



The Game/ The Life

COMMON SEX TRAFFICKING
TERMINOLOGY

IDAHO
ANTI-TRAFFICKING COALITION

Bottom — A female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operating as his “right hand,” the Bottom may help instruct victims, collect money, book hotel rooms, post ads, or inflict punishments on other girls. The bottom has often been trafficked as a minor and is in a complex relationship with the trafficker.

Branding — A tattoo, carving or burn on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.

Caught A Case — A term that refers to when a pimp or victim has been arrested and charged with a crime.

Daddy — The term a pimp will often require his victim to call him.

Date — The exchange when prostitution takes place, or the activity of prostitution. A victim is said to be “with a date” or “dating.”

Exit Fee — The money a pimp will demand from a victim who is thinking about trying to leave. It will be an exorbitant sum, to discourage her from leaving. Most pimps never let their victims leave freely.

Family/Folks — The term used to describe the other individuals under the control of the same pimp. He plays the role of father (or “Daddy”) while the group fulfills the need for a “family.”

“John” (Buyer or “Trick”) — An individual who pays for or trades something of value for sexual acts.

Out of Pocket — A victim that doesn't do what their trafficker has instructed. This often ends in punishment from the trafficker.

Quota — A set amount of money that a trafficking victim must make each night before she can come “home.” Quotas are often set between \$300 and \$2000.

Seasoning — A combination of psychological manipulation, intimidation, gang rape, sodomy, beatings, deprivation of food or sleep, isolation from friends or family and other sources of support, and threatening or holding hostage of a victim’s children. Seasoning is designed to break down a victim’s resistance and ensure compliance.

Squaring Up — Attempting to escape or exit prostitution.

Stable — A group of victims who are under the control of a single pimp.

The Game/The Life — The subculture of prostitution, complete with rules, a hierarchy of authority, and language. Referring to the act of pimping as ‘the game’ gives the illusion that it can be a fun and easy way to make money, when the reality is much harsher. Women and girls will say they’ve been “in the life” if they’ve been involved in prostitution for a while.

Track (Stroll or Blade) — An area of town known for prostitution activity. This can be the area around a group of strip clubs and pornography stores, or a particular stretch of street.

Trick — Committing an act of prostitution (verb), or the person buying it (noun). A victim is said to be “turning a trick” or “with a trick.”



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The mission of the Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition is to work alongside community members in providing awareness, education, services, and safe housing for victims of human trafficking.

Direct Services, Support and Training
Victim-Centered Approach

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