Human Trafficking in Oklahoma

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Is this human trafficking?
What about this?
Trafficking vs. Smuggling

This is a confusing area and causes much misunderstanding.

Human smuggling is commonly referred to as Human Trafficking.

These are distinctly different issues.

Smuggling can lead to trafficking, but a smuggled person is not necessarily a trafficking victim.
So what’s the difference?

Human Smuggling is: The movement of a person, typically across an international border, where there is a consensual agreement between the smuggler and the person being smuggled. This agreement terminates on arrival at a predetermined destination.
Human Trafficking Defined

Human Trafficking is defined by the International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators as: the exploitation by force, fraud, or coercion of vulnerable people for forced labor, domestic servitude or commercial sex operation.
A. As used in Sections 748 and 748.2 of this title:

1. "Coercion" means compelling, forcing or intimidating a person to act by:
   
a. threats of harm or physical restraint against any person,
   
b. any act, scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that performing, or failing to perform, an act would result in serious physical, financial, or emotional harm or distress to or physical restraint against any person,
   
c. the abuse or threatened abuse of the law or legal process,
   
d. knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating or possessing any actual or purported passport, labor or immigration document, or other government identification document, including but not limited to a driver license or birth certificate, of another person,
   
e. facilitating or controlling a person’s access to any addictive or controlled substance other than for legal medical purposes,
   
f. blackmail,
   
g. demanding or claiming money, goods, or any other thing of value from or on behalf of a prostituted person where such demand or claim arises from or is directly related to the act of prostitution,
   
h. determining, dictating or setting the times at which another person will be available to engage in an act of prostitution with a third party,
i. determining, dictating or setting the places at which another person will be available for solicitation of, or to engage in, an act of prostitution with a third party, or
j. determining, dictating or setting the places at which another person will reside for purposes of making such person available to engage in an act of prostitution with a third party;

2. "Commercial sex" means any form of commercial sexual activity such as sexually explicit performances, prostitution, participation in the production of pornography, performance in a strip club, or exotic dancing or display;

3. "Debt bondage" means the status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by the debtor of his or her personal services or of those of a person under his or her control as a security for debt if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined;

4. "Human trafficking" means modern-day slavery that includes, but is not limited to, extreme exploitation and the denial of freedom or liberty of an individual for purposes of deriving benefit from that individual’s commercial sex act or labor;

5. "Human trafficking for labor" means:
   a. recruiting, enticing, harboring, maintaining, transporting, providing or obtaining, by any means, another person through deception, force, fraud, threat or coercion or for purposes of engaging the person in labor, or
   b. benefiting, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that has engaged in an act of trafficking for labor;

6. "Human trafficking for commercial sex" means:
   a. recruiting, enticing, harboring, maintaining, transporting, providing or obtaining, by any means, another person through deception, force, fraud, threat or coercion for purposes of engaging the person in a commercial sex act, or
b. benefiting, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participating in a venture that has engaged in an act of trafficking for commercial sex;

7. "Legal process" means the criminal law, the civil law, or the regulatory system of the federal government, any state, territory, district, commonwealth, or trust territory therein, and any foreign government or subdivision thereof and includes legal civil actions, criminal actions, and regulatory petitions or applications; and

8. "Minor" means an individual under eighteen (18) years of age.

B. It shall be unlawful to knowingly engage in human trafficking.

C. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not less than five (5) years, or by a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. Any person violating the provisions of this section where the victim of the offense is under eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the offense shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not less than ten (10) years, or by a fine of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. The court shall also order the defendant to pay restitution to the victim as provided in Section 991f of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution for a criminal offense that, during the time of the alleged commission of the offense, the defendant was a victim of human trafficking.
A. Human trafficking victims shall:
1. Be housed in an appropriate shelter as soon as practicable;
2. Not be detained in facilities inappropriate to their status as crime victims;
3. Not be jailed, fined, or otherwise penalized due to having been trafficked;
4. Receive prompt medical care, mental health care, food, and other assistance, as necessary;
5. Have access to legal assistance, information about their rights, and translation services, as necessary; and
6. Be provided protection if the safety of the victim is at risk or if there is a danger of additional harm by recapture of the victim by a trafficker, including:
a. taking measures to protect trafficked persons and their family members from intimidation and threats of reprisals, and
b. ensuring that the names and identifying information of trafficked persons and their family members are not disclosed to the public.

B. Any person aggrieved by a violation of subsection B of Section 748 of this title may bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the violation to recover actual and punitive damages and reasonable attorney fees. A criminal case or prosecution is not a necessary precedent to the civil action. The statute of limitations for the cause of action shall not commence until the latter of the victim’s emancipation from the defendant or the victim’s twenty-first birthday.

C. Upon availability of funds, the Attorney General is authorized to establish an emergency hotline number for victims of human trafficking to call in order to request assistance or rescue. The Attorney General is authorized to enter into agreements with the county departments of health to require posting of the rights contained in this section along with the hotline number for publication in locations as directed by the State Department of Health.
Overview of OBN Human Trafficking Unit

Director of OBN

Chief Agent of Human Trafficking Division

Agent in Charge of Human Trafficking Division

Seven Senior Agent Investigators, One Analyst, One Administrative Assistant.
Sex Trafficking In Oklahoma

- Sex Trafficking can take many forms and we have seen examples in Oklahoma.
- The cases range from very small scale incidents to organizational operations.
- Let’s look at some of what we have seen.
Organized Sex Trafficking

• Hispanic brothels in Oklahoma City, and Tulsa.

• We were involved as an assist to Homeland Security Investigations (ICE) and OCPD.

• Girls, mostly illegal immigrants, were recruited in Houston area.
Organized Sex Trafficking

- Brothel apartment in Tulsa, victim recovered.
- Brothel apartments in OKC, victim recovered.
- One male worker in each apartment, basically managing the operation.
Organized Sex Trafficking

• Male worker, vetted clients by language.
• Business catered specifically to illegal immigrants and dialect was used as a tool to determine admission.
• Females subjected to 15 to 20 sexual contacts a day.
• Females not allowed to leave and very limited ability to communicate with others.
Organized Sex Trafficking

• Females typically spent two weeks in each location and were then moved to another apartment.

• There were at least four apartments in Oklahoma.

• This circuit had apartments in Kansas and other states as well.
Organized Sex Trafficking
Organized Sex Trafficking
Organized Sex Trafficking

• Contacts in other parts of the country have confirmed that this is an organizational model that they have encountered.

• This type of organization typically caters to illegal Hispanic immigrants and they are even known to follow migrant workers. (This model is very common in Florida and California)
Labor Trafficking
Labor Trafficking/ Sales Crews

Often come in the form of door to door magazine sales.
The seller is usually 16 or older and work for a company that is a “clearinghouse” for magazines.
The companies are usually out of Florida or New York and are usually owned by other groups out of eastern Europe.
Labor Trafficking/ Sales Crews

Crew members are usually moved far away from their home. They have a daily quota to meet. They are forced to buy their meals from the company. Their cell phones are often held by the crew leader. They have to watch daily promotional material to tell them how good they have it and how they can advance.
Labor Trafficking/ Sales Crews

Several of the companies have been linked to organized crime. The information gathered for the subscription is often used to commit low dollar amount overcharges to the customer’s account. The volume of the overcharges creates tremendous revenue for the company. The low to no pay given to the sellers causes next to no overhead for the company.
Labor Trafficking/ Sales Crews

Recent encounter in OKC
Seller was 19 years old
From Cleveland, OH
Given $15 a day advance on future commissions
Paid $10 a day for his food
Did not know the name of hotel he was staying in with other crew members
His crew leader would not answer the phone when he tried to call him
Labor Trafficking
Massage Parlors

• All massage parlors are not sexually oriented.

• Small massage parlors are opening all over the state. They are in metropolitan areas as well as rural areas.

• Many times the massage parlors are networked with other massage parlors both across the state and country.
Massage Parlors

• We have recently been involved in a case where a woman was recruited from Kentucky to work in a massage parlor in Del City.

• The parlor pressured her to provide sexual services to clients.
Massage Parlor

- Some massage parlors keep female workers on a rotation with other massage parlors.
- These workers are often forced to travel to massage parlors in multiple states.
- Debt bondage is often used as a tool to coerce females to provide sexual services, particularly in Asian massage parlors.
Massage Parlors

Meet all our Our Beautiful Asian and Latina Princesses

Posted: Thursday, December 15, 2011 1:35 PM

Reply: click here

Need a break from life?
Don't know where to go?,
Check out this site to find the best locations near you.
Asian Massage Parlor Reviews

- Location: Lawton, Oklahoma City, Stillwater, Tulsa, Incall or Outcall
- Post ID: 3829438 oklahomacity

Email this ad
Massage Parlors

- Ads almost everyday on Back page from:
  - Oklahoma City
  - Tulsa
  - Lawton
  - Stillwater
THE VICTIMS

- Amanda
- Arrested for prostitution at age 14
- Oklahoma City (OK)
THE VICTIMS

• Monique
• Arrested for prostitution at age 16
• Oklahoma City (OK)
High Risk Victims

- Juveniles with multiple runaway events.
- Juveniles with few social anchors.
- Are often targets of Pimps/ Traffickers.
- Sometimes independently engage in survival sex to exist.
High Risk Victims

• Most believe that the average age of entry into prostitution is 12 to 14 years of age.
• Very vulnerable to predators and traffickers.
Recruitment

• Pimps/ Traffickers use a variety of methods to recruit their victims.
• They often use social media.
• They identify vulnerabilities and befriend the victim.
• They often pose as a boyfriend when first “turning out” the victim.
Recruitment

• Violence is often introduced as a method of control once the victim is in a relationship with the pimp/trafficker.

• Pimps/traffickers often use intermittent reinforcement with the victim, alternating punishment and reward.

• This can lead to trauma bonding and sometimes a significant loyalty to the pimp/trafficker.
Recruitment

- Other, more openly sinister methods are used by pimps/traffickers to recruit/indoctrinate victims.
- Sometimes the pimp/trafficker will rape or have the victim raped.
- This event is recorded and the recording is used as a tool to blackmail the victim into prostitution.
Recruitment

• In a recent case a suspected pimp/trafficker offered a female a ride home.

• The pimp/trafficker drove the victim to a residence in another town where he raped the victim, had another male rape the victim, them had a female rape the victim with an object. This occurred in the presence of approximately ten other people.
Recruitment

• The pimp/trafficker then told the victim that she had one hour to make him one hundred dollars.

• The pimp/trafficker then kissed her on the lips, said he loved her, and assigned one of his colleagues to watch her while she worked as a street prostitute.
Summary

• We have seen victims recruited from all parts of the state.
• Victims from all over Oklahoma and other states have been recovered in Oklahoma City.
• Victims from Oklahoma have been recovered in numerous other states.
Summary

- Victim interviews indicate that some human trafficking victims are frequently moved from one location to another.
- Lastly, Traffickers have shown time and again that they are mobile and willing to travel to recruit/obtain new victims to exploit.
QUESTIONS ????