

PERSONAL SAFETY HANDOUT

Introduction

As internet usage grows throughout our state, we must ensure that Alaskans are informed about the dangers that can come along with it, especially for children, and that includes human trafficking. Our goal is to equip parents and guardians with information that will help them recognize the signs of trafficking and to provide important resources.

Learn more at anthc.org/stophumantrafficking.

What is human trafficking?

Human and sex trafficking is a process in which offenders groom a youth into a sexual relationship in secrecy. This process can be initiated online where offenders gradually remove boundaries before the sexual abuse occurs. Grooming, or luring, also occurs in stages. Here is a list of stages and examples:

Stage 1: Targeting a vulnerable child.

Example: Paying special attention to a child's preferences, such as social media channels.

Stage 2: Gaining trust by gathering information.

Example: Inviting a child to an event they would enjoy.

Stage 3: Filling a need.

Example: Gift giving or filling another basic need, like housing.

Stage 4: Isolating the child.

Example: Making a special trip or one-on-one time.

Stage 5: Sexualizing the relationship.

Example: Instructing child how to initiate sex or masturbation.

Stage 6: Maintaining control.

Example: Using manipulation to meet the child's emotional or physical needs.

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC)

Action Plan for Alaska Native Communities

AKNWRC developed a toolkit for Alaskan Indigenous communities to use as a guide for developing an action plan in the event of possible human trafficking that includes awareness, prevention and intervention strategies. It provides the following guidelines:

- Report the child's disappearance as soon as possible. The first 72 hours following a disappearance is a critical time to take immediate action.
- Establish a timeline. Document as much detail as possible from a week before or the day they went missing. It is important to describe what the victim looks like and search their social media accounts.
- Share public updates by posting fliers in the community and posting to social media platforms.

PERSONAL SAFETY HANDOUT

- Designate one or two family or community members as the main contacts with law enforcement and other agencies. The purpose is to centralize information and not to overwhelm agencies with calls from family.
- Create a log of actions. Any detail, no matter how small it may seem, could turn out to be crucial.
- Issue an alert. Talk to the local law enforcement, state trooper or municipal office to see if they have access to an alert system.
- Work with community organizations. Designate a core team that will be responsible for the activities related to finding the individual and have them keep a communication log.
- Hold a candlelight vigil. The goal of the vigil is to raise awareness about the victim and to support the family.
- Enlist community family support, which could include providing meals, helping with funeral arrangements, providing spiritual and emotional support, helping with everyday chores and meeting obligations, providing financial assistance, creating a fundraising site, and designating a record keeper.

The toolkit also provides a list of resources and trauma informed services for family and community with guidance on how to:

- Document local law enforcement agencies in the community.
- Begin discussion today with local law enforcement regarding protocols and how best to assist and/or demand law enforcement response.
- Handle a situation when law enforcement refuses to assist, take a report, or initiate investigation.
- Access FEMA's Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alerting Authorities tool, available at [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Resources

You have access to help and resources if you or someone you know is being forced to engage in any activity and cannot leave. These activities could be commercial sex, housework, farm work, construction, factory, retail, restaurant work, or any other activity. Some resources include:

- ANTHC Domestic Violence Prevention Regional Resource Guide (907) 729-3795 | anthc.org/notalone
- ANTHC Domestic Violence Prevention dvprevention@anthc.org
- ANTHC **Garden of Roses** – Camp for Girls (907) 729-3795 | anthc.org/gardenofroses
- **Alaska Institute for Justice** (907) 279-2457 | akijp.org
- **Alaska Native Justice Center** (907) 793-3550 | anjc.org
- **Covenant House Alaska** (907) 272-1255, 24-hour hotline | covenanthouseak.org
- **Standing Together Against Rape** (STAR) (907) 276-7273, 24-hour hotline + confidential crisis line | staralaska.com
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center 24/7 hotline (888) 373-7888 | Text 233-733
- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) | andvsa.org
- Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) (907) 272-0100 | awaic.org
- Careline Alaska's Suicide Prevention and Someone to Talk to Line, call or text 988 | carelinealaska.com