



The Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative

Human Trafficking Terms

Automatic: A term denoting the victim's "automatic" routine when her pimp is out of town, in jail, or otherwise not in direct contact with those he is prostituting.

Bottom or "**Bottom Bitch**": A female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operating as his "right hand."

Branding: A tattoo or carving 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.

Choosing Up: The process by which a different pimp takes "ownership" of a victim. Victims are instructed to keep their eyes on the ground at all times.

Circuit: A series of cities among which prostituted people are moved. **Cousin-in-Laws:** Victims of pimp partners who work together. **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.

Facilitators: It is important to realize that human trafficking operations often intersect or exist alongside legitimate businesses.

- Hotels and Motels
- Landlords
- Taxi and other driving services
- Advertisers (Websites like Craigslist.com and Backpage.com; Phone books; Alternative newspapers)

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."

Finesse Pimp/Romeo Pimp: One who prides himself on controlling others primarily through psychological manipulation.



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Gorilla (or Guerilla) Pimp: A pimp who controls his victims almost entirely through physical violence and force.

Head Cut: A victim getting beaten down by their pimp.

In-Pocket: Not paying any other pimp than the one controlled by the victim. Not speaking to any other pimp.

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

Kiddie Stroll: An area known for prostitution that features younger victims.

Loose Bitch: Pimps call a loose bitch a victim who keeps choosing different pimps.

Lot Lizard: Derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops.

Madam: An older woman who manages a brothel, escort service or other prostitution establishment. She may work alone or in collaboration with other traffickers.

Out of Pocket: The phrase describing when a victim is not under control of a pimp but working on a pimp-controlled track, leaving her vulnerable to threats, harassment, and violence in order to make her “choose” a pimp.

Pimp: A person who controls and financially benefits from the commercial sexual exploitation of another person.

Pimp Circle: When several pimps encircle a victim to intimidate through verbal and physical threats in order to discipline the victim or force her to choose up.

Pimp Partner: Two pimps who are friends and allow their victims to work together.

Quota: A set amount of money that a trafficking victim must make each night before she can come “home.”

Reckless Eyeballing: A term which refers to the act of looking around instead of keeping your eyes on the ground. Eyeballing is against the rules and could lead an untrained victim to “choose up” by mistake.

Renegade: A person involved in prostitution without a pimp.



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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.

Serving a Pimp: The actual phone call one pimp makes to another after “taking” his victim.

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.

Track (a/k/a 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.

Trade Up/Trade Down: To move a victim like merchandise between pimps. A pimp may trade one girl for another or trade with some exchange of money.

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.”

Turn Out: To be forced into prostitution (*verb*) or a person newly involved in prostitution (*noun*).

The Wire: (1) A pimp hotline, like a phone tree pimps use to get the word around, to find out which city is on/off. (2) Wiring money from victim to pimp in different cities/states (“put it on the wire”).

Wifeys/Wife-in-Law/Sister Wife: What women and girls under the control of the same pimp call each other.