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### Disclaimer

- The following is not and is not intended to constitute legal advice.
- Always consult your local prosecutor or attorney for guidance.
- Credit to Victor Vieth and Zero Abuse Project team members for significant content and research contributions.

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### Agenda

- Human trafficking in America
- Identifying human trafficking
- Victims and Their TraffickersUnderstanding Victims
- Corroboration
  - Common emojis in criminal investigations
  - Proactive strategies
  - Other considerations
- Shadow Children
- Investigative resources





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- Labor Trafficking 18 U.S.C. § 1589
- Sex Trafficking 18 U.S.C. § 1591

### Legal Elements of Human Trafficking

- Action + Means + Purpose
  - Action: Recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, advertise, maintain, patronize, solicit any person
  - Means: Force, fraud, or coercion
  - Purpose: Commercial sex acts, OR labor or services
- NO MEANS ELEMENT when minors are used for commercial sex
- Minors: traffickers must have "reasonable opportunity to observe"

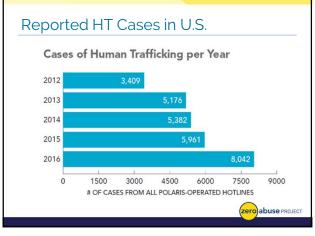
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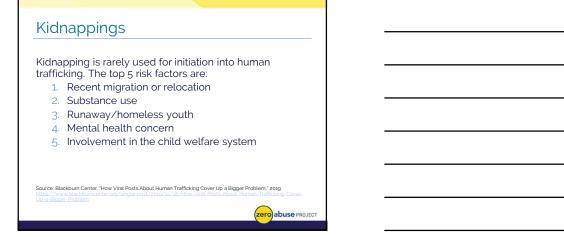
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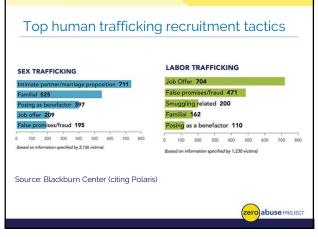
### **Statistics**

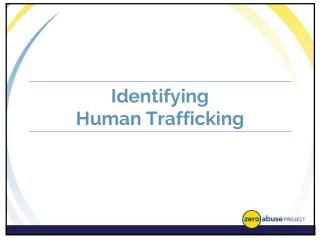
- According to the International Labour Organization:
  20.9 million victims globally
  - \$150 billion profit, annually
  - 73% of reported cases were sex trafficking (2016)
  - Most victims were first trafficked as minors
- According to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC):
  - 18,500 children reported as runaways in 2016
  - 1 in 6 trafficked
  - 86% of trafficking victims were in foster care











### Identifying Human Trafficking

- May be mistaken for or connected to other crimes (e.g., sexual assault, domestic violence, or drug distribution)
- Be thorough, especially in the initial phase of investigation
- Victims may be initially uncooperative in the investigation
- Proactive approaches and operations are crucial

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### Victim Identification

Exploiting vulnerability is key to human trafficking.

### Common victim characteristics:

- Minor female
- Abuse victim (sexual, physical, emotional)
- Substance use
- Poverty
- Runaway/homeless
- Foster care involvement
- Disabled

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### **Trafficking Indicators**

- Common characteristics (previous slide)
- · Restricted freedom of movement
- Sexually explicit online profiles
- · Debt to employer
- Lack of personal possessions
- Tattoos of currency, money bags, or another's name
- Large cash or debit card quantity
- Several communication devices
- Several hotel key cards

### Behavioral Trafficking Indicators

- Lying about age or identity
- Defensive or hesitant to answer personal questions
- Resists offers of assistance
- Slang prostitution terms

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### Human Trafficking Contexts

- Social media
- Truck stops
- Massage parlors
- Travel
- Rural

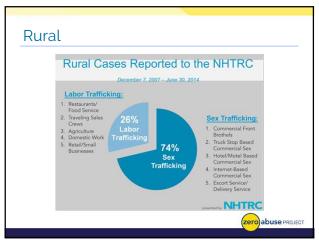




B&S:	bait and switch = person who shows up is a different one than advertised.
babyback:	petite, young, attractive Asian,
balloons:	breast implants.
BB:	bareback = without condom.
BJ:	blowjob = oral sex = fellatio.
B88J:	bare back blow job = BJ without condom, beebeebeejay.
BBBJTC:	bare back blow job to completion (in mouth).
BBBJTCIM;	bare back blow job to completion in mouth.
BBBJTCNQNS:	bare back blow job to completion, no quit, no spit.
BBBJTCWS:	bare back blow job to completion with swallow.
BBBJWF:	bare back blow job with facial.
BBFS:	bare back sex.
BBK:	big beautiful knockers.



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### Trafficker Methods

- Demanding quotas
- Forcing substance use
- Leverage debt
- Physically or sexually assaulting victims
- Psychological manipulation
- Isolation and surveillance

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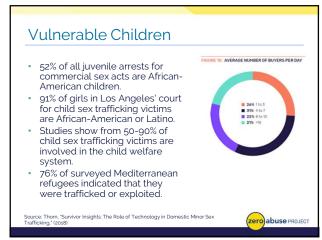
### **More Statistics**

• 63% of victimized children encountered by a major nonprofit, were advertised online.

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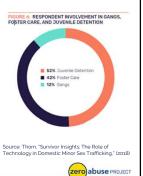
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- 150,000 new escort ads are posted on the Internet, daily—many of which are advertising children.
- 1,000 American children are arrested for prostitution, every year. (Source: Thorn)
- Up to 1 in 7 runaways reported to NCMEC were likely victims of sex trafficking. (Source: Thorn)
- 80% of ICAC investigators indicated that technology plays a very important role in sex trafficking cases. (Source: ICMEC)

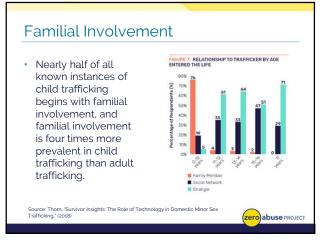


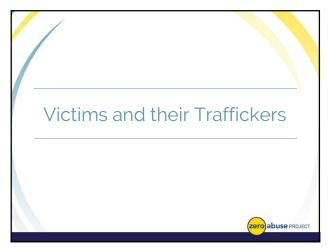
### Homeless Youth

- 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ (7% in general population).
- New York City study estimated that over 1 in 4 homeless children identifying as LGBTQ, and nearly half of boys identifying as gay or bisexual, are victims of child sexual exploitation.
- Another study has shown that 1/5 of homeless youth are victims of human trafficking. (Source: Covenant House New York)



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### Common Issues in Trafficking

- Relationship with the trafficker
- History of abuse
- Cultural and Linguistic barriers
- Stigma/Shame
- Trained to lie to law enforcement for survival
- Lack of access to basic needs

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### Challenges in Identifying Victims

• Frequent movement – may not be in one place long enough to form social connections

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- Distrust of service providers generalized impressions and perceived judgmental attitudes
- Lies and false stories may be self-generated or trained to tell lies, fake names, fake SSN
- Rarely come into contact with institutional systems that are designed to help them
- Low likelihood of multiple encounters within institutions or through doing outreach

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### Indicators of Sex Trafficking

- Presence of an overly controlling and abusive 'boyfriend'
- Inability to look in the eyes or face of people, especially her 'boyfriend'
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse or torture
- Signs of malnourishment
- Restricted or controlled communication
- Demeanor Fear, anxiety, depression, submissive, tense, nervous

### Indicators of Sex Trafficking

- Claims of being an adult although appearance suggests adolescent features
- Lack of identification documents (ID, birth certificate, Social Security card)

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- Presence of different aliases and ages
- Lack of knowledge of a given community or whereabouts
- Frequent movement

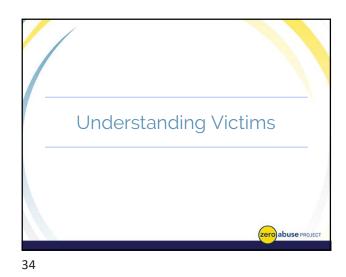
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### Indicators of Sex Trafficking

- Claims of "just visiting" and inability to clarify addresses
- Few or no personal possessions
- Few or no personal financial records
- Inconsistencies in their story
- Inappropriately dressed for court
- Reporting an excessive amount of sexual partners during a health check-up







Why Don't They Just Seek Help?

- Captivity/Confinement locked indoors, locked in rooms, locked in closets
- Frequent accompaniment/guarded interactions are monitored or controlled by the pimp
- Use and threat of violence severe physical retaliation (beatings, rapes, sexual assault)
- Fear of physical retaliation, of death, or of arrest
- Use and threat of reprisals against loved ones against children or family members
- Shame about the activities they have been forced to perform

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### Why Don't They Just Seek Help?

- Self-blame brainwashed by the pimp to blame themselves
- Dependency on the pimp after years of control
- Debt bondage may have a debt to the pimp that they feel they need to pay off
- Loyalty to the pimp Stolkholm syndrome, similarities to Battered Women's Syndrome
- Social barriers and unfamiliarity with surroundings due to frequent movement
- No personal ID or documentation which is often confiscated by the pimp

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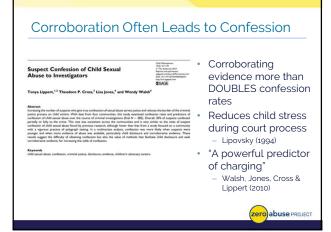
### Why Don't They Just Seek Help?

- Distrust of law enforcement brainwashed to fear law enforcement by the pimp or learned distrust of law enforcement due to direct negative experiences
- Isolation from others, from other support structures, from means of relief
- Misinformation and false promises have been told lies or deceitful information
- Hopelessness/Resignation feelings of no self-worth, disassociation, giving up, apathy
- Lack of knowledge of social systems may not understand social service infrastructure or how and where to access help

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### Potential Avenues of Corroboration

- Look for evidence of grooming, which is increasingly done online through social media or gaming platforms.
- Target communication networks used by traffickers, buyers, and victims.
- Look for commonalities between advertisements and acts.

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### Interviewing Victims and Witnesses

- Most victims will not self-identify until their 7-10th encounter with law enforcement.
- Victims are often runaway juveniles. Talk to their family and friends.
- Victims may still be under the influence of alcohol or substances.
- Rapport building can be a longer process given frequent distrust of law enforcement.

Sources: Thom, "Inside Human Trafficking Investigations", 2018 https://www.thom.org/blog/what.human.traffickinginvestigations.inok.ike/ Thom, "Using Spotlight to investigate human trafficking," 2018 https://www.thom.org/blog/using-spotlight-to-investigate-human-trafficking/

### Working With Victims

- Prioritize victim safety and needs
- Call local LE and report to
- Expect victim denial of "victim" status
- Some have stated similarities to working with domestic violence victims
- Understand safety concerns
- Avoid blaming behaviors and take a trauma-informed perspective and approach

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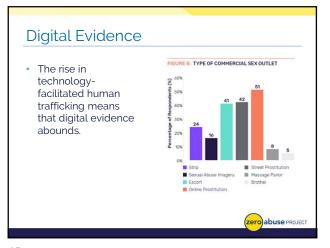
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Educate yourself on local resources for trafficking victims

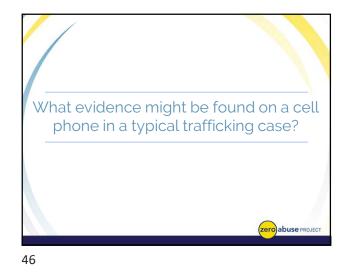
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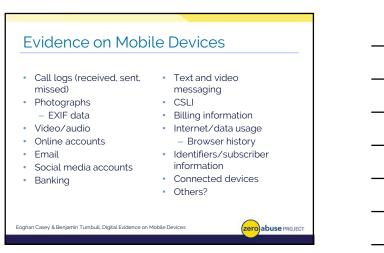
### Rule 404(b), Lustful Disposition Evidence

- Rule 404(b) admissible purposes: proving motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, absence of mistake, lack of accident
- WV: lustful disposition towards victim, children generally, or specific other children
- Consider:
  - "Slipped in shorts"
  - Multiple daughters
- Be proactive











### **EXIF** Data

- Most modern cameras (including smartphones) embed GPS coordinates in the metadata of photos taken
- Many platforms (Facebook) remove from uploaded images

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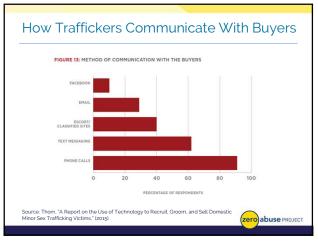
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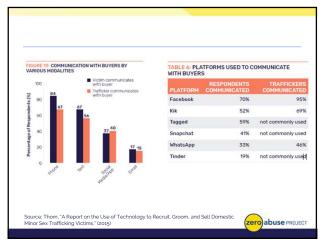
### Cell Site Location Information

- "Cell phones perform their wide and growing variety of functions by continuously connecting to a set of radio antennas called "cell sites." Each time a phone connects to a cell site, it generates a time-stamped record known as cell-site location information (CSLI)."
   Carpenter v. United States, 138 S. Ct. 2206, 2208 (2018)
- Includes latitude and longitude information
- Could introduce via investigator testimony or...













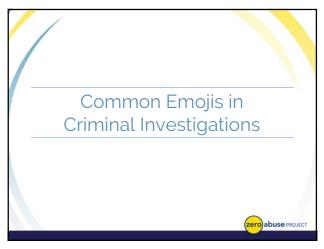
### Links Between Advertising and Acts

- What words are contained in the ad, and is there any similarity to a suspect's alleged conduct?
- Emojis can be descriptors of victim, advertisement of specific acts that are less obvious to textbased search engines, or logistical facilitators.

Facebook	102
Backpage	76
Craigslist	29
Instagram	14
Google	9
Tagged	9
Redbook	7
Plenty of Fish	7
YouTube	6
SugarDaddy	5
Kik	4
Eros	4
Cityvibe	4
Erotica	4
SugarBabes	3
MySpace	3
Mocospace	3
AshleyMadison	2
Fing	2
Gmail	2
Twitter	2

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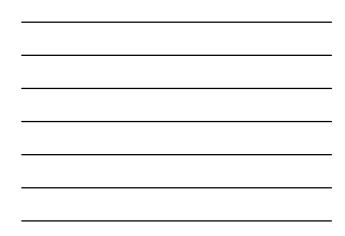


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Vagina	and/or Child/Child-like	Penis
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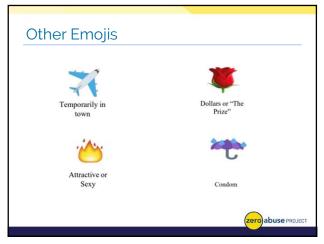






Technology E	mojis	
X-rate		something rated
X-rated Video	Send X-rated Photos	Make an X-rated Video
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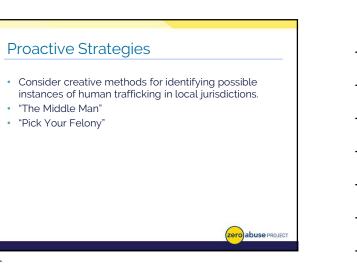
### Partnering With Service Providers

- A multidisciplinary approach is critical to meeting victim needs, and harmonious relationships between law enforcement and service providers can increase the likelihood of compliance (and therefore success).
- In many cases, service providers and law enforcement could collaboratively engage in safety planning.
- Service providers can assist law enforcement and prosecution by advocating for victim needs and providing support at trial or pretrial hearings.

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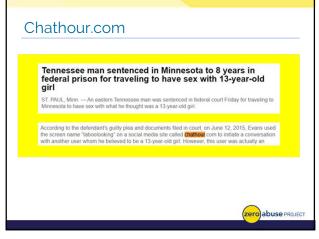
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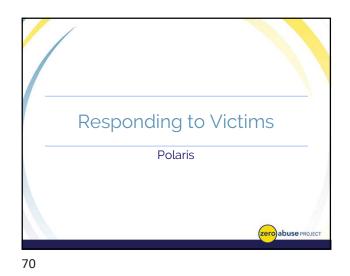


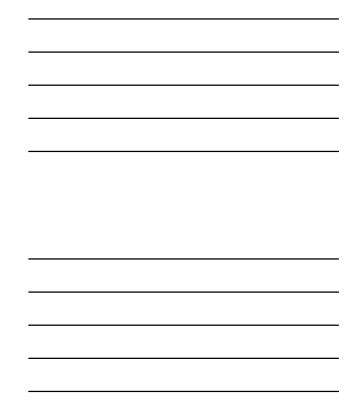


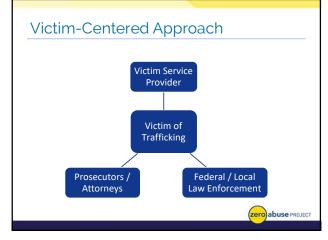
# Online Trafficking Locales Online Trafficking Locales Traditional sites (Backpage, Craigslist) Social media (Tinder, Tagged, Snapchat) Escort sites Child sex traffickers may prefer social media platforms, since they foster gradual development of trust and perceived intimate relationships or friendships, enabling tactics of manipulation, coercion, control, and isolation. Guere International Centre for Maxing and Explosed Children (ICMEC). Studies in Child Protectors. Technology Facilitated Child Sex. Trafficing t2028











### Service Provider Agencies...

- Should not serve as investigators
- Avoid taking notes on the crime
- Do not take signed statements from victims
- Do not gather evidence unless it is in the victim's possession
- Should provide assessments of physical and emotional needs
- Should provide information and resources that assist and empower the individual to make informed choices

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Share information with the team (with informed consent)

### Service Needs of Victims

- Emergency, Transitional, and Long-term housing
- Legal services
- Medical and Mental health services
- Clothing and food
- Court and daily accompaniment
- Crisis intervention
- Emotional support and counseling

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### Service Needs of Victims

- Employment assistance
- Protection/safety planning
- Social service advocacy
- Transportation
- Literacy education (school, G.E.D.)
- Assistance in accessing government benefits

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### The child victim of sexual exploitation

- Typically coerced and deceived into victimization
- More extreme in terms of violence, threats, physical harm and entrapment
- Entry into sexual exploitation may be sudden

   Kidnapping
  - Acquaintance or relative
- Parents introducing their children to sexually explicit information may be gradual

(APSAC, 2013)

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### When families sexually exploit children

- May be gradual
- Child no longer has a "non-offending" caregiver
- Guilt and blame increases
- Child sees no way out
- May accommodate abuse to protect siblings or as means to "support" necessities

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### **Tips for First Encounters**

- Building TRUST is a number one priority REASSURE the potential victim that:
  - You are there to help and you care about them You are NOT trying to arrest or incarcerate them
- One-on-one interactions are ideal
  - Attempt one-on-one interactions as much as possible
  - If possible, no one else should be in the room or within listening distance (interactions should occur in private settings and out of sight)
  - One-on-one interactions are ideal for building trust and receiving an honest account
  - Terminology and cultural sensitivity are important
  - Avoid technical terminology and jargon
    Knowing appropriate "street terms" helps to build trust

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## **Tips for First Encounters**

- Many victims do not self-identify as "trafficking victims"
  Expect the potential victim not to know the term "human trafficking"
- Do not expect to receive the full and honest story during a first encounter
  - Be aware of and expect lies, canned stories, untruths
  - Canned stories may include "I'm just visiting," "I'm from out of town," or "I do this on my own because I want to I don't have a pimp." Do not be offended if they lie: do not take it personally Women and girls may have been coached to give certain stories

  - It often takes up to 3-5 encounters before the true story may emerge
- Be on their level
  - Avoid victim-blaming attitudes, body language, or behaviors
  - Avoid "gasps" or acting "shocked" Avoid pity, judgment, or patronization

### **Tips for First Encounters**

- Assess safety and threat levels
  - Ask the woman or girl if she feels like she is under threat or if she is with her "folks"
     Anticipate and expect that the client may return to the
- pimp
- Due to high levels of loyalty, brain-washing, and/or fear, victims may return to their pimp during the course of receiving services
- Understand her world view
  - The victim may have a very difficult time understanding that she has been a victim of a crime and that the pimp may be arrested for what he has done to her. This difficulty occurs because:
    - Pimps brainwash the women by repeatedly telling her that no one will listens to a 'ho' if she tries to get help from the police or anyone else.
    - Typically the women in prostitution are arrested rather than the pimp or men who buy their services.

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### What do I do?

- Be sensitive, every incident of human trafficking is different
- Make sure you are not putting yourself or the individual in danger (i.e., take care to notice who is around when you are asking questions or providing resources)
- If you suspect that the victim is in immediate danger, notify the police
- Try to document as much information about the situation as possible – being careful not to put yourself or the individual in any danger

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### What do I do?

- Present outreach cards and/or hotline numbers for local anti-trafficking service providers or other anti-trafficking hotlines to suspected victims – give this information directly to the victim and only when he/she is alone
- Provide the individual with hotline number and encourage him/her to call if he/she needs help or would like to talk to someone
- Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) to report the incident or locate local victims' services: 1-888-373-7888
- Visit the Polaris Project website for more information on human trafficking: www.PolarisProject.org

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### Interviewing Considerations

- Build rapport
- Recognize dynamics
- Clarify all communication
- Explore relationships/world
- Don't interrupt
- Consider and explore "secondary" reasons for nondisclosure

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LISTEN

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### Interviewing Considerations

- Be neutral
- · Be cognizant of interview environment
- Meet the child where they are
- Show respect
- Explore other types of questions
  OhildFirst Protocol (sample questions for forensic interviewers)

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### Interviewing Compliant Victims

- Suggestibility is an issue if you suggest the answers (must have been forced, right?)
- What if compliant victim was engaged in drug usage or theft (consult team, perhaps file a child protection and not delinquency action)
- Prostituted child: must address concerns about delinquency charges, being returned to parents, fear of pimp, etc...



### References

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### Resources

- Kloess, et al (2015) A Qualitative Analysis of Offenders' • Modus Operandi in Sexually Exploitative Interactions With Children Online dx.doi.org/10.1177/1079063215612442
- Registering and Tracking Sex Offenders w.theiacp.org/resources/policy-center-resource/sex-offenders
- Zero Abuse Project Training Catalog www.childhelp.org/trainings/
- FBI Resources www.fbi.gov/resources

