

55 THINGS ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE INTERNET AND COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION

GROOMING A VICTIM TO BE TRAFFICKED

1. Many teens and young adults go missing at 3 AM, while their parents are sleeping in the next room, or from school, due to being lured or groomed online by human traffickers and sex predators.
2. Human Trafficking is defined as anyone held in service of another through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of commercial sex or forced labor. Any **minor** used for commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking; no force, fraud, or coercion is needed.
3. Commercial Sex is defined stripteasing, pornography, or prostitution. Anything of value exchanged for a sex act is commercial sex.
4. Forms of fraud or coercion include but are not limited to threats made to the victim or another person, online and school bullying stories of harm to others, threats of being arrested or using law enforcement to harm the victim, holding of legal real or fake documents, feigned love, promise of job opportunity, detaining a person due to debt, sleep deprivation, food deprivation, and/ or threat of showing sexual images of victim.
5. Predators use social media to make contact with teens and young adults.
6. Predators may spend days, weeks, months, or years grooming your child without your knowledge.
7. The applications on smart phones often provide a safe haven for predators to communicate.
8. Many predators use apps where the messages and images disappear. These messages are erased even on the server so a warrant would not be able to capture the information.

9. Online gaming with interactive features is a popular place for predators to operate.
10. Teens and young adults may sext to these apps, thinking the images cannot be shared, but the predators may take a photo of the screen and share the pic or video exponentially.
11. When parents see inappropriate images or messages and take their child's phone away, the predator benefits.
12. He or she will get a device to your child that you do not know about. Now the predator has unfettered access to your child.
13. The predator will put your child in a position to lie to friends and family. This begins the emotional isolation of the victim, which is needed for the predator to groom them.
14. The predator will LISTEN to their victim and learn about his/her fears, likes, dislikes, dreams, hopes, conflicts, and who they love and trust.
15. The victim will learn very little about the predator but will not realize the imbalance.
16. Our brains fill in missing information the way we perceive it, so the victim's imagination makes the predator seem much closer and fantastic than he or she truly is. A good groomer will fill their target with exactly what they want, using the information the victim gave them willingly. Like a kind of a mental judo, during the grooming, the predator uses the victim's own energy against them. This is very effective and acts much like mental super glue.
17. Teens and young adults do not have the mental development necessary to stop or resist when in the face of trouble or danger. From our teenage years to early adulthood, we all believe we are invincible, and consequences are not applicable to us. Predators benefit from this stage in our development and target victims in that age group.
18. Traffickers often use a division of labor to carry out their schemes.

19. A recruiter, a minder, a confidant, and an enforcer may all be working in concert to groom the child with the purpose of luring him or her away, and then turning their target over to an unknown trafficker.
20. This scheme keeps the parents and the child off balance and confused.

INTERVENTION

21. Education is not enough. Teens and young adults need friends and family to monitor their activities and intervene for them.
22. In the past, predators often did not get arrested, so they were able to operate with little to no risk in our communities. However, it appears that many more arrests are happening now. As a result, the most dangerous time for a victim is when they disclose the abuse and/or when the predator begins to lose control of the victim.
23. Most “runaways” are actually victims who have been groomed and lured by predators.
24. They are at the same risk as if they had been abducted, but often they not identified as being in danger.
25. Many police departments do not consider missing teens or young adults a criminal issue, but rather more of a civil issue.
26. If your child has been missing more than a day, they should receive a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurses Examination) exam upon finding them, even if they claim it is not necessary.
27. The SANE exam documents any injuries, preserves any evidence of sexual assault, and provides medicines for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. There is a 96-hour window from exposure for these medicines to be effective.
28. Sometimes when the child goes missing, a “friend” will appear to help the parents. However, this person may be giving misinformation and learning if the parents are getting close to finding their child or if law enforcement is engaged.

29. Once a missing teen or young adult is found, they are **very** likely to go missing again.
30. Often traffickers target alternative, mental health, juvenile, or diversion programs to imbed peer recruiters to identify and lure vulnerable victims again.

WHY VICTIMS OFTEN REFUSE HELP

31. Most trafficked victims are forced to meet \$1000+/day quotas, each day, 365 days/year.
32. If the victims fail to meet their quotas or resist, they may be beaten, starved, and locked in car trunks or closets. They may see someone they care about hurt or killed.
33. The trafficker may explain to them that if they escape or don't return their younger sister or child will be put in their place.
34. If you have a child or your child's friend is trafficked, you need to know that traffickers often use the victims to lure their siblings and friends into the trafficking scheme.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

35. Backpage.com was in the news for being forced to stop its commercial sex ads; however, they just moved them to the dating category and were not even halted for a day. Their site is down now, but many more have filled their role.
36. Backpage.com brought in \$135 million in 2014, up from \$5.3 million in 2008, deriving more than 90 percent of its earnings from ads for commercial sex. *
37. Backpage.com self-reported \$51,723,615 in a 15-month period. 98% from sex ads, in California alone. California represented 14.95% of Backpage's worldwide income.**Source: [California Department of Justice](#)
38. Anyone who can force another into commercial sex can have instant unlimited cash flow.

39. Most victims must meet a \$1000+ a day quota before they are allowed to sleep.
40. This servitude can produce up to \$365,000 a year income per victim for the traffickers.
41. There are many other sites for selling commercial sex in addition to Backpage.com and CityX.com which have been seized by the FBI.

WHERE TRAFFICKING OCCURS

42. Human Trafficking happens in every country in the world, every state in the United States, and almost all communities.
43. Traffickers often travel to and service motels and can have victims to the door of a buyer in less time than a pizza delivery. Sometimes in less than 10 minutes.
44. Some traffickers prostitute their victims at truck stops, conventions, sporting events, and other areas where there are large gatherings of people.
45. Other channels include online, in motels, in residential homes and apartments, street prostitution, strip clubs, out calls to the buyers, in calls where buyers come to the victims, in businesses disguised as massage parlors, cantinas, sports bars, chiropractic offices, and many more.

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

46. Victims may smile and say they are willing, but that is due to fear and coercion.
47. Traffickers often brand their victims with tattoos, jewelry, or injuries such as cigarette burns or cut marks.
48. Traffickers may cause victims to commit many crimes in addition to forced labor or commercial sex. Examples may be identity theft, bank robbery, shoplifting, and more.

49. Much like a pyramid scheme, traffickers will target the victims' siblings, friends, and extended family for exploitation or other criminal activities, often using the victim to gain access.
50. Traffickers often put assets like cars and houses in the victim's names in order to remain invisible. The victims do not determine the use or benefit from the assets. However, the IRS will tax those assets in the victim's name. The victims may be enslaved forever by seeing taxes on assets that were never in their control.

LAWS TO DISRUPT AND DETER

51. Depriving a person of their real identity documents or providing them with fake ones is a felony.
52. Every person involved in the trafficking who knew or should have known is subject to civil and criminal prosecution. They are held responsible in the same capacity, no matter their role.
53. If a minor 14 or under is involved in commercial sex, all who benefited from her exploitation can face a sentence of many years, including up to life in prison.
54. The names of victims of trafficking, especially sex trafficking, should be redacted from public information but often are not. This puts them at risk in many ways, especially while they are still a minor.
55. The question is not if your teen or young adult will be targeted by human traffickers, but how many times?

If you want to hire Dottie as an expert witness, private investigator, or to speak to your organization email Trafficked@protonmail.com.

For media inquiries call or text 210-882-2259 or lasterglobal@gmail.com

<https://www.TraffickingVictimRescueCentral.com>