can be requested through the FBI field office's NCAVC Coordinator, or by calling BAU-3 at (703-632-4347).

Cellular Analysis Survey Team (CAST): CAST specialized in the analysis of cellular telephone data by providing technical expertise and education in support of federal, state, and local investigations. CAST provides services such as Target Acquisition, Historical Cellular Analysis, Tower Dumps, Geo-Locating Services, Geo-Spatial Mapping, and expert witness testimony to support law enforcement investigations and prosecutions. To request CAST assistance, send an e-mail to CAST@ic.fbi.gov with a brief summary of your case including all dates, locations, and subjects of significance; list of all available cellular data; and if applicable, an estimated trial date.

Child/Adolescent Forensic Interviewers (CAFI): The FBI's Office for Victim Assistance employs CAFIs who are available to interview child/adolescent victims and witnesses, including those who suffer from emotional or developmental disabilities. The CAFIs use a research-based protocol to conduct legally-defensible interviews and are available for court testimony as requested. CAFI resources can be requested through your local FBI field office.

Laboratory Division: The FBI Laboratory Division can provide a variety of services that can be of assistance in juvenile sex trafficking investigations, including the following:

Forensic Analysis: Forensic analysis can be provided on the following types of evidence:

- DNA (both nuclear and mitochondrial)
- Blood/Semen analysis
- Trace evidence (e.g., hairs, fibers, rope, cordage, minerals)
- Latent print
- Firearms/Toolmarks
- Questioned documents (e.g., writing on any type of substrate; indented impressions)
- Shoe/Tire tread impression
- Plastic bags
- Typewriting/Printing processes
- General chemistry (e.g., powders, liquids, stains, and other materials)
- Metallurgy
- Paints and polymers
- Toxicology
- Codes and ciphers (24/7 service available at codebreakers@ic.fbi.gov)

Forensic Anthropology Program (FAP): The FAP provides both laboratory analysis and operational assistance for cases involving human skeletal remains or potential human skeletal remains. For human remains, anthropological examinations can estimate the individual's sex, age at death, stature and ancestry, and provide interpretations of skeletal trauma and assist in personal identification.

Combined DNA Index System (CODIS): The FBI Laboratory maintains CODIS, an automated DNA information processing and telecommunications system that supports the National DNA Index System (NDIS), the State DNA Index System (SDIS), and the Local DNA Index System (LDIS). The CODIS enables federal, state, and local crime laboratories to exchange and compare DNA profiles electronically, thereby linking a variety of violent crimes, including missing child investigations, to each other as well as to previously identified offenders.

Resources

Other Services: Laboratory Division personnel are also available to conduct composite drawings, photographic retouches, age progression, regression, and post mortem imagery, facial approximation from skeletal remains, and crime scene photographic documentation (including aerial photography), as well as a wide array of investigative/prosecutorial aids (e.g., digitally interactive demonstrative evidence, exhibit and model creation)

Operational Technology Division (OTD): The FBI's OTD offers services in a variety of areas, which may be beneficial in a juvenile sex trafficking investigation. OTD services include, but are not limited to:

- Forensic audio/visual/image analysis and enhancement
- Telephonic, data, and computer network surveillance
- Digital recording technology, trap and trace devices, dialed number recorders, wiretaps, audio and video surveillance, as well as tracking and locating services

Additionally, OTD employs forensically trained personnel assigned to Computer Analysis Response Teams (CART) in each FBI field office. CART examiners can provide assistance in the seizure and forensic analysis of digital devices, including computers, cellular telephones, external storage media and other portable electronic devices. Services offered by a CART include extracting files from a digital device (e.g., files, contact/address books, dialed numbers, text/instant messages), determining when and in what order specific files were created, recovering deleted files, recovering and decrypting passwords, recovering Internet activity, and searching data using keywords. To request the services of OTD, contact your local field office.

Next Generation Identification (NGI): Biometrics of a subject may be searched against the NGI repositories in order to generate lead information to help identify a possible offender. The FBI's NGI System, which replaced the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS), provides advanced biometric identification and investigation services and capabilities. NGI integrates criminal history data with biometrics associated with individual identity records. In addition to the fingerprint and latent processing traditionally performed by IAFIS, NGI has added palm print matching, mobile fingerprint identification search capability, and an enhanced photo repository that includes facial photos as well as scars, marks, and tattoos, and a facial recognition service. The mobile fingerprint identification search capability allows fingerprints of subjects to be searched against a subset of the NGI repository from mobile fingerprint capture devices. *The facial recognition service is an investigative tool that provides image searching capability of the FBI's facial photo repository; this tool, in particular, may be especially beneficial to juvenile sex trafficking investigations.* Because not all biometrics are enrolled in NGI, local and regional biometric systems should also be searched. For more information, contact the local FBI field office.

National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR): The Pam Lychner Tracking and Identification Act of 1996 (Lychner Act) required the Attorney General to establish a national database at the FBI to track the whereabouts and movements of convicted sex offenders. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC), maintained by the FBI, enables the NSOR to retain the current address, date of registration,

conviction, personal descriptors, as well as other relevant information, for law enforcement purposes. All U.S. states, territories, and tribal jurisdictions have sex offender registration laws and are required to submit all registration information to NCIC under Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, also known as, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). SORNA maintains registry guidelines and requirements for submission into the NSOR for all jurisdictions. To query an individual in the NSOR, contact the local FBI field office.

Language Services Section (LSS): Personnel from the LSS can provide professional language assistance, in more than one hundred languages. These services, accessible through the local FBI field office, include:

- Interpretation services, in-person or telephonically
- Interviews, in-person or telephonically
- Document translation
- Translation of audio and video recordings

Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP): The FBI's Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) is a gateway providing law enforcement agencies, intelligence groups, and criminal justice entities access to beneficial resources. These resources will strengthen case development for investigators, enhance information sharing between agencies, and be accessible in one centralized location. The Violent Crimes Against Children Section maintains a Special Interest Group (SIG) on LEEP dedicated to the Innocence Lost National Initiative.

1-888-334-4536

<https://www.cjis.gov/CJISEAI>

Non-FBI Resources

Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS): The mission of CEOS is to protect the welfare of America's children and communities by enforcing federal criminal statutes relating to the exploitation of children and obscenity. CEOS and its High Technology Investigative Unit (HTIU), created in 2002, are the nation's experts in prosecuting child exploitation cases, and in investigating high-technology child exploitation crimes. CEOS attorneys and HTIU computer forensic specialists help lead the Department of Justice's efforts to continuously improve the enforcement of federal child exploitation laws and prevent the exploitation of children. CEOS attorneys and HTIU computer forensic specialists investigate and prosecute defendants who have violated federal child exploitation laws and also assist the 94 United States Attorney Offices in investigations, trials, and appeals related to these offenses. In addition, CEOS attorneys and HTIU computer forensic specialists perform other vital functions within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, including providing advice and training to federal prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and government officials, and participating in national and international meetings on training and policy development. CEOS also works to develop and refine proposals for prosecution policies, legislation,

Resources

government practices, and agency regulations. In all aspects of their work, CEOS attorneys and HTIU computer forensic specialists seek to blend investigative and prosecutorial experience with policy expertise in order to create innovative solutions to the threats posed by those who violate federal child exploitation laws.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) NCMEC opened in 1984 to serve as the nation's clearinghouse on issues related to missing and sexually exploited children. Today NCMEC is authorized by Congress to perform 22 programs and services to assist law enforcement, families and the professionals who serve them. As a part of the Innocence Lost National Initiative NCMEC serves as a clearinghouse for information obtained from the public and Electronic Service Providers about victims of child sex trafficking. The Child Sex Trafficking Team at NCMEC is comprised of experienced analysts, missing child case management teams and a child sex trafficking specialist dedicated to supporting law enforcement working to identify and recover children victimized through sex trafficking. This comprehensive approach provides analysis, technical assistance, victim support services and case management to support law enforcement in their efforts to recover victims and build strong cases against individuals involved in trafficking children. NCMEC has also developed a child sex trafficking poster listserv available only to law enforcement to increase the visibility of missing children at high risk for sex trafficking. For more information about NCMEC's Child Sex Trafficking Team or to request assistance with a child sex trafficking case, contact the Child Sex Trafficking Team at CSTTreporting@ncmec.org.

1-800-THE-LOST

www.missingkids.com

National Children's Advocacy Centers (NCAC): The NCAC models, promotes, and delivers excellence in child abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership. The "multidisciplinary team approach" involves law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, mental health, medical, family/victim advocacy, and other resources in a model community response to child sexual abuse. CACs can provide locations to conduct forensic child interviews, to include the forensic interviewer if necessary.

1-256-533-KIDS

www.nationalcac.org

To locate a CAC in your area: <http://www.nationalcac.org/locator.html>

Polaris Project – National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC): Polaris Project is committed to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and to strengthening the anti-trafficking movement through a comprehensive approach. Polaris Project operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (HTRC), a national, 24/7, toll-free hotline for reporting any tips related to human trafficking; connecting to anti-trafficking services; and to request training and technical assistance, general information, or specific anti-trafficking resources.

1-888-373-7888

www.polarisproject.org

Shared Hope International: Shared Hope International strives to prevent sex trafficking and assist victims with a three-pronged approach focusing on prevention, restoration, and justice. In addition to facilitating worldwide victim assistance programs, Shared Hope International provides training, conducts research, and engages legislators and policy makers to advocate for improved laws within this field.

1-866-HER-LIFE

<http://sharedhope.org>

End Child Prostitution Child Pornography & Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) International: ECPAT International is a global team of organizations collaborating to combat child prostitution, child pornography, and child sex trafficking. The organization fosters local initiatives to protect children, as well as providing research, information, and technical assistance to increase the response to and prevention of child exploitation. Additionally, ECPAT international advocates for improvement in combating child prostitution, child pornography, and child sex trafficking.

1-718-935-9192

www.ecpat.net

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS): GEMS is dedicated to assisting female victims (age 12-24) with the challenges of exiting sex trafficking and establishing a life post-exploitation. The organization provides trauma informed care programs developed with the input and assistance of sex trafficking survivors. Additionally, GEMS is engaged in combating sex trafficking through prevention, awareness, and public policy initiatives.

1-212-926-8089

www.gems-girls.org

Resources

National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO): The National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) is dedicated to providing the highest quality of training to school-based law enforcement officers in order to promote safer schools and safer kids. NASRO, the world's leader in school-based policing, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991 with a solid commitment to our nation's youth. NASRO is an organization for school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators, and school security/safety professionals working as partners to protect students, school faculty and staff, and the schools they attend.

1-888-316-2776

<https://nasro.org/>

Truckers Against Trafficking: Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking and travel plaza industry to combat domestic sex trafficking. TAT encourages participation in NCMEC's High-Risk Child Poster listserv and reporting of trafficking through the NHTRC.

www.truckersagainstrafficking.org

SEARCH: SEARCH is a national nonprofit organization focused on justice information sharing and services. Located on their website is a free database of Internet service and other online content providers that will help you get the information you need for your case. For each Internet Service Provider listed, investigators will find the legal contact information and instructions needed to serve subpoenas, court orders, and search warrants.

www.search.org

<http://www.search.org/resources/isp-list/>

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC): OVC began funding trafficking victim service providers in 2003. The primary goal of this program is to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist victims of human trafficking, as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended, by enhancing interagency collaboration and the coordinated community response to victims of human trafficking, and through the provision of high quality services that address the individual needs of trafficking victims. A full list of funded victim service providers by state can be accessed here:

<http://ojp.gov/ovc/grants/traffickingmatrix.html>

Office for Victims of Crime, Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC): OVC TTAC is the gateway to current training and technical assistance for professionals who serve crime victims. Additionally, OVC TTAC developed an e-Guide in partnership with the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). This guide provides direction to form and develop anti-human trafficking task forces, ideas to strengthen existing task forces, creative strategies, and lessons learned, as well as links to valued tools, trainings, and resources which include case examples and a comprehensive list of state statutes.

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/>

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/HowWeCanHelp/dspHumanTrafficking.cfm>

National Runaway Safeline: The National Runaway Safeline's Home Free Program, in collaboration with Greyhound Lines, Inc., has provided more than 14,000 youth with FREE transportation home to be reunited with family members. Youth ages 17 and under must be returning to a parent or legal guardian. Youth 18-20 may return to either family, or a transitional living program. The process starts when the youth contacts the National Runaway Safeline at 1-800-RUNAWAY.

http://www.1800runaway.org/youth/home_free/#sthash.VpOxa08T.pdf

Appendices

Victim Questionnaire

After gathering basic personal information from the victim, the following questions are provided for consideration:

General Information

- 1.** Online accounts
 - a.** Email
 - b.** Email Password
 - c.** Facebook Name
 - d.** Facebook Password
 - e.** Myspace Name
 - f.** Myspace Password
 - g.** Twitter Name
 - h.** Twitter Password
 - i.** Other account
 - j.** Other account Password
- 2.** Vehicle Description
- 3.** ID/Driver's License Number
- 4.** Driver's License State
- 5.** Siblings (Name/Gender/Age)

Victim Questionnaire

- 6.** Parent/Guardian (Name/DOB/Address/Telephone)
- 7.** Where were you living before going to the street?
- 8.** Foster Care
- 9.** Guardian Ad Litem
- 10.** Last school attended
- 11.** Last grade of school completed
- 12.** GED?
- 13.** Work experience
- 14.** Runaway? Number of Times? From Where? Reason?
- 15.** Have you ever been the victim of abuse? When? Where? By Whom?
- 16.** Have you ever been the victim of any crime? When? Where? By Whom?
- 17.** Have you ever been arrested? (Agency/Charge/Date)
- 18.** Drug(s)
- 19.** Alcohol
- 20.** Describe your health
- 21.** Medical problems
- 22.** Medications
- 23.** Last time at doctor? For what?
- 24.** How long have you been on the street?
- 25.** What age were you when you ended up on the street?
- 26.** What was the worst part of living on the street?
- 27.** What was the best part of living on the street?
- 28.** Would you like to get out of the game? Off the street? Y/N
- 29.** What would you like to do if you got off the street? (future)

Work Related Activity

1. How did you get into prostitution with your pimp?⁹ How were you recruited?
2. How, when, where did you meet your pimp(s)?
3. What is your pimp's name?
4. Do you know any other personal information about your pimp?
5. Can you sketch your pimp's residence?
6. What is the pimp's background (type of work, family involved in prostitution, etc.)
7. Describe your relationship with your pimp?
8. What types of things does he do for you?
9. What do you not like about him?
10. To what cities have you traveled for work (why those cities)? How do you travel from city to city?
11. What rates did you charge? Who told you how much to charge? Did the rates ever change?
12. How did you give him your money? Percentage?
13. Did you have a quota? Number?
14. What did he pay for?
 - a. Food
 - b. Shelter
 - c. Condoms
 - d. Computer(s)
 - e. Hygiene
 - f. Hotel(s)
 - g. Ads
 - h. Clothing
 - i. Transportation
 - j. Phone(s)

⁹ While the term "pimp" is used for this questionnaire, investigators should adopt the victim's language when referring to the offender (e.g., if she refers to him as her "boyfriend," or uses his name, investigators should do the same.)

Victim Questionnaire

15. Driven to locations by whom

16. Use of Technology/Advertisements

- a.** Do you use the internet to post?
- b.** How were you advertised?
- c.** How did you learn about the internet?
- d.** What sites do you use?
- e.** Do you use a computer? Whose? Description? Password?
- f.** Do you use a phone? Whose? Description? Service provider? Locations? Password?
- g.** Who took your photographs for the ad? What was the fee? Where were they taken?
- h.** Who put your photographs on the internet?
- i.** Does he pay for the postings? How? What is the cost?
- j.** Who answers the calls/coordinates the dates?

17. Did you have an alias or street name? Who gave it to you?

18. Were you provided with any fake identification? Who provided it to you?

19. Did you maintain control of your physical identification documents?

20. Does he have other girls working for him? How many?

21. What is the age range of the other girls?

22. Did he know how old you are? How?

23. Force/Fraud/Coercion

- a.** What types of punishment have been done to you? By whom? What type of punishment have you seen?
- i.** Have you ever been deprived of basic needs (i.e., food, water, sleep)?
- b.** Did he ever threaten you? Your family/friends? How?
- c.** What violence or threats have you heard about or witnessed?
- d.** Have you ever been asked to commit another crime by your pimp?
- e.** Were there any rules? What were they? Who provided them to you?
- f.** Did you engage in sexual activity with him? When? Where?

- g.** Did he ever hurt you, or cause anyone else to hurt you? How? When? Where?
 - h.** Did you feel like you could leave? If no, why?
 - i.** Did he prevent you or others from leaving? How?
 - j.** When is the last time you were alone?
 - k.** Could you freely contact your family and friends?
 - l.** Did he ever take pictures of you/video you to use as a threat?
- 24.** Who helps the pimp with work/the operation (pimp partners, photographers, taxis, club owners)?
 - 25.** Did someone coach you on what to say to law enforcement?
 - 26.** Did someone coach you on what to say to consumers?
 - 27.** Did you get to keep any money? If so, how much? How did you give the money to your pimp?
 - 28.** Do you work with other girls? Names/Monikers
 - 29.** Describe your relationship with the other girls
 - 30.** What are the other girls' names? Do you know any personal information about them? (Detail)
 - 31.** Do you stay in hotels? Which ones (include state/city)?
 - 32.** Do you have a regular track or hotel? Name/Location?
 - 33.** Did he ever take you to the doctor or have you been to a doctor since being with him? (Hospital/Date) For what did you seek medical attention?
 - 34.** Have you ever been pregnant? When? What was the result of the pregnancy?
 - 35.** Have you had an STD test? Results?

Other Pimps/Consumers

- 1.** Have you worked for any other pimps? (Detail)
- 2.** Have you met any other pimps? (Detail)
- 3.** Do you know of any other pimps? (Detail)
- 4.** Do you know of any pimps with young girls (17 and younger)?
- 5.** Do you know any personal information about your consumers? (e.g., name, telephone number)
- 6.** What type of men are your clients (doctors, judges, attorneys, athletes, etc.)
- 7.** Do you have any regular dates that are cops?

Victim Questionnaire

Intelligence Questions

1. What kind of young girls get into prostitution? (Runaways, throwaways, foster kids, drug addicts, molestation victims, high school dropouts?)
2. What factors or situations increase the chance of getting caught up in the game?
3. What can you tell me about the game?
4. Where/how are young girls getting recruited? (From malls, schools, group homes, clubs, etc.)
5. What cities are known for young girls?
6. How do juveniles get their clients (streets, Internet, truck stops, in calls, out calls)?
7. What special events bring more clientele/better business? Have you ever traveled to a special event? If so, which ones?
8. How are juveniles advertised? (what websites, social sites, newspapers, yellow pages, phone chat lines)
9. What rates are charged? Prices for Sex, Oral, Hand, Other per Hour, Half, 15 and other time period?
10. Are young girls given certain names?
11. How do pimps communicate with one another and with prostitutes (websites, phones)?
12. How do pimps attempt to avoid arrest/contact with law enforcement?
13. Are there any gangs involved in prostitution?
14. Have you heard of girls being traded/transferred from one pimp to another?
15. What photographers work with escorts?

Immigration Status (where applicable)

1. When did you come to the U.S.? From where? Why? How?
2. What are the names of your parents?

Term List

Juvenile Sex Trafficking Term List

The following terms are often used by offenders, victims, and/or consumers, and are provided to enhance law enforcement understanding and awareness of the language associated with juvenile sex trafficking. Terms often change based on time period and geography, however, the terms presented below represent some of the more consistently used terms in juvenile sex trafficking cases. Investigators should always exercise caution when attempting to use language associated with the violation, as this may come across as disingenuous to victims or offenders.

Automatic: The victim's routine when the offender is out of town, in jail, or otherwise not in direct contact with those working for him. As in "she was on automatic while he was in jail."

Blade, Track, or Stroll: An open-air prostitution location such as a street or intersection in a given area.

Bottom: A person, usually a woman, who sits atop the hierarchy of prostituted people working for a particular offender. The bottom is appointed by the offender to supervise the others, report rule violations, and sometimes even help inflict punishment. The bottom can sometimes work as a prostitute for and have a romantic relationship with the offender. Whether the bottom is being prostituted is often based upon the level of income being generated by the group. The bottom may also work as a prostitute as a punitive measure by the offender and/or as a method of control and dominance by the offender.

Boy-friending: A method of recruiting victims into sex trafficking by positioning oneself as a "boyfriend," not as an offender.

Breaking: To give all one's earnings to an offender. This may be done several times a day. It is common for an offender to "break" a victim after each date.

Brothel, Bordello, Cantina, or Cathouse: A large apartment or a house where sex is sold. In some cases, a facility specifically designed for selling sex on the premises.

Term List

Caught a Case: When an offender or prostituted person gets arrested and charged with a crime.

Charge it to the Game: An offender's way of saying that something is a loss, but there was a lesson learned. "Charging it to the game" is often considered the offender's way of paying taxes. An example would be a woman running away with the night's earnings and the offender remarking, "Just charge it to the game."

Choose Up: When a victim "chooses" to be with a different offender.

Circuit: Traveling through a circuit involves visiting multiple cities within one geographic area before returning to the point of origin. These cities are often selected to provide access to clientele and efficiency of travel (e.g., Oakland, Los Angeles, Las Vegas) while simultaneously decreasing the chances for detection by law enforcement.

Daddy: A term victims are required to use to refer to the offender. In many cultures, a "Daddy" is considered head of the household, or family. Therefore, calling the offender "Daddy" maximizes his control within the group. Further, the term "Daddy" implies a protective position, and helps to mask the offender's violence and exploitation.

Escort Service: An organization which sends a sex worker to a buyer's location or arranges for the buyer to come to a house, apartment or hotel room.

Exit Fee: Money an offender demands from a prostituted person in order for her to be allowed to leave.

Family or Folks: An offender, bottom and his/her group of victims.

Finesse Pimp: An offender who primarily utilizes psychological manipulation via "boy-friending" (defined above) techniques and/or "partnership" (defined below). This is distinguished from a "gorilla" or "guerilla" offender who uses force, threats and intimidation.

Fronts or Walking-Around Money: Money an offender will give to those he is prostituting to use for cab fare, food, drinks and condoms.

The Game or The Life: The pimping and prostitution culture.

Gorilla (or Guerilla) Pimp: A violent offender who uses force, threats and intimidation. The majority of offenders utilize a combination of techniques such as "gorilla pimping" or "finesse pimping" (defined above).

Hustler: Someone who will do anything for money, including sell drugs, steal, defraud and traffic victims.

In-call: When a victim hosts a sex trafficking consumer.

John, Trick, Date, or Client: An individual who pays for sex acts or the service and company of a sex worker.

Lot Lizard: A derogatory term for a prostituted person at a truck stop.

Madam: An older woman who manages a brothel. The madam has usually been prostituted in her earlier years; she may be an offender herself.

Out-call: When a victim travels to the sex trafficking consumer.

Out-of-Pocket: When a victim is not obeying the offender, or when a victim has left the offender.

Partnership: A method of recruiting people into prostitution by positioning oneself as a business “partner,” manager or agent—not as an offender.

Pimp: Someone who lives in whole or in part off of earnings realized by another who conducts acts of prostitution. A pimp may also utilize force, fraud or coercion to manipulate persons to engage in prostitution.

Pimp Hand: The use of an open-handed slap (typically using the back of the hand) as a violent method of control.

Pimp Party: When several offenders come together to rape, beat, drug, and/or torture someone who is resisting being prostituted, or who was “out of line” by trying to escape, talking to the police, etc.

Pimp Stick: Commonly a steel whip often made out of coat hanger wire, a rubber hose, or an actual stick. May be heated on a stove to burn as well as cut tissue. Other items, such as appliance cord, towel bars, shower curtain rods, cigarettes and curling irons also may be used to inflict overwhelming pain in lieu of a coat hanger wire.

Quota: The dollar amount offenders require victims to earn per day, or the number of sexual acts she must perform per day.

Reckless Eyeballing: When a victim looks at other men without permission. A prostituted woman or juvenile victim may not ever make eye contact with another offender, as doing so implies they are “Choosing Up” (defined above).

Renegade or Outlaw: A sex worker not under the control of pimp. Renegades are vulnerable to threats, harassment, and violence intended to make them “choose” an offender. The term can also refer to a prostituted person who violates an offender’s rules.

Runner or Catcher: Someone who watches/oversees the victims on the street for the offender; frequently younger, “wannabe pimps.”

Seasoning: A combination of psychological manipulation, intimidation, gang rape, sodomy, beating, deprivation of food or sleep, isolation from family, friends, and other sources of support, and the threatening of holding hostage of a person’s children or family. Seasoning is designed to break down a person’s resistance and ensure that he/she will do anything they are told.

Term List

Square: Anyone not in The Game.

Square Up: Get out of the prostitution life.

Stable: A group of prostituted persons working for a particular offender.

Sweat: Interrogation by an offender of a prostituted person. A prostituted person may say, "He sweated me all night about missing money."

Trap: Monies earned from sex acts can be referred to as "the trap," however; the term is more often associated with the location in which money is hidden while working (street track, hotel room, brothel). A "trap" is utilized in the event the prostituted person is not able to provide the offender with earnings immediately due to circumstances (back-to-back dates, law enforcement contact, etc.).

Turn Out: To be forced into prostitution; also a person newly involved in prostitution.

Wifey, Wife-In-Law, Sister Wife, Sister-In-Law, Stable Sister: A term prostituted persons use for one another.

Record Search Checklist

Telephone Records

Pursuant to the appropriate legal authority and/or policy, investigators should consider obtaining the following information when conducting searches of telephone records:

- Name and address for subscriber information, billing records and application records. Subscriber information should include billing address, subscriber name, account number Social Security Number, date of birth, so called “Can Be Reached (CBR) numbers (alternate numbers given by the subscriber), long distance carrier, date of service and associated subscribed to telephone numbers and any associated equipment leased from the company, and any other account-type and/or information on file for the consumer.
- Method of payment and details of direct charge credit card number and/or direct payment bank account number and any other billing information for the specified subscriber/telephone number and any other person authorized to access the account on behalf of the subscriber.
- All Outbound/Originating and Inbound/Terminating Call Detail records to include Cell Site/Tower Activity/Location Data, including Sector or Azimuth.
- All Incoming/Terminating and Outgoing/Originating Text and or MMS messages to include Cell Site/Tower Activity/Location Data including Sector or Azimuth.
- All Data Internet Activity, IP Session or Connection Logs including Cell Site/Tower Activity/Location, including Sector or Azimuth.
- All Timing Advance, Ranging Information, Per-Call Measurement Data including Cell Site/Tower Activity/Location, including Sector or Azimuth.
- Physical address and/or latitude and longitude for Cell Site/Tower locations including sector orientation.

Record Search Checklist

- Telephone number(s) and subscriber information for any telephone numbers or accounts involving the same ESN (or IMEI and/or IMSI), but associated with a telephone number not specified.
- Telephone number(s) and subscriber information for any other phone numbers listed to the same account as the specified number AND for any other accounts billed to any subscriber at the same address as the specified number.

Email Records

Pursuant to the appropriate legal authority and/or policy, investigators should consider obtaining the following information when conducting searches of email records:

- Any email available in user accounts between the applicable dates, including: received email, sent email, email in the trash folder, saved email, and email drafts
- Time, Date, and IP address log-in information for the user account
- SMS, MMS, and transcribed messages for the user account
- Email addresses for all subscribers sending or receiving email from the user account
- Subscriber information to include but not limited to:
 - Name and address
 - Phone numbers
 - Date account was created
 - Account status
 - Account number
 - Email user identification and alternate email address
 - Any credit and/or billing information or data to establish ownership, possession or control of the account
 - Records or other information stored by the individual using the account, including address books, contact lists, calendar data, pictures and files
 - IP addresses associated with log-ins to the user account
 - Registration IP address information for the user account
 - IP address utilized to send and/or receive email for the user account

Social Networking Site Records

Pursuant to the appropriate legal authority and/or policy, investigators should consider obtaining the following information when conducting searches of social networking sites:

- Name and address
- Phone numbers
- Date account created
- Account status
- Account number
- Email user identification, alternate email address(es)
- Any credit and/or billing information or data to establish ownership, possession or control of the account
- Activity logs, activity log maps, and IP logs
- Wall posts, messages, status updates, events, location check-ins
- Friends, friend requests, followers/those followed, those un-followed, tags
- Photographs and videos
- Favorites and lists
- Privacy settings

Advertisement Records

Pursuant to the appropriate legal authority and/or policy, investigators should consider obtaining the following information when conducting searches of advertisement records:

- All documents related to escort service advertisements associated with the names of identified persons (e.g., victims, offenders, associates)
- All documents related to escort service advertisements associated with the identified posting names
- All documents related to escort service advertisements associated with the identified telephone numbers
- Identifying information relating to specific advertisement posting ID numbers including, but not limited to:
 - Posting history
 - Copies of advertisements
 - The text of the advertisement
 - Photographs appearing in the advertisements
 - Identification of person or entity posting the advertisement

Record Search Checklist

- All contact information for the person/entity posting the advertisement to include email address, IP address, verification phone numbers used to post advertisements, credit card information used to pay for advertisements, and any other advertisements associated with those accounts.

Templates

Preservation Letter Template

[AGENCY LETTERHEAD]

[Service Provider Name]

[Attn: Custodian of Records/Legal Compliance]

[Service Provider Address]

Dear Custodian of Records:

This letter is a formal request for preservation of all records and content in your possession related to the account(s) listed below pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2703(f) pending further legal process:

[Insert target name/email address/account information]

At this time, we are expecting to obtain formal legal process within the next 90 days. We acknowledge that if we do not serve legal process upon [Insert Service Provider Name] in the next 90 days, and fail to request a 90-day extension, the preserved information may no longer be available.

Sincerely,

[Name of Requestor]

[Title of Requestor]

Note: Investigators are encouraged to contact the service provider to determine if they need more specific language than “all records and content in your possession” included on any request to preserve records.

Templates

Consent to Assume Online Identity

I, _____, hereby voluntarily authorize _____, or other employees of _____ [Insert agency name] _____ to assume and use my (or my child's) "online identity." I give this consent freely and voluntarily, without fear, threats, coercion, or promises of any kind. I have been advised of my right to refuse to allow _____ [Insert agency name] _____ to assume my (or my child's) online identity, and I hereby voluntarily waive this right. This online identity includes the following screen name(s), aliases, and/or nickname(s), and/or e-mail addresses, as well as the passwords associated with these accounts:

ACCOUNT NAME

PASSWORD

This authorization provides my consent to:

- Monitor incoming and/or outgoing communications
- Use and/or disclose accessed information
- Send/receive/communicate

I understand and acknowledge that by signing the consent form, I relinquish all present and future claims to the use of these accounts (or my child's). I understand that _____ [Insert agency name] _____ will change the password(s) to this account so that I will no longer have access.

Signature: _____

Name (printed): _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Name(printed): _____

Name(printed): _____

Official Title: _____

Official Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

General Assessment Questionnaire (GAQ)



National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime

Quantico, VA

703-632-4400

Templates

This information is extremely important for Criminal Investigative Analysis to be conducted. This form should be completed by as many sources as possible that are familiar with the identified person. Use one form per person and attach additional pages as needed.

1. Name of person completing form: _____ 2. Date: _____

3. Relationship to person identified below: _____ 4. How long known: _____

5. Frequency of contact: _____ 6. Date of last contact: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OF IDENTIFIED PERSON

7. Name: _____ 8. Male/Female: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

9. Date of birth: _____ 10. Race/Ethnicity: _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

11. Scars, Marks, Tattoos: _____

12. Home address: _____
(Street) (City/Town) (Zip)

13. With whom does he/she live? (Name, age, relationship) _____

14. Employer: _____ Title: _____

15. How long at current employment? _____

16. Longest period of employment: _____

17. Criminal History, including juvenile offenses (if any): _____

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: *An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement*

18. Has he/she served in the military? (Y/N) If yes, what branch? _____

Dates of service: _____ Base(s): _____

Type of discharge: Honorable/Medical/Less than Honorable Explain: _____

FAMILY BACKGROUND

19. What was his/her primary language? _____ **20.** Other language(s) _____

21. Who were his/her primary caregivers while growing up? _____

_____ Are they still alive? (Y/N)

22. Describe his/her relationship with primary caregivers: _____

23. Number of brothers: _____ Number of sisters: _____

24. Describe the quality of the relationships with his/her family members (other than primary caregivers): _____

25. Who within the family had the greatest influence on him/her? _____

Explain: _____

26. Who within the family had the greatest amount of conflict with him/her? _____

Explain: _____

Templates

27. Was any of the following abuse issues present within the household? (Y/N)

Physical Emotional Sexual Substance *(circle all that apply)*

Explain _____

28. What religion, if any, was practiced by the family? _____ To what degree? _____

29. Is he/she currently religious? _____ (Y/N) To what degree? _____

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND APPEARANCE

30. How does he/she feel about his/her physical appearance? _____

31. Does he/she have any noticeable physical characteristics (limp, lisp, stutter, obesity, etc.) or unusual mannerisms or gestures? (Y/N) Describe: _____

32. How does he/she feel about these characteristics? _____

HEALTH

33. Have there been any recent noticeable changes in his/her appearance? (Y/N) Explain: _____

34. Has he/she expressed any concerns about his/her health? _____

35. Has he/she had any chronic illness or injury that continues to have an impact on his/her life?

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: *An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement*

- 36.** Is he/she currently taking any medication? (Y/N) If yes, what kind? _____

- 37.** Has he/she ever had surgery, to include cosmetic surgery? (Y/N) If yes, describe: _____

- 38.** Has he/she had a history of any sexually transmitted disease? (Y/N) If yes, type: _____

- 39.** Does he/she have a history of any mental illness or behavioral control problems? (Y/N) If yes, explain: _____

- 40.** Is there a history of mental illness in his/her family? (Y/N) If yes, describe: _____

- 41.** Has he/she ever attempted or expressed thoughts of suicide? (Y/N) If yes, explain: _____

- 42.** Has he/she ever received counseling for any issues? (Y/N) If yes, explain: _____

- 43.** Does he/she use alcohol, tobacco or drugs? (Y/N) If yes, describe substance and frequency: _____

- 44.** What are his/her sleeping habits? (early or late riser, night/day person, insomniac, sleeps excessively) Describe: _____

Templates

45. Have there been any recent changes in his/her sleeping habits? (Y/N) If yes, describe: _____

EDUCATION

46. What is the highest level of schooling he/she achieved?

☐ College Grad ☐ Some College ☐ High School Diploma ☐ GED

☐ Less than H.S./Grade: _____

47. If schooling was not completed, why not? _____

48. Did he/she participate in sports/athletics, or other extracurricular activities while in school?

(Y/N) If yes, type of activity: _____

49. Did he/she interact well with peers? (Y/N) If no, explain: _____

50. Did he/she experience any problems in school (with peers, faculty, etc.)? (Y/N) If yes, describe: _____

51. Did he/she have any learning disabilities? (Y/N) If yes, explain: _____

EMPLOYMENT

52. List previous types of employment: _____

53. Describe his/her overall work record: (hardworking, efficient, tardy, absent, lazy, etc.) _____

SOCIAL AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

54. Is he/she (check one) ☐ Heterosexual ☐ Homosexual ☐ Bisexual

55. Is he/she married or in some other intimate relationship? (Y/N) If yes, describe (include to whom and brief history) _____

56. Is this relationship important to him/her? (Y/N) Explain: _____

57. Has he/she ever been unfaithful in the relationship? (Y/N) If yes, describe circumstance(s): _____

58. What are his/her attitudes/feelings about infidelity? (guilt, pride, remorse, indifference?) _____

59. What are his/her preferred sexual acts? (Include type and frequency): _____

60. Does he/she have any persistent sexual fantasies? If yes, describe _____

61. Does he/she engage in risky sexual behavior? (unprotected sex, multiple sex partners, anonymous sex) _____

Templates

62. Where does he/she meet potential sexual partners? (online, bars, personal ads, etc.) _____

63. Does he/she have any children (bio, step, adopted)? (Y/N) If yes, with whom, ages, custody:

64. What is the quality of the relationship with his/her children? _____

65. Outside of family or intimate partners, does he/she have any close relationships? (Y/N) Explain:

66. Has he/she ever belonged to any groups or organizations, including Internet groups? (Y/N) If yes, describe: (Name of group, position held by the subject, time frame) If not, why not?

67. Does he/she express distrust of any person, organization, or group? (Y/N) If yes, explain:

68. Does he/she have a role model or public figure that he/she admires? (Y/N) If yes, explain:

69. What does he/she most value? _____

70. To whom does he/she turn for advice? _____

HOBBIES AND LEISURE

71. What does he/she do in his/her spare time? (TV, movies, reading, writing sports) _____

72. Does he/she own a pet? (Y/N) What type? _____ How does he/she treat it?

73. On what does he/she spend money, time, and effort? _____

74. Does he/she view pornography? (Y/N) If yes, describe type (child, adult, bondage, etc.)

75. How does he/she access pornography? (Internet, magazines, video, etc.) _____

76. Describe his/her Internet/computer use. _____

Amount of time spent per week (in hours) _____

77. Has he/she met anyone in person, after his/her initial online contact? (Y/N), If yes, describe:

78. Does he/she drive? (Y/N) If yes, what is his/her typical behavior while driving? (cautiously, recklessly, aggressively, etc.) _____

PERSONALITY, BEHAVIOR, ATTITUDES

79. Describe his/her personality (both positive and negative qualities): _____

Templates

80. What are his/her life goals, ambitions or dreams? _____

81. What significant stressors has he/she experienced? (Marital, financial, occupational, death etc.) _____

How did he/she react? _____

Have any of these occurred within the last 6 months? If yes, explain: _____

82. Is he/she easily overwhelmed by stress? (Y/N) If yes, provide example: _____

83. Does he/she have the capacity to feel for others (shows empathy)? (Y/N) Explain: _____

84. Is he/she competitive? (Y/N) If yes, explain: _____

85. What is his/her opinion of self? Explain: _____

Is his/her self image accurate? (Y/N) If not, explain: _____

86. Does he/she display emotion appropriate to the circumstances? (Y/N) Explain: _____

87. What makes him/her angry? _____

88. What makes him/her sad? _____

- 89.** What makes him/her happy? _____

- 90.** Does he/she become bored easily/often? (Y/N) If yes, describe _____

- 91.** Has he/she ever had an addiction? (smoking, drugs, alcohol, internet) (Y/N) If yes, explain:

- 92.** Has he/she ever successfully quit an addiction? (Y/N) Explain: _____

- 93.** Does he/she lie frequently? (Y/N) If yes, under what circumstances: _____

- 94.** Does he/she behave dramatically different depending upon the environment? (work, home, social, internet) (Y/N) If yes, describe: _____

- 95.** Is his/her verbal communication appropriate to the setting? (Y/N) Explain: _____

- 96.** When he/she expresses thoughts, do they make sense? (Y/N) If no, explain (incoherent, bizarre, erratic, odd, nonsensical): _____

- 97.** Does he/she accept responsibility for his/her own actions? (Y/N) If no, explain: _____

Templates

98. Does he/she experience guilt or remorse? (Y/N) If yes, how does he/she react? Explain: _____

99. What are his/her attitudes about law enforcement? _____

100. Please provide additional information about his/her personality, attitudes and behavior: _____

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: *An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement*

This section is a supplement to the General Assessment Questionnaire, and relates to the personality / behavioral characteristics of _____. In completing these scales, keep in mind that we are asking you to rate the characteristics that the individual TYPICALLY exhibits on a day-to-day basis. Neither end of the scale should be considered good or bad; and it is extremely important to answer as accurately as possible. Please mark the circle that best describes the individual. If you feel you do not know the individual well enough to provide an accurate assessment, do not guess. Instead, please circle the not ratable (N/R) option. Read the example below before you begin.

Please mark the circle that best describes John Doe based on how he typically behaves							
Calm	☒	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Nervous = John Doe is always calm	
Calm	☐	☒	☐	☐	N/R	Nervous = John Doe is usually calm	
Calm	☐	☐	☒	☐	N/R	Nervous = John Doe is about average in comparison to others	
Calm	☐	☐	☐	☒	N/R	Nervous = John Doe is usually nervous	
Calm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	N/R	Nervous = John Doe is always nervous
Calm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	N/R	Nervous = I don't know John Doe well enough to answer this question

Calm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Nervous
Rejected/disliked by others	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Accepted/liked by others
Focused	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Dreamy
Overly suspicious	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Overly trusting
Poor judgment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Good judgment
Thick skinned (unaffected by criticism)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Thin-skinned (hypersensitive to criticism)
Prefers to be alone	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Prefers to be with others
Indifferent to poetry	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Easily moved by poetry
Fake	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Genuine
Disorganized	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Organized
Positive outlook	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Negative outlook
Reserved	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Outgoing
Insensitive to others' feelings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Sensitive to others' feelings
Greedy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	N/R	Generous

Templates

Undependable	• • • • • N/R	Dependable
Confident	• • • • • N/R	Self-conscious
Inactive	• • • • • N/R	Active
Few interests	• • • • • N/R	Lots of interests
Rebellious	• • • • • N/R	Obedient
Unmotivated	• • • • • N/R	Motivated
Restrained/controlled	• • • • • N/R	Gives in to urges/temptations
Cautious	• • • • • N/R	Adventurous
Close-minded	• • • • • N/R	Open-minded
Arrogant	• • • • • N/R	Humble
Procrastinates	• • • • • N/R	Manages time well
Copes well under stress	• • • • • N/R	Easily overwhelmed under stress
Unenthusiastic	• • • • • N/R	Enthusiastic
Conventional	• • • • • N/R	Unconventional
Unsympathetic	• • • • • N/R	Sympathetic
Acts before thinking	• • • • • N/R	Thinks before acting
Tense	• • • • • N/R	Relaxed
Friendly	• • • • • N/R	Distant
Creative	• • • • • N/R	Conventional
Trusts other's intentions	• • • • • N/R	Skeptical of other's intentions
Skillful	• • • • • N/R	Unskilled
Easily provoked	• • • • • N/R	Slow to anger
Seeks attention	• • • • • N/R	Avoids attention
Easily moved by music	• • • • • N/R	Indifferent to music
Straightforward	• • • • • N/R	Manipulative
Detail-oriented	• • • • • N/R	Haphazard
Hopeless/Gloomy	• • • • • N/R	Hopeful
Leader	• • • • • N/R	Follower
Experiences wide range of emotions	• • • • • N/R	Experiences limited range of emotions
Concern for others	• • • • • N/R	Concern for self
Reliable	• • • • • N/R	Unreliable
Feels inferior	• • • • • N/R	Feels superior

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: *An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement*

Fast-paced	• • • • • N/R	Slow-paced
Spontaneous	• • • • • N/R	Plans ahead
Conforming	• • • • • N/R	Non-conforming
Driven	• • • • • N/R	Aimless
Self-indulgent	• • • • • N/R	Self-disciplined
Seeks stimulation/excitement	• • • • • N/R	Avoids stimulation/excitement
Curious	• • • • • N/R	Indifferent
Shares credit	• • • • • N/R	Conceited
Follows through on tasks	• • • • • N/R	Quits easily
Panics easily under stress	• • • • • N/R	Level-headed under stress
Cheerful	• • • • • N/R	Somber
Tolerant of alternative views and opinions	• • • • • N/R	Intolerant of alternative views and opinions
Considers feelings of others	• • • • • N/R	Disregards feelings of others
Deliberate	• • • • • N/R	Impulsive
Confident	• • • • • N/R	Insecure
Unpopular	• • • • • N/R	Popular
Practical	• • • • • N/R	Idealistic
Cynical	• • • • • N/R	Gullible
Incapable	• • • • • N/R	Capable
Rational	• • • • • N/R	Irrational
Unsociable	• • • • • N/R	Sociable
Indifferent to movies	• • • • • N/R	Easily moved by movies
Clever	• • • • • N/R	Unimaginative
Sloppy	• • • • • N/R	Neat
Contented	• • • • • N/R	Dissatisfied
Meek	• • • • • N/R	Forceful
Unaware of feelings	• • • • • N/R	Aware/in touch with feelings
Cold-hearted	• • • • • N/R	Warm/kind-hearted
Irresponsible	• • • • • N/R	Responsible
Seeks social interaction	• • • • • N/R	Avoids social interaction
Relaxed	• • • • • N/R	Energetic
Prefers familiar activity	• • • • • N/R	Prefers new activity

Templates

Competitive	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Cooperative
Lazy	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Hardworking
High tolerance for frustration	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Low tolerance for frustration
Prefers routine	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Becomes bored easily
Resists new ideas	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Explores new ideas
Self-centered	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Team player
Easily distracted	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Focused
He/She takes charge in a crisis	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	He/She falls apart in a crisis
Serious	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Laughs easily
Accepts the rules	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Challenges the rules
Heartless	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Compassionate
Impatient	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Patient
Fearful	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Fearless
Outgoing	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Withdrawn
Abstract thinker	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Concrete thinker
Assumes the best of others	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Assumes the worst of others
Successful	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Unsuccessful
Moody	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Even-tempered
Needs to be with others	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Solitary
Easily moved by literature	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Indifferent to literature
Sincere	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Insincere
Methodical	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Absent-minded
Sad	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Happy
Bold	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Shy
Highly emotional	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Highly rational
Giver	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Taker
Ethical	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Unethical
Easily embarrassed	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Socially secure
Frantic	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Leisurely
Open to change	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Likes structure
Agreeable	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Argumentative
Ambitious	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Not ambitious
Instant gratification (want it now)	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Delayed gratification (willing to wait)

Sex Trafficking of Juveniles: *An Investigative Guide for Law Enforcement*

Daring	• • • • • N/R	Tentative
Thinks deeply	• • • • • N/R	Does not think deeply
Modest	• • • • • N/R	Boastful
Self-starter	• • • • • N/R	Needs direction
Not vulnerable to stress	• • • • • N/R	Vulnerable to stress
Expressive	• • • • • N/R	Unemotional
Non-judgmental	• • • • • N/R	Judgmental
Kind	• • • • • N/R	Cruel
Mature	• • • • • N/R	Immature
Never worries	• • • • • N/R	Always worries
Doesn't attach to others emotionally	• • • • • N/R	Instant attachment to others emotionally
Unimaginative	• • • • • N/R	Imaginative
Thinks people are out to get them	• • • • • N/R	Thinks people are well-intentioned
Ineffective	• • • • • N/R	Competent
Patient	• • • • • N/R	Impatient
Avoids social activities	• • • • • N/R	Enjoys social activities
Indifferent to theatre	• • • • • N/R	Easily moved by theatre
Deceptive	• • • • • N/R	Truthful
Chaotic	• • • • • N/R	Orderly
Feels loved	• • • • • N/R	Feels unloved
Dependent	• • • • • N/R	Independent
Guided by reason	• • • • • N/R	Guided by feelings
Uses others	• • • • • N/R	Helps others
Immoral	• • • • • N/R	Moral
High self-esteem	• • • • • N/R	Low self-esteem
Sluggish	• • • • • N/R	Lively
Rigid	• • • • • N/R	Flexible
Combative	• • • • • N/R	Supportive
Lack of goals	• • • • • N/R	Goal-oriented
Strong-willed	• • • • • N/R	Weak-willed
Careful	• • • • • N/R	Takes risks
Avoids intellectual discussions	• • • • • N/R	Seeks intellectual discussion

 Templates

Feels special (entitled)	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Undemanding
Easily discouraged	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Persistent
Stays calm under pressure	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Cracks under pressure
Pessimistic	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Optimistic
Views the world in black & white	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Views the world in shades of gray
Shows no mercy	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Shows mercy
Irrational	•	•	•	•	•	N/R	Logical

Free Narrative

- 1.** Describe in your own words everything that occurred on the day you first met/were recruited by [the offender], from the time you got up until the time you went to sleep. Include everywhere you went; everything you did; and everyone you interacted with, whether by phone, on the computer, or in person. Take as much time as you need. No detail is too small. Everything is important.
- 2.** Describe in your own words a typical day with [the offender], from the time you got up until the time you went to sleep. Include everywhere you went; everything you did; and everyone you interacted with, whether by phone, on the computer, or in person. Take as much time as you need. No detail is too small. Everything is important.
- 3.** Describe in your own words everything that occurred on the day of your recovery, from the time you got up until the time you went to sleep. Include everywhere you went; everything you did; and everyone you interacted with, whether by phone, on the computer, or in person. Take as much time as you need. No detail is too small. Everything is important.



**Behavioral Analysis Unit
Critical Incident Response Group
Federal Bureau of Investigation**