

# Human Trafficking

**What is human trafficking?** It is modern-day slavery. 150 years ago it would have simply been called slavery. It is the abuse and exploitation of people by compelling their service through force, fraud or coercion for personal or financial purposes. It is unconscionable, horrific and sinister, often hiding by blending into the environment. It operates like a dark underworld. It's bad enough in Iowa that Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Cady highlighted it in his Condition of the Judiciary speech.

**Who are the victims?** Anybody! – man, woman, or child – Citizens or not

**What are the victims made to do?** Usually sex, domestic, or labor

**Where does human trafficking happen?** In the U.S. and even in Iowa, and not just cities, but also the rural areas; near major interstates or not; it can be happening right under our noses.

**What places might you find human trafficking?** Commercial sex industry, factories, farms, landscaping, construction, peddling rings, private homes, restaurants, bars, nail or hair salons, etc.

**At what events might you find human trafficking?** At famous events in Iowa like the Iowa State Fair or not-so-famous events

**Who commits human trafficking?** Individuals, gangs, criminal syndicates, terrorist organizations such as ISIS

**Does human trafficking occur only in illegal underground activities?** No, it can occur in legal and legitimate business settings, too.

**Does human trafficking involve travel or transportation?** It can but does not have to

**What resources do human traffickers use to commit their crimes?** The internet is a big one. They have mastered advertising on it and delivering their “services” to customers.

**Is it the same as human smuggling?** No. Smuggling involves the illegal crossing of a country's borders, but human trafficking may or may not deal with that.

**Does human trafficking have to involve physical restraint or physical bondage?** No, it doesn't have to but it can. It can also be a psychological means of control such as threats or nonphysical means of controlling another person.

**Do human trafficking victims ask for help?** Often they do not due to a lack of trust or fear because of what the traffickers have told them.

**Does pornography have anything to do with human trafficking?** Absolutely! It fuels the demand for sex trafficking.

**Do human trafficking victims always come from poverty situations?** Not always. Even though poverty is often highly correlated with human trafficking because it is often an indicator of vulnerability, poverty alone is not a single causal factor or indicator of a human trafficking victim. They can come from a range of income levels.

**What are the signs someone may be trafficked?**

- 1) Minimal contact with family
- 2) Inability of fear of making eye contact
- 3) Submissive or fearful behavior
- 4) Not allowed to speak to you alone
- 5) Is controlled by another person
- 6) Signs of substance, physical or sexual abuse
- 7) Child skipping school or unexplained absences from school
- 8) STD's
- 9) Child traveling with no luggage or hotel room is paid for in cash
- 10) Intense secrecy and possession with cell phone
- 11) Change in clothes and appearance
- 12) Seems withdrawn, depressed, fearful or checked out
- 13) Running away from home or already homeless

**What can you do if you think you might be seeing a human trafficking situation?** Contact law enforcement.

**What can you do to prevent a human trafficking situation from developing?** Keep communicating with children, teens, families, and neighbors

**What people are likely to see a human trafficking situation?** Anybody, but those on the “front lines” would include law enforcement, teachers, other school employees, foster care workers, child care workers, social workers, substance abuse program workers, health care workers, mental health workers, juvenile services staff, hotel staff, airline crews

**Sobering statistics:**

- 1) Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller says the average age of a U.S. citizen first being sex trafficked is between 12-14 years old.
- 2) In 2014 there were over 4000 “runaways” in Iowa. 1 in 3 will be approached for sex within 48 hours of running away. Of those, 50% will fall victim to sex trafficking.
- 3) Since 2007 there have been over 100 reported and confirmed human trafficking cases in Iowa alone, and law enforcement believes that does not include the hundreds of cases that go undetected.

**What we have done to prevent human trafficking?**

- 1) On the federal level, Sen. Chuck Grassley has sponsored and supported many major efforts over the past several years to deal with human trafficking.
- 2) On the state level, the first human trafficking criminal law was passed in 2006 and has been strengthened many times since then, including provisions that address criminal responsibility, juvenile and child welfare concerns, victim rights and victim services, and training for law enforcement who encounter human trafficking situations. In the past couple years efforts have included establishing an Office to Combat Human Trafficking in the Iowa Department of Public Safety to oversee and coordinate efforts. In addition statewide training for law enforcement regarding human trafficking was authorized and funded. A number of private organizations have also stepped up during these years to take action to combat human trafficking.

**What I am proposing to do:**

- 1) Introduce the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, which protects children and families by declaring pornography a public health crisis and requires digital filters be placed on internet pornography. Filter

legislation such as this has passed constitutional muster via the United States Supreme Court. 42 states are introducing this bill in an effort to curb human trafficking and child exploitation.

- 2) Introduce Jenna's Law which adds human trafficking to the definition of child abuse and requires training for "front lines" personnel in sexual abuse awareness/human trafficking victim awareness. There are already materials available from national organizations at no charge that could be used. This has been adopted by 30 states.

## Iowa News Briefs

**A district court judge has upheld Iowa's new collective bargaining law.** The union has 30 days to decide whether or not to appeal.

**Managed care contracts for Medicaid have been signed with Amerigroup and UnitedHealthCare.** The MCO's will receive a 3.3% rate increase for the next year. DHS Director Jerry Foxhoven commented that it was a small increase compared to national trends on healthcare spending. The third MCO, Amerihealth Caritas, is withdrawing from the Medicaid program and DHS plans to seek for another MCO to take their place in 2019. In the meantime DHS says Medicaid recipients with Amerihealth will be reassigned to UnitedHealthCare as of Dec. 1st. However they can choose to switch to Amerigroup for any reason before Mar. 1, 2018. They are focused on ensuring a continuity of care for those Medicaid patients who will be reassigned.

Feel free to contact me with ideas, thoughts, and concerns. My phone is 319-987-3021 or you can email me at [sandy.salmon@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:sandy.salmon@legis.iowa.gov). I want to hear what you are thinking and will listen to your input. Together we will work to make a difference for the future of Iowa. Thank you very much for the honor of representing you!

Sincerely,

***Sandy***