

# A System Wide Public Safety and Community Approach to Human Trafficking

Joseph A. Cocchiarella  
Special Assistant State Attorney

Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)  
250 N. Orange Avenue, #400, Orlando, Florida 32801

[MBILegal@gmail.com](mailto:MBILegal@gmail.com)

407-494-1207

# Force, Fraud, or Coercion

## Used to obtain labor, or commercial sex

FOR LABOR OR COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TO BE TRAFFICKING, IT MUST INVOLVE:

*—force—OR—fraud—OR—coercion—*

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT	FALSE PROMISES	THREATS OR BLACKMAIL
BEATINGS	POSING AS A FALSE AGENCY OR OTHER SERVICE JOB	CONFISCATION OF PASSPORT OR DOCUMENTS
RAPE	LYING ABOUT WORKING CONDITIONS OR WAGE	MAKING PERSON AFRAID OF SEEKING HELP
CONFINEMENT		

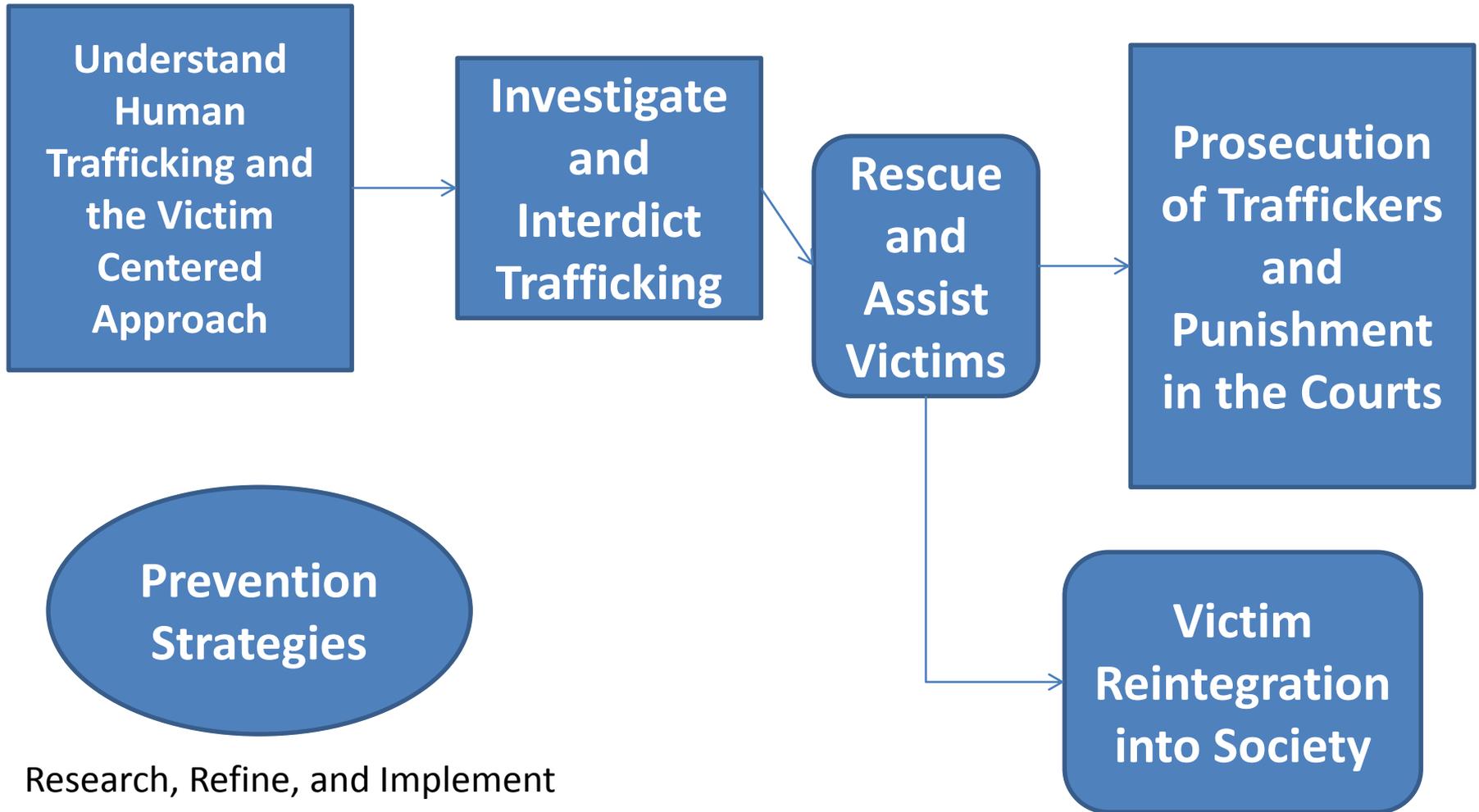
*According to US Law, if any person under the age of 18 is used for commercial sex, they are a victim of human trafficking. Force, fraud or coercion, while often present, do not need to be shown.*

(Or, just using a minor for commercial sex ... even without force, fraud, or coercion.)

Human Smuggling is a different crime ...

...although it may be a pre-cursor to some human trafficking.

# What we can do about it:



**A System Wide, Multi Discipline,  
Whole Community, Response is needed.**

# Task Force Approach



## **METROPOLITAN BUREAU of INVESTIGATION**

**Orange County Sheriff's Office**

**Osceola County Sheriff's Office**

**Orlando Police Department**

**Winter Park Police Department**

**Apopka Police Department**

**Ocoee Police Department**

**Winter Garden Police Department**

**Florida Highway Patrol (FHP)**

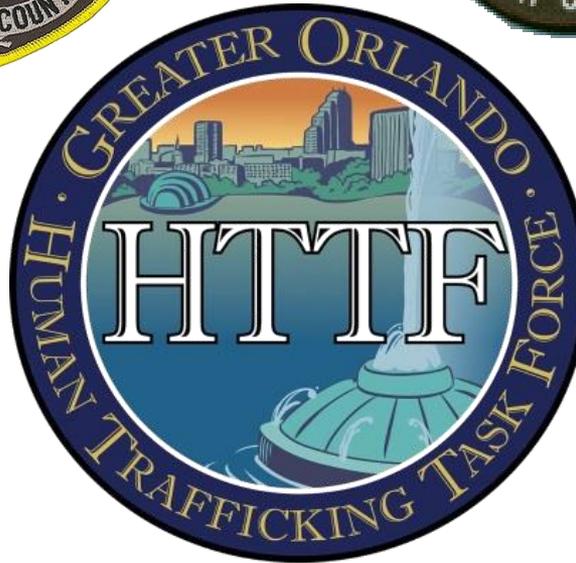
**Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**

**US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

**University of Central Florida (UCF) State Police**

# Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force



# Task Force Approach:

**The whole Community ... the entire Village:**

- Civilians
- Law Enforcement – local, state & federal
- Prosecutors
- Social Service Professionals
- NGO's – non-governmental organizations
- Healthcare workers
- Educators and Researchers
- Court staff
- Judges
- Corrections staff – Probation officers

**Victim Centered – Trauma Informed**

System Wide Task Force approach –  
Response by the whole Community

1. Identification of instances of Human Trafficking.
2. Investigation of the crime of Human Trafficking.
3. Rescue of the Victims – the persons trafficked.
4. Social Services Assistance to trafficking Victims.
5. HealthCare Response to aid Victims.
6. Prosecution and Punishment of the Traffickers.
7. Court Responses to Human Trafficking.
8. Research and Education about Human Trafficking.
9. Implementation of Prevention Strategies.

System Wide Task Force approach –  
Response by the whole Community

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System Wide Task Force approach –  
Response by the whole Community

Identification of instances of Human Trafficking:

- Hotlines – (self identification.)
- Investigations aimed at trafficking
- Police 911 response – runaways, violence, retail theft
- Tips from Retail, Hotel, and Gas station staff.
- Teachers
- Emergency services - EMT
- Health Care providers
- Public health workers –
- Massage establishment inspectors
- Court staff and judge observations
- Corrections officers – jail and probation staff

## System Wide Task Force approach – Response by the whole Community

### Investigation of the crime of Human Trafficking:

- Collaboration and teaming with professional victim advocates
- Roll-out response by a specialized HT team.
- Sting by undercover male officers.
- Trauma-informed interviews of trafficked victims to develop witness and effect rescue.
- Follow up investigation to:
  - Corroborate victim
  - Charge more crimes
- Reverse Sting - Undercover female officers draw in the customers – and the traffickers
- **Involving Prosecutors** at initial stages can be critical for maximum effectiveness.

## System Wide Task Force approach – Response by the whole Community

### Rescue of the Victims – the persons trafficked:

- Initial rapport, understanding, and persuasion.  
(Victims are usually in denial that they need help.)
- Victim advocate professionals being present to begin building a relationship. Build Trust.
- Arranging Shelter, Food, Necessities, and Health care.
- Maintaining communication, and updates. Maintain Trust.
- **Rescue** requires community collaboration – a group effort ... to succeed.
- **Child Protection** service institutions are typically in place ...
  - much less so **for adults**.
  - Domestic violence responses have led the way.

# TYLA - A Rescue Operation

- TYLA (*Turn Your Life Around*) a **group effort** by the anti-human trafficking organization *Selah Freedom* - began in 2003 as a partnership with the *Sarasota Police Department*, and the *State Attorney of the 12th Judicial Circuit*, which includes Manatee and Sarasota counties.
- A **group commitment** to **assist the victims** held in bondage within the various levels of sex trafficking.
- Employs community outreach, diversion, and a re-directed law enforcement philosophy that **de-emphasizes prosecution** and punishment.
- *Selah Freedom* through the TYLA initiative **provides support** in the forms of case management, counseling, job training, residential services, as well as during all judicial proceedings.

## System Wide Task Force approach – Response by the whole Community

### Social Services assistance for HT Victims:

- Victim Centered **collaborations** involve social services professionals.
- **Trauma informed**. Sensitive and aware.
- When **victim advocate professionals** work with LEO's – services can be **immediately offered** upon encounter.
- Victim advocate professionals can **build trust and assess needs** for social services.
- Providing services **stabilizes victims**, benefits investigators and prosecution.
- **Services needed**: Housing, food, health care, drug rehab, personal hygiene supplies, mental health care (depression) ... even legal services. Job. Identification and cell phone.

## System Wide Task Force approach – Response by the whole Community

### Social Services assistance for HT Victims:

- The social service needs **continue long** after stabilization.
  - Trauma overwhelms a person ability to cope.
  - A **trauma bond** may have formed with Trafficker.
  - Often leads to adoption of high-risk unhealthy behavior.
  - Trauma informed shifts the analysis – to **what happened** to the victim, not what is wrong with the victim.
- **Morale\* support** during the **prosecution** and trial process is critical.
- **Morale\* Support** during the process on **integration** back into the community is critical.
- **Relapse back** to the pimp trafficker is possible ...  
... the offer of support must still be extended and continued.

(\*Not a typo)

System Wide - Task Force approach:  
Response by the whole Community

## HealthCare Response to aid the Victims:

- **Sequential Intercept Model** – there are a number of points where a victim encounters health care providers (HCP) – and could be intercepted or rescued.
- **Emergency medical technicians (EMT)** who respond and transport.
- Emergency room **nurses, staff and doctors.**
- **Public health officials.**
- **Women's health specialists.** OB/gyn services and pregnancy.
- **Jail and prison** health providers.

System Wide - Task Force approach:  
Response by the whole Community

## HealthCare Response to aid the Victims:

- HT Victims have a dangerous lifestyle that may cause **health issues cause them to encounter** health care professionals :
  - Although, the trafficker pimp will resist seeking medical care until the need is acute.
- Seeking birth control.
- Seeking **STD testing**.
- Unwanted pregnancy.
- Injuries from physical abuse or very rough sex.
- Drug overdose and sickness.

System Wide - Task Force approach:  
Response by the whole Community

## HealthCare Response to aid the Victims:

- HCP's (health care providers who are informed and aware, or trained (as in this event) can spot the tell tale signs of HT.
  - Bruises, burns, STD's, trauma and contusions to sexual organs.
  - Not believable explanations for the above.
- HCP's can identify HT victims to law enforcement, or hotlines.
  - May be mandatory ... if the HT victim is a minor. (And, many are.)
- HCP's can provide needed information to HT victims.
- HCP can seek to isolate the victim from their handler – likely the trafficker a trusted associate.

System Wide - Task Force approach:  
Response by the whole Community

HealthCare Response to aid the Victims:

- If the HCP can seek to isolate the victim from their handler – there are recommended questions to ask:
- Ask about their living conditions.
- Are you free to come and go as they please ?
- Do you always feel safe where you live?
- Can you talk to whoever you want, whenever you want?
- How are you employed ?
- As you forced to do labor – as you forced to do sex acts ?
- Do you have to ask some other person for basic necessities ?
- Do you have your cell phone ? Do you have your identification ?

System Wide - Task Force approach:  
Response by the whole Community

HealthCare Response to aid the Victims:

- How can public health officials and other HCP's have an impact of Human Trafficking:
- Get training and information – be aware.
- Be alert to identify victims
- Be trauma informed. Realize that it is not the victims choice.
- Participate in multi-disciplinary teams for evaluation and assistance to victims.
- Participate in Sexual assault examinations
- Provide health counseling and other health services when needed.

System Wide Task Force approach –  
Response by the whole Community

**Prosecution** and Punishment of the Traffickers.

Prosecutors can **bring charges, reduce charges, dismiss charges.**

- Successful prosecution, however, requires **a team effort:**
  - Including **specialized prosecutors** on the **investigation team.**
  - Specialized prosecutors **in the courtroom.**
- **Victim advocates** to support and maintain rapport with the Ht victim witnesses,
- **Witness coordinators** to track and assist HT witnesses.
- **Social Services**, including **health care**, to keep the HT victim stabilized.
- **Law Enforcement** HT specialists to obtain detailed corroborating evidence.

System Wide Task Force approach –  
Response by the whole Community

**Prosecution** and Punishment of the Traffickers:

Successful prosecution **requires the witness victim** to **participate in many complex court processes:**

- Initial interviews with LEO's.
- Grand Jury proceedings, or sworn statements.
- Bail hearing regarding pre-trial release.
- Depositions.
- Preliminary hearings.
- **Trial** – direct testimony for the prosecutor.
- **Cross Examination** by Defense attorney.
- Possibly ... retrial.

System Wide Task Force approach –  
Response by the whole Community

## Prosecution and Punishment of the Traffickers.

Prosecution **brings many challenges for witness victims:**

- The victim **may not trust** the prosecutor or courts.
- Most cases have **multiple delays**. Victim may leave.
- Victim is a runaway who **must be returned** to guardian.
- Testimony - then **cross-examination** – slut shaming.
- Impeachment of the victim **for crimes she committed**.
- Impeachment over any **agreement with the prosecutor** for reduction of charges.
- Victim may **feel loyalty** to the trafficker.
- Victim **may fear the trafficker**
- Victim may **speak a foreign language**.

System Wide - Task Force approach:  
Response by the whole Community

## Court Responses to Human Trafficking.

### Remedial efforts, rather than **Punitive**:

- Specialized **Human Trafficking Court**, Judge, Prosecutor and Court Staff, such as probation officers.
- **Pre-Trial Diversion** – prosecutor administered with court approval.  
(TYLA)
  - HT related charges are reduced or dismissed.
- **Pre-trial Intervention** – same, however court administered.
  - Victims identified who are before the court on related crimes – not HT – such as prostitution, retail theft, minor drug offenses.
  - PTO does not require self-identification as a “Victim” of HT.
- **Identification, and referral**, of Victims of HT by judges and staff.
- **Trauma-informed and victim centered interactions** and sentencing – and **leadership** towards that approach among court staff.

# Task Force – Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)

